



ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Growing minds and habits for a college bound future





Dear BFN Supporter,

It has been a wonderful year of opening more doors of opportunity for our East Palo Alto/East Menlo Park students to help them realize their dreams for a brighter future. Building Futures Now (BFN) has been on the forefront of making a difference by working closely with our families, schools and partners in the community to create impact through education.



Last year was a banner year in our growth, which saw remarkable improvements and results from our students. I am proud to share BFN's accomplishments where we:

- Increased program rigor to help students attain grade level proficiency in reading, writing and math,
- Launched our new High School Program and started connecting students' education with college and career aspirations and their leadership and community activities,
- Streamlined BFN operations to support more student and families,
- Stewarded our college "I Have A Dream" (IHAD) students, and
- Expanded and strengthened our partnerships with independent and public schools.

Your generosity enables us to deliver quality programs that prepare over 100 students from fourth through eleventh grades for college and future careers. I appreciate your partnership, support and commitment to our students who deserve the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Kamei
Executive Director, Building Futures Now

Our Goal

Building Futures Now (BFN) believes that helping students attain a high quality education through college is the key to economic opportunity and becoming engaged and productive members of their community.

Our Mission

BFN develops the academic and interpersonal potential of underserved students beginning in the critical elementary and middle school years. We offer access to exceptional educational opportunities and long-term comprehensive support to empower students with the academic and self-advocacy skills and persistence needed to thrive in high school, college and early career.

Our Approach

- We help every child find a path to be successful.
- We share a mutual commitment with our students. We give students access to exceptional educational opportunities and they must do the work to realize those opportunities.
- We believe that social/emotional support is equally important to academics in the development of the whole child.

Who We Serve

- 100 Students from 4th through 11th grades from 75 families.
- Students attend 30 different schools from elementary, middle and high school; 58% of BFN elementary and middle school students attend Ravenswood City School District schools.
- 100% live in East Palo Alto/East Menlo Park.
- 85% Latino, 8% African American, 6% Pacific Islander and 1% mixed race.
- 100% are the first generation in their families to attend college.
- 88% are English Language Learners.
- 89% qualify for free and reduced lunch at their elementary schools.
- Our “Dreamers” are in their second or third year of college and currently attend 13 different colleges/universities.
- 100% of our students are working hard in our program on improving their educational opportunity.

Partnerships Highlights

We appreciate all of our partners that work so hard to help our students achieve success. Here are a few examples of the tremendous partnerships from this year.

- Collaborated with Castilleja to launch the Halford Scholars Program where Castilleja high school students provide leadership and mentoring for our 4th and 5th grade girls.
- Partnered with Boys Scouts of America to provide leadership development and student electives activities for 4th through 8th grade boys.
- Engaged YMCA coaches to provide physical education for our BFN students.
- Established a Ravenswood City School District memorandum of understanding to increase transparency of our students’ progress.



Elementary 4th - 5th Grades
Academic Preparation

Middle School 6th -8th Grade
Academic Advocacy

High School 9th - 12th Grade
Engagement and Leadership

College Freshman - Senior
College Transition and Engagement

Programs

Our program helps our students develop the critical academic and advocacy skills for success. We emphasize age appropriate skill development in each of the following program phases:

Elementary 4th-5th grades – Academic Preparation

Most BFN students enter our program below grade level in reading and math. Our goal is to help bring 80% of students to grade level by the end of 5th grade. BFN provides group instruction and individual tutoring to help students achieve proficiency by middle school. In addition, students develop critical skills for academic success by evaluating their focus, preparation, effort, organization, time management, self-advocacy, collaborative learning and risk taking on a daily basis.

Middle School 6th-8th grades - Academic Advocacy

By middle school, students increase skills for academic success and participate in workshops on self-identity and growth mindset. By the end of 8th grade, students reach grade level proficiency in reading and math, and have the self-advocacy skills to navigate a high school college prep environment.

High School 9th-12th grades - High School Engagement and Leadership

Students enroll in a high school college preparatory curriculum at local independent and public schools and explore college and career opportunities with BFN. Our students participate in workshops, career oriented field trips and college tours and engage in leadership and service at their school and local communities.

College 13th+ - College Transition and Engagement

Our BFN academic advisor supports IHAD students by discussing academic coursework and extracurricular activities and how they relate to their major and possible career paths, while providing advice on ongoing financial aid and educational support.

Impact

- 100% of 4th and 5th grade students have improved their focus, organization and mindset towards their education.
- 60% of fifth graders were at or above grade level in reading by the end of 5th grade, and 100% of our eighth graders were at or above grade level in reading by the end of 8th grade.
- 65% of students were accepted into a private middle or high school.
- 88% of students in independent schools and 76% of students in public schools maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- 100% of our 9th and 10th grade students are enrolled in four to six A-G courses at their high schools.
- 58% of the students in the high school program have a 3.0 grade point average in their college preparatory courses (A-G courses).
- 100% of high school students participated in workshops on college access and career pathways.
- Two of our college dreamers came back to intern at BFN over the summer to help the next generation of students.
- 100% of parents are engaged in supporting their children's education by attending BFN parent education workshops and volunteering their time for BFN.

Success Stories

Alexis

When Alexis joined BFN at the end of third grade, he was an energetic and curious youngster whose reading and writing skills were below grade level. He had always done well in math but lacked confidence in reading and writing, tending to avoid activities that involved either. At BFN, Alexis attended after school classes four days a week and summer school where he received academic assistance and developed critical skills for academic success.



This Fall, Alexis began his freshman year at Menlo-Atherton High School. Now a confident and well prepared young man, he is off to a good start in his advanced Biology, Geometry, Spanish and English classes. Alexis says, *“When you study hard and have the right work ethic, the more chances you have to succeed. It is important to not give up on hard subjects. The time you put into doing extra work inside and outside of the classroom is worth it because in the end it all pays off going to a UC or CSU and making my parents proud.”*

Jessica

Now a junior at Humboldt State University studying psychology with a minor in child development, Jessica has been participating in the I Have A Dream (IHAD) program for ten years. She explains, *“Growing up, I felt like I never had the best education as my elementary school seemed to struggle to keep a challenging yet achievable academic objective for their students. I needed to find another resource to help me fill the gaps within my education. IHAD provided me a new school to attend, tutors, education on the college process, electives so we could start thinking about possible interests, and volunteer experience.”*



Jessica stepped up to take on a larger role as a college intern during the BFN summer program. When asked about her experience, she conveyed, *“Working with BFN for two years in a row has been the best experience of my life and one that I will always treasure in my heart. It’s truly beautiful to see the kids grow and gain so much knowledge each year. These kids care so much about their education and are interested in learning. A lot of them have set goals for themselves and plan to achieve them with hard work, passion, and commitment. These kids are our future.”*

Velador Family

Parent and family involvement in a child’s education is critical and correlates with higher academic achievement and school success. Cecilia and Jose are the parents of three BFN students in grades 8th, 5th and 4th. As members of the BFN Parent Leadership Team, Cecilia organizes parent meetings and helps to facilitate outreach and communication to other families. Jose has always found a way to be available for chaperoning field trips and volunteering when needed.



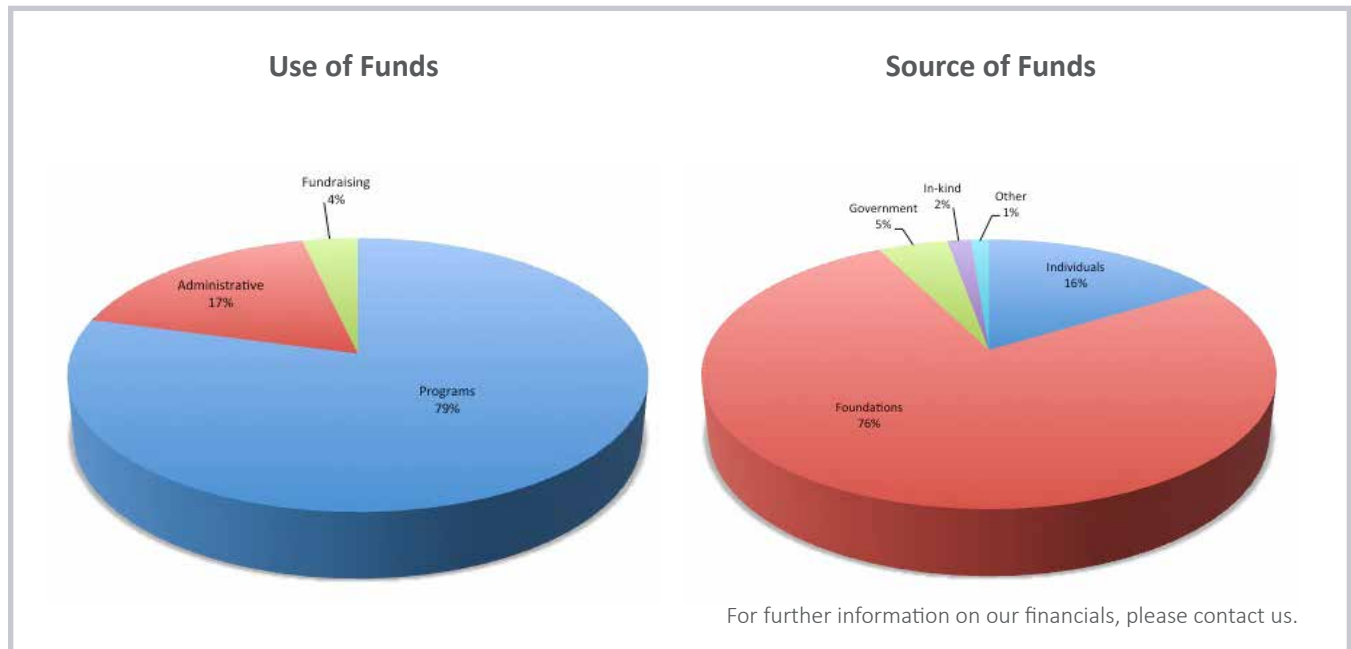
When asked about her experience at BFN, Cecilia says, *“I am very happy that BFN has given so much support to my children. I also feel personally very supported by the BFN staff. They have helped me especially when I am faced with challenges in my children’s learning. My son had been a bit of a rebel when he started the program three years ago and has changed dramatically. He now enjoys learning and has progressed in reading, writing and math.”* She also shares that as a family, *“we want a future for our children brighter than what we have experienced. We know that BFN has provided opportunities and opened doors for our children to improve their learning and be successful.”*

Donors

Building Futures Now (BFN) is truly grateful for the support of all our donors that help make our programs a reality. Please note that the following reflects donations made in our fiscal year from June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015 (we make every effort to be accurate but for questions or changes, contact us at 650-380-9038.) Thank you!

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- Eastside College Preparatory School
- Exploratorium
- The Girls' Middle School
- Keys School
- Menlo School
- Menlo Masters
- Menlo Swim and Sport
- Project We Hope
- Public Allies (AmeriCorps Program)
- Ravenswood City School District
- Ravenswood Family Health Center
- San Carlos Children's Theatre
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Woodland School
- Woodside Priory School
- Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS)
- YMCA –East Palo Alto

*Partner organizations donate time and/or resources to BFN on an on-going basis.

Colleges Attended By "I Have A Dream" Students

We are proud of our IHAD students who are in their second or third year of college at the following schools:

- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- California State University, Chico
- California State University, Northridge
- Canada College
- De Anza College
- Foothill College
- Humboldt State University
- Mission College
- Pomona College
- San Jose State University
- Santa Clara University
- Sonoma State University
- Spelman College



Join Us To Make A Difference – Make Your Donation Today!

Return the enclosed envelope or donate online at: www.buildingfuturesnow.org/support.

How your donation helps:

- \$10,000 funds comprehensive support for two students for a year
- \$5,000 funds comprehensive support for one student for a year
- \$2,500 funds curriculum materials in math, science, reading or writing
- \$1,000 funds a student's summer program
- \$500 funds classroom supplies for a cohort of 15 students

All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax ID #77-0348803. Donations of securities are welcome. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer. For questions contact Rosemary Kamei at 650.380.9038 or rkamei@buildingfuturesnow.org.

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Building Futures Now

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