



YEAR IN REVIEW 2019 - 2020



MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

Dear Breakthrough Providence Family,

2020 has been an unprecedented year across the globe and here in Rhode Island. Throughout the pandemic, we've faced the loss of loved ones, an economic downturn, school closures, and severe social isolation. As we've endured these challenges, we've also come together to re-design the way we work, the way we access healthcare, the way we socialize, and the way we learn – in the face of despair, Rhode Islanders have come together to innovate, create and forge a new path forward.

Breakthrough Providence (BTP) has risen to the occasion by forging a new path of its own this year. Building off of a strong summer in 2019-2020, which is detailed in the subsequent pages, BTP welcomed its new Executive Director, Drine Paul last February. Under Drine's leadership, BTP has stayed ahead of pandemic-related financial challenges by streamlining program costs and diversifying revenues, allowing the program to rebound from a challenging transition year in 2019-2020 to completely transform the BTP operating model -- imagine Virtual All School Meeting and Online College & Career Day. COVID-19 may have closed schools and taken students away from their teachers and coaches, but it couldn't stop the Summerbridge/Breakthrough Spirit!

Though Drine and the team had their work cut out for them this year, they got it done for BTP students and families. And, theirs is the kind of leadership and action we need to be investing in right now. As our students face all new challenges in school and life, we need the BTP spirit -- centered in community, resilience and creativity -- to continue flourishing for our students, their families, and our schools in the months ahead.

Please help to keep this remarkable team going,

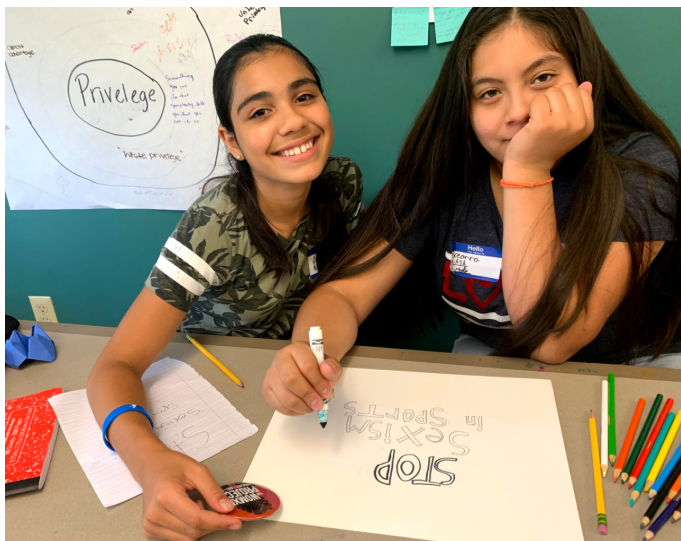
Dacia Read,
Chair, BTP Advisory Council
BTP Teacher '02, '04, '05

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"This program helped my child with self-confidence & leadership. The program shows and provides high energy and encouragement to the kids to pursue excellence."

--BTP Parent



MISSION

Breakthrough Providence pursues a dual mission to: increase academic opportunity for highly motivated, underserved students and get them into college ready to succeed; and inspire and develop the next generation of teachers and educational leaders.

**Inspiring
Students.
Developing
Teachers.**

VISION

Our vision is to create an empowering educational experience that results in equitable access to higher education for our students and prepares our teaching fellows for education sector roles, enabling all of our students, teaching fellows, and instructional coaches to achieve their full potential as learners, teachers, leaders, and agents of change in the Providence and broader Rhode Island community.

VALUES

- **Equity and Opportunity**
- **Lifelong Learning**
- **Collaboration and Community**
- **Student-Centeredness**
- **Persistence**
- **Excellence**
- **Spirit**



Student Program Summary

SUMMER 2019

Breakthrough Providence hosted it's **27th summer program!** Throughout the six weeks students strengthened their math and literacy skills and participated in special event days led and organized by our summer staff team. Students and staff engaged in critical dialogue, as part of our social justice curriculum, "**Who Am I, Who Am I Becoming**, (WAIWAIB), learning key vocabulary and engaging in discussions around their identities. As part of the curriculum, students worked on a project focused on the themes of school-to-prison pipeline (7th graders) and gentrification (8th-graders). Their final projects gave them an opportunity to share what they had learned and what changes they hope to see for these social issues.

"I had lots of fun and made a ton of friends. I made lots of relationships with the teachers and staff and made lots of memories with them. The BTP program has been one of my favorite programs I have done. I will never forget the fun activities we did together as a family." --**8th grade student**



SCHOOL-YEAR 2019-2020

BTP hosted weekly programming for students during the school-year, offering tutoring/homework help and continued social justice discussions. We aimed to make an intentional connection between math and social justice curricula by implementing a project that allowed our students to think critically, make real-world connections, and develop their math aptitude. Students examined

- wage inequality amongst marginalized populations (i.e. BIPOC)
- the importance of the US census
- the gender pay gap
- Palma Ratio to measure rates of inequality

The global pandemic impacted our ability to deliver the remaining program sessions in Spring 2020, which meant our students could not present their final projects.

Students by the Numbers

PROGRAM DETAILS

Skills/Knowledge Gained:

- Math and literacy skills by practicing concepts and real-world application
- Restorative Justice/Conflict Resolution
- Critical Thinking
- Understanding of social issues: gentrification, gender pay inequities & the school-to-prison pipeline

"These past 2 years have been my learning years. I have improved in such an amazing way as a student and my own person."

-8th grade student

Engagement Activities:

- Field Trips & College Tours
- Family Time*, Advisory, & Buggin' Out Time* activities
- BTP Fun Night (community dinner, student versus staff basketball game, spelling bee, and enrichment activities)
- Special Event days: spirit week, arts, sciences, and exploration day (ASE DAY), Olympics day, pool day, college day, talent show, and celebration

*Breakthrough Lexicon:

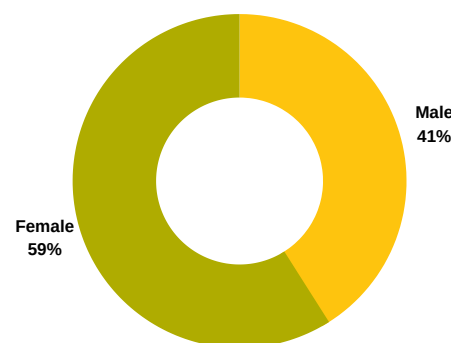
- *Family time* = our student groups are referred to as families. Family time is structured team building time within groups between students and teaching fellows
- *Buggin' Out Time* = enrichment activities organized by teaching fellows

Free/Reduced Lunch
38.8%



Single Parent Household
23%

First-Generation
38.3%



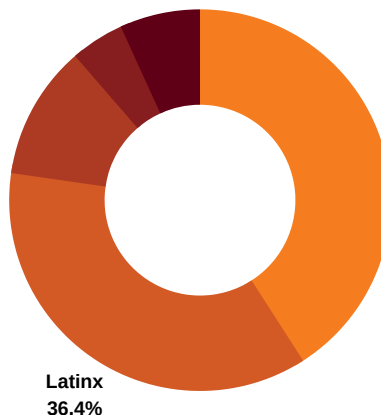
Female
59%

Male
41%

Asian/Asian American
4.5%

White/Caucasian
11.4%

Multiracial
6.8%



Latinx
36.4%

Black/African American
40.9%

Our Graduates

2020 EIGHTH GRADE PROGRAM GRADUATES

Alessandro Sanchez
Anaya Checo
Angela N Viñas
Babajide Fakolujo
Benjamin J. Danicher
Breanna Abac
Cameron Arrundell
Cristian Noriega
Daniel Imonah
Delvin R Taveras

Devin Ward
Elizabeth Reeves
Ellen Akinola
Favour Bello
Jahson Pereira
Jasmine-Christie Durand
Johnattan Arriaza
Jose Perez
Matias Tesfaye
Nathan Brooks
Naydelin Ruiz
Rocio Taveras
Romalisha Fidel
Samaira Sierra
Utah Tha
Wujuudat balogun

I am happy that my daughter has joined Breakthrough Providence. It has taught her how to be a leader, how to be independent, and how to be able to work in unison with others.
-BTP Parent



FALL 2020, OUR ALUMS ARE ATTENDING:

Community College of Rhode Island
Curry College
Georgetown University
Johnson and Wales University
Providence College
Rhode Island College
Smith College
Suffolk University
UMass Dartmouth
University of Rhode Island



Student Interview



2018 - 2020

FAVOUR BELLO

Current 9th grade student

How did our program help you towards your goals, academically or socially?

Breakthrough has taught me to take positive risks and not be scared to do anything. Also Breakthrough has taught me to ask for help when I need it. Breakthrough helped me speak up for myself.

What skills did you get to focus on to prepare for the upcoming school-year?

Some of the skills I got from Breakthrough to help me with the upcoming school year are organization, confidence, and asking for help.

What was your favorite part of BTP Summers?

My favorite part of BTP summers are the Fridays. We always did something really, really fun (everyday was fun, but Fridays were special). We had stuff like spirit day, Olympics day, etc.

What advice would you give to a new BTP student?

My advice to a new BTP student is: don't be shy. I know that's hard, but do as much as possible. The summers go by really fast. They are so fun, you catch everyone crying on the last Friday.

What are you considering doing after high school?

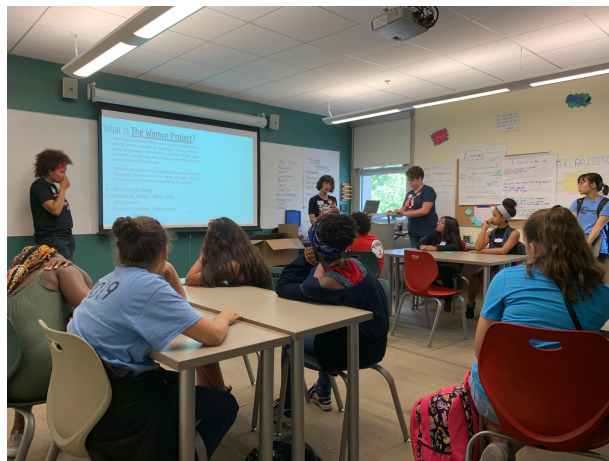
After high school, I'm planning to take a few months off. I would like to start in January.

Teaching Residency Summary

"STUDENTS TEACHING STUDENTS" MODEL

Breakthrough Providence classrooms are unique in that we utilize a “students teaching students” model. This model allows us to leverage the energy, creativity, and passion of young Teaching Fellows (TFs), ages 16-22, who are not too far removed from their own middle school experiences. In teaching pairs, our Teaching Fellows are encouraged to transform their classrooms into places where students are excited and inspired to learn. Through ongoing support from Mentor Teachers, now known as Instructional Coaches, Teaching Fellows learn to develop lesson plans and classroom procedures rooted in student-centered learning, social justice education, balancing creativity and rigor, and focusing on measurable student outcomes.

As BTP culture ambassadors, Teaching Fellows model BTP’s unique cultural elements of cheers and chants and organize enrichment activities including Family Time, Advisory, and Buggin’ Out Time (BOT). Through these activities, Teaching Fellows support the development of social-emotional skills of our students, to result in empowering student voice and leadership in our program.



TFs by the Numbers

SUMMER 2019 TEACHING FELLOWS

Skills/Knowledge Gained:

- Restorative Justice practices
- Co-facilitation with a partnered TF
- Lesson planning
- Project-based Teaching

Total:

24 fellows

Training Hours:

approx. 100 hours

Instructional Hours:

approx. 180 hours

Observations:

approx. 10 sessions per
Teacher Pair

SCHOOL-YEAR 2019-2020 VOLUNTEER FELLOWS

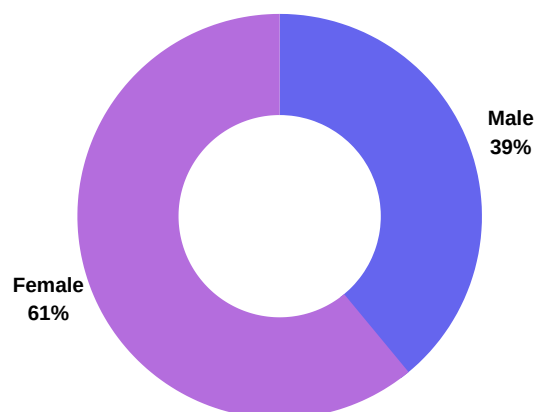
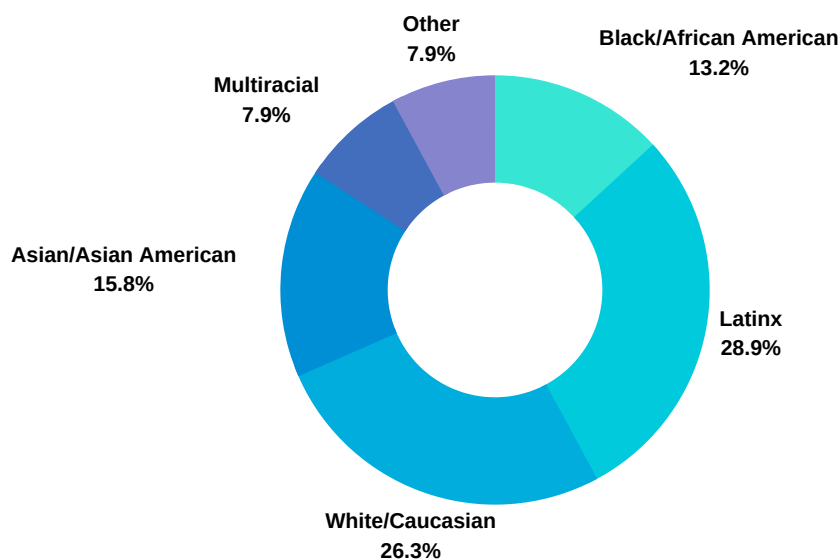
Total:

13 volunteer fellows

Instructional Hours

approx. 20 hours (10 sessions)

Observations:

approx. 2 sessions
per Teacher Pair

Teaching Fellow Interview



2019-2020

EMILY RAMOS

What was your most rewarding experience with Breakthrough?

My most rewarding experience in BTP was seeing the students grow. This year I had some students that I knew from last year. I saw these students go from not putting much effort in the classroom, to being one of the first students eager to answer questions in the classroom. It's a good feeling to see your own students so motivated to learn. When a student is interested in learning, there is not much that can hold them back. I know these students will continue to grow into better and better students.

What growth did you observe with your students? In yourself?

I observed my students being able to adapt to the virtual classroom. At the beginning of the program many students refused to turn their cameras on. They also did not want to participate. However, throughout the program more and more students began to participate. We even managed to have ALL students turn their cameras on during class time. This was such a great accomplishment for myself and my fellow teachers. The growth I observed in myself this past summer was learning that I am capable of much more than I thought. Being Bridge Chair was very intimidating to me at first. I was worried I did not have enough experience and I also had a lot of family stuff going on at the time. However, with the help of A-team, Bridge, and fellow teachers, I was able to keep up with everything. I was also complimented by the fellow teachers about what a great leader I was. This meant a lot to me. It's nice to know that even though I had a lot going on, I was still able to support my team and my students.

What advice would you give someone looking to teach with BTP?

The advice I would give someone looking to teach at BTP is to not be intimidated by the work. It's scary to be in charge of a classroom however, BTP is a different experience. You are never alone. There are so many people around that are willing to support you. If you are confused, scared, or even just excited, there is a whole team of people that are with you to hear you out. Use your team for support. Teamwork is what will get you through BTP.

Do you have any interest in pursuing a career in Education? Did BTP help you decide that?

I do have an interest in education. I was interested in working with younger kids such as preschoolers because that is where all my experience was before BTP. I never thought about pursuing a teaching career in the middle school age group, because people only complain about them. However, BTP helped me see that middle schoolers are great to work with. They have each taught me skills that has helped me grow. For example, one student taught me how to just sit and listen without commenting. This was so important to that student, because he was not used to just being heard. I am grateful for what the middle schoolers have taught me. Because of them I am not afraid to try to pursue an education career with middle schoolers.

Letter from our Executive Director

Dear BTP Family,

Growing up, I moved around a lot, attending 7 schools before entering college. I struggled to make lasting friends and meaningful connections with the adults around in my life. This served as a motivation for me in my adulthood, to show up and be there for youth in any capacity I could. It's what lead me to a career in education and nonprofit work and how I discovered my passion for education, youth development, and social justice work.

When I joined Breakthrough Providence in February 2020, I found a similar alignment to the mission and values of the organization. For almost 30 years, Breakthrough Providence has been committed to serving the youth of Providence, during their middle school years, to learn from near-peer mentors who engage them in discussions about the intersections of their identities and how it relates to their community and the world around them. They grapple with ideas around how to activate and empower their voices to impart change in their schools and communities. For many of them, this is the first time adults make space for them to be seen and to freely share their ideas and opinions. Something I had longed for in my childhood; to be seen.

For the last nine months, I have been learning about the history of Breakthrough Providence, meeting with members of our community, and becoming more inspired by the students we serve. While my transition happened at a time that was less than ideal, I have been enjoying the journey of leading this great organization. I'm thankful for my supportive BTP team, our Advisory Council, and the Wheeler School community for the warm welcome!

The team did a phenomenal job hosting our first ever virtual summer program during this pandemic and while we continue to navigate uncharted territory, I am confident that Breakthrough Providence will still come out on top! Thank you to our Breakthrough Providence friends and family who continue to believe in the impact of our work and the students we serve. We would not have made it through these turbulent times without any of you! I look forward to connecting with you all more deeply in the future.

Yours in Service,

Drine Paul,
Executive Director,
Breakthrough Providence

Revenue & Expenses

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

REVENUE

Foundations	\$83,000
Corporations	\$10,850
State/Local Grants	\$20,738
Individuals	\$71,518
Program Revenue	\$50
Promotional Fundraisers	\$14
Draw from Accumulated Temporarily Restricted Balance	\$64,185
Restricted Endowment Income	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$250,355

EXPENSES

Salaries & Youth Stipends	\$210,770
Student Activities & Special Events	\$30,158
Curricula & Classroom Supplies	\$1,184
Recruitment, Training & Professional Development	\$3,354
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$2,557
Fundraising & Public Relations	\$4,182
Facilities Rental	\$7,474
Membership Dues	\$13,963
Payroll Taxes	\$15,065
TOTAL	\$288,707

NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT

- \$38,352

Annual deficit covered by temporarily restricted fund

**TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUND
BALANCE, AS OF JUNE 30**

\$0

**MARKET VALUE OF BREAKTHROUGH PROVIDENCE
ENDOWMENT, AS OF JUNE 30**

\$583,675

Community of Support



This past Spring, we joined 15 other affiliate sites and Breakthrough Collaborative in a peer-to-peer giving campaign to support us in pivoting our program virtually. With our Breakthrough Providence champions, we were able to engage our alumni community and friends of Breakthrough Providence to raise over \$18,000! Thank you so much to everyone who participated in this event and helped us reach our goal!

We'd like to give a special shoutout to our longtime Breakthrough champion who spearheaded our efforts and motivated our alumni community to show up for our students: **Esan Looper**, former Breakthrough Providence Executive Director. Thank you for your unwavering belief in the work of our organization!

"Breakthrough Providence (back in its Summerbridge days) is responsible for all that's been good about me as an educator for the past 20+ years!" -- **Keith Catone** (former BTP Teaching Fellow in 1997)



#BreakThroughTheDistance

Community of Support

Breakthrough Providence could not do our work without the continued support and investment of our supporters.

\$25,000+

- Nellie Mae Education Foundation
- Stephen and Jenny Schweich

\$10,000+

- Bank RI
- Entelco Foundation
- Raymond T. & Ann T. Mancini Family Foundation
- Abbot Stranahan and David Ward
- Picerne Charitable Trust



\$5,000+

- Anonymous
- Amica Companies Foundation

\$2,500+

- Allan Edelson
- Catherine Hibbitt
- Robert and Monique Schweich
- United Way of Rhode Island
- Adeel Yang

\$1,000+

- Jacques and Carole Bonnet-Eymard
-  • Jenn and Tim David-Lang
- Hope and David Hirsch
-  • Esan Looper
- Bess Marcus
- Mark and Katherine Pelson
- Dacia A. Read
- Kathryn L. and Kenneth W. Robinson
- State of Rhode Island
- Jyothi and Shivan Subramaniam

\$500+

- Hakeem O. Adeniyi Jr.
- Alexander and Wendy Beckett
- Blue State Coffee

- Carrie Bridges Feliz
- Nse Esema
- Allison Gaines Pell and Benjamin Pell
- Mark and Heidi Harris
- Maribel Hernandez-Drost
- Mountha Nhem Pacentrilli
- Bill and Suzie Prescott
- Roxburgh Rennie
- Dulari Tahbildar & Keith Catone

Up to \$499

- Anonymous (2)
- Irina Abramov
- Akosua Agyei
- June Ahn
- Norma Anderson
- Reynaldo Aquino
- Tracy Aubuchon
- Jake Babick
- Karen Bailey
- Laura Bailyn
- Talya Baker-Knight
- Tessa Barbaro
- Gilles Bissonnette
- Jocelyn Bissonnette
- Daisy W. Bodman
- William and Judith Braden
- Sara D. Brin
- Elizabeth Butler
- Fred and Joyce Butler
-  • Kate Butler
- Katrina Calderon
- Rita Carrasco
- Marcus Carrigan
- Richard Ceguerra
- Keoammara Chhun
- Jenny Chio
- Samnay Chum
- Ieesha Collins

Community of Support

(Up to \$499 cont'd.)

- Christina Cotto
- Cassandra Cousineau
- Carol Crociani
- Carlos Cueva Vertiz and Judy Alegria de Cueva
- Carlos A. Cueva-Alegria
- Margarida Da Graca
- Janet David
- Patricia David
- Paula M. Davy
- Joanne Debrah
- Soani Delgado
- Sixia Devine
- Michele Sczerbinski Diaz and Rob Diaz
- Julissa Disu
- Katy Dorchie
- Theresa Dougherty
- Kiara Edwards
- Gary and Rosanne Esposito
- Thomas Finley
- Julie Friedberg
- Genesis Garcia
- Dorothy and Seth Garfield
- Frederick and Ann Marie Gillett
- Michael Goldstein
- Alexis Gonzales
- Gia Grant
- Diana Grigsby-Toussaint and Kimani Toussaint
- Marc Harrison and Family
- John S. Horkings
- Carlon D. Howard
- James Hughes
- James Huguley
- Nora Image
- Diallo Jackson
- Franceska Jean
- Brandeis Johnson
- Jennie Johnson
- Kevin Johnson
- Winifred A. Kelley
- Bosung Kim
- David Lai
- Kenndra R. Leary-Poole
- Richie Leng
- Amanda Looper

- Katherine A. Looper
- Malik Looper
- Deb Manning
- Christian Martinez
- Pilar McCloud
- Kelly McGahan
- Ircania McGriff
- Tiffany N. Metts
- McCurdy C. B. Miller
- Catherine P. Mitchell
- Jonell Molina
- Diego Montalvan
- Simon Moore
- Khou Moua
- Ashley Munro
- Kaetjens Nunez
- Lucey Ok
- Adeola Oredola
- Christine Ortiz
- Kurt Ostrow
- Lindsay Paiva
- Jenny Park
- Barry Pell
- Enma D. Pena
- Yihra Peralta
- Steven Prak
- Somaly Prak-Martins
- Stephanie K. Preston
- Lisa Pizzarello Pryor and Lawrence Pryor
- Meghan Raimondo
- Walter Rakowich
- Sanford Reback
- Sarah Regnier
- Yomayra Reyes
- Jack and Sandy Richter
- Teresa A. Rodriguez
- Marti Rosenberg
- Ari Rubenstein
- Lindsey Saez Harrington
- Bernadette Salaices
- Catherine Sanford and Eric Bonnet-Eymard
- Jonathan and Vicki Santos Silva
- Sam Schultz
- Henry A. Severino
- Heidy Shinn Slattengren
- Christopher Sime



Community of Support

(Up to \$499 cont'd.)

- Dana Sims
- Adam G. Snider
- Jennifer Snyder
- Jessica Solitro
- Wilmaris Soto-Ramos
- Sammy Soun
- Rachel Spaulding
-  • Jason St. John
- Theda Tann
- Michael Thompkins
- Casey Tidwell
- Josie Traub
- William R. Tutt II
- Tek Ung
- Elissa Vanaver
- Tomas C. Varela
- Mindy Weber
- O'Sha Williams
- Hassan Wilson
- Corey Winchester
-  • Chanda and Tiger Womack
- Connie Wong

Tribute Gifts - Gifts to BTP in honor of

- Jocelyn Bissonnette and Brian Thorn
- Marc Harrison
- Katie Kuy*
- Esan Looper
- Bill Prescott
- Dacia A. Read
- Peter Sczerbinski
- Raymond and Donna Uritescu
- Maria Varela



Recurring Donors

WHAT'S AHEAD?

Motivated by the impacts of COVID-19 on our work, we are excited to share that a long-time donor and friend of Breakthrough Providence has invested in our future by establishing a new Endowment fund. The Breakthrough Providence Future Horizons Fund, is meant to support the long-term financial growth and stability of our programs. As we plan for the next 30 years of Breakthrough Providence, an investment like this, impacts our students' lives for generations and generations. Stay tuned, as we will share more about the fund and ways to you can support it soon!

We make every attempt to ensure this list is accurate. However, if you notice an error, please call the office at 401- 528-2127 or email us at info@breakthroughprovidence.org

Meet our Team



**DRINE
PAUL**
Executive
Director



**JEROME
THOMPSON**
Middle School
Program Director



**JERONIMA
NIX**
College Bound
Program Director



**JULIAN
BESSINGER**
2020-2021
AmeriCorps Vista

ADVISORY COUNCIL

- **Dacia Read**, Council Chair, *Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Gina M. Raimondo*
- **Nicole Arias**, *Office of RI Attorney General*
- **Stephen Schweich**, *Managing Director, Mooreland Partners*
- **Abby Stranahan**
- **Allison Gaines Pell**, *Head of School, The Wheeler School*
- **Michele Sczerbinski Diaz**, *Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement, The Wheeler School*
- **Mark Harris**, *Director, Aerie Program, The Wheeler School*
- **William Prescott**, *Former Head of School, The Wheeler School*
- **Young Un**, *Head of Strategic Innovation and N-8 Divisions, The Wheeler School*

STUDENT INTERNS

- **Andres Heredia**, *Middle School Program Coordinator*
 - Political Science, 2023
 - Providence College
- **Carlos Tejada**, *Recruitment Coordinator*
 - International & Public Affairs and Environmental Studies, 2022
 - Brown University
- **Danika Bebe**, *College Bound Program Coordinator*
 - Undecided major, 2023
 - Providence College

*OUR FAREWELLS

In 2019-2020, we said farewell to:

- **Carlton Howard**, *former Executive Director*
 - who transitioned to the Chief Impact Officer role at the Equity Institute
- **Emma Heintz**, *former 2019-2020 AmeriCorps Vista*
 - who completed her service term and is now pursuing her Master's in Social Work at the University of Connecticut

Stay Connected!

Visit our website:

www.breakthroughprovidence.org

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BreakthroughProvidence

Follow us on Twitter:

@BreakthroughPVD

Follow us on Instagram:

@breakthroughprovidence

#BREAKTHROUGHTOGETHER

"This program has done so much for us and we are both grateful for it. He can't wait to see what impact he and the rest of the BTP community will have in the world." --*BTP Parent*

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Providence, RI, 02906
(401) 400 - 2791