Raise The Barr

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Tackling Poverty Two Generations at a Time.

















## Our Reason Why

















































## **Table of Contents**

- Our Dream
- Our Mission
- Impact
- A Year in the Life of an RTB Scholar
- Success Stories

- Memorable Moments
- Financials
- Looking Ahead
- Our Team
- In Gratitude
- · Join Our Team

"Earning the Raise The Barr scholarship, and the support system, stopped me from dropping out of college, again. RTB has helped me with safe housing, basic and survival needs making it possible to continue towards my RN degree. The funds have also allowed me to put my son in sports and keep him active and out of trouble. The financial award has helped get rid of the emotional and mental stress of constantly being broke and wondering if we will ever get out of our current financial situation. This has changed my life for the better." – Kayla H, 2022-23

cohort member

## Our Dream

"As we reflect on the growth of the last year, we are overwhelmed with appreciation. Anthony and I started Raise The Barr because we believe that it was family who kept us going when we had nothing but the desire to finish college and achieve financial stability. Six years later, we see ourselves as extended family to over 150 scholars, walking alongside them as they take the same path we did so many years ago.

We could not have grown without the belief and confidence of our generous friends and supporters. Thank you for supporting this dream of ours, and the dreams of our scholars, as they do the work to make their dreams a reality."

– Lori Barr and Anthony Barr, Co-Founders

# Our Mission Who We Are

Raise The Barr empowers single parents and their children to achieve economic mobility through higher education. Our supportive community fosters self-worth, determination, and unconditional acceptance and respect, enabling single parents to reach their full potential and realize their dreams.

We are a dynamic community of single parents who support and inspire one another on a journey towards economic mobility. Through mutual reinforcement, celebration of accomplishments, and targeted resources, we equip single parents with the tools they need to complete their degrees and achieve a brighter future for themselves and their families.

## **Impact:**

## By the Numbers

98% of FY 2022 scholars either earned degrees or remain in school

750 hours of direct one-on-one coaching

51 Kills received holiday gifts and cheer

30 emergency grants distributed to students for emergencies that would have otherwise disrupted their enrollment status

\$168,000 issued in **scholarships** to support tuition, childcare payments, rental subsidies, and emergency grants (more than \$775,000 awarded since 2016)

**1,181 hours** of **workshop** and community-building activities experienced across both regions

**58 scholars** created irreplaceable moments with their children through our organization

# Inspired by

"Growing up the youngest of 3 boys raised by a single mom, I've seen first-hand how hard and stressful it can be for a single parent to provide for their kids. Add in trying to get an education at the same time—unthinkable. My mom wanted to go to school but she was forced to make a choice: work two jobs and provide for her children or find a way to go to school on her own without them. It was an easy choice for her: she chose us.

At Raise The Barr, we're helping single parents avoid having to make that dreadful choice.

We're by their side providing support so they can do both. This is how we tackle poverty two generations at a time. This is why we do it."

– Chris Jahnke, Minneapolisbased Board Member



Lived Experience

# Impact: The Cohort

Cohort members are selected from a competitive pool of applicants across CA and MN. Each member receives coaching that supports family well-being and academic success. This formula reduces isolation and builds assets in three key areas: social capital, financial empowerment, and academic and professional pathways.



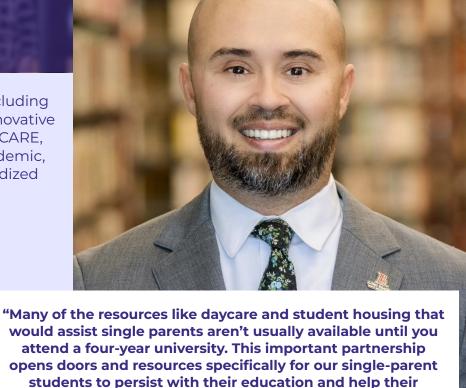


"It has been an honor to serve the first RTB cohort.
We have such a talented group of students that
inspire me to be better every day." – Aaronica
Jackson, RTB Alum and current MN Program
Coordinator

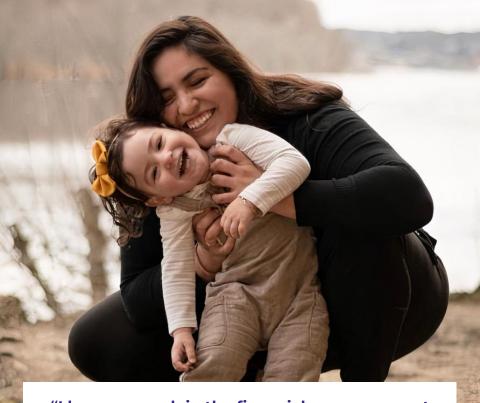
## **Impact: Community Partner**

In 2022, 51 scholars benefited from joining our community, including 11 Long Beach City College (LBCC) students selected for an innovative partnership launched in the fall. We work closely with LBCC's CARE, CalWORKs and Basic Needs staff to provide wrap-around academic, mental health services and other basic needs, including subsidized housing, childcare, financial literacy and career development workshops to these single-parent students and their families.





would assist single parents aren't usually available until you attend a four-year university. This important partnership opens doors and resources specifically for our single-parent students to persist with their education and help their families thrive." - Dr. Mike Muñoz, Long Beach City College District's Superintendent-President



"I learn so much in the financial empowerment program. I finally have someone to ask questions about things like home-buying and other financial matters. It has been really useful." – Camila, MN

# Impact: Coaching and Workshops

All cohort members receive one-on-one coaching from trained staff who have current and relatable lived experiences. Together, coaches and scholars set monthly goals to navigate the academic and social systems they encounter on their journey to economic mobility.

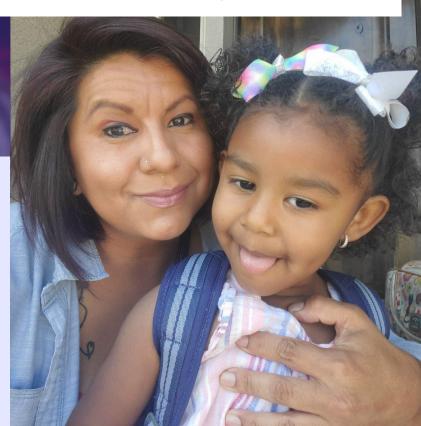
Monthly workshops are designed to develop leadership, knowledge, and skills around family wellness, financial empowerment, college and career planning, and more. They are facilitated by professionals and experts, including RTB staff and single-parent students themselves, who often know best how to manage their time, navigate social systems, and advocate for their family's needs.

"Honestly, the relief I felt when I received the award was enormous. I was so worried about how I was going to manage life this year and this scholarship made it possible for me to focus on school and be a better parent." – Etel, CA

# Impact: Scholarship and Aid

Each cohort member gains access to financial support, including:

- Educational expenses including tuition, fees, supplies and materials
- Cost of childcare
- Rental assistance
- Emergency grants, of up to \$1k annually, for unexpected expenses like car repairs, a medical emergency, etc.
- Rewards and gift cards for accomplishing goals
- Additional financial resources



# Impact: Community-Building and Peer Support



RTB scholars regularly identify peer support as one of the most important factors to their success. This is why we emphasize building a mutually supportive community of single-parent scholars in our programming and strive to ensure that our staff and board reflect the communities in which we work.

"[By joining the RTB cohort,] I didn't expect to find a community of people who are just like me, who understand my experiences, and who challenge me to think creatively while creating possibilities that I had previously only imagined!" – Sebrina, CA

Single parents are often isolated with limited time and support systems. According to <u>Forbes</u>, "estimates show between 70% and 80% of all jobs are never posted;" rather, they are often filled "through a professional network connection." RTB hosts workshops to prepare scholars for business networking and encourages these individuals to participate in quarterly gatherings and other events to meet RTB's growing community of supporters and other business professionals.

## A Year in the Life of an RTB Scholar



JUNE/JULY: "THF COMBINE" Apply to RTB cohort.

**AUGUST: "DRAFT** DAY" Receive acceptance into the RTB cohort.

#### **SEPTEMBER:** "TRAINING CAMP"

Orientation and coaching begins. Start goal setting and receive one-on-one coaching from trained staff who have current and relatable lived experience. Together, you set monthly goals and navigate the academic and social systems that support whole-family well-being and academic success.

**JANUARY:** "PRO-BOWL SELECTION" Your 3.0 GPA is celebrated at the monthly workshop. Your credit rating went up 25 points. Receive a \$50 gift card in recognition of your achievements

#### **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER: "THE SEASON"**

This month's workshop features a guest speaker focused on personal budgeting and understanding your credit. Your child participates in similar age-appropriate financial programming. You set a goal in your monthly coaching session to improve your credit rating. Together, you outline 3 action steps you need to take.

#### **FEBRUARY:** "CHALLENGE THE CALL"

Your car breaks down. You can't afford to fix it. and without it, you can't get to school. Contact your coach who recommends you apply for an emergency grant from RTB. Receive the grant and fix your car.

**MARCH:** "TIME OUT"

Your child is sick. Get

permission to reschedule

one of your midterm exams.

Your RTB coach guides you

through the steps.

Attend a networking event with RTB donors and friends, where vou practice introducing vourself and talking about your career

## **APRIL: "PLAYOFFS"**

goals. Leave with 3 new contacts.

### **DECEMBER: "HAIL MARY CATCH"** You're worried about money for holiday gifts. You receive a gift card at an RTB holiday party. Purchase gifts for the family!

MAY: "SUPER BOWL" Share your accomplishments and challenges this academic year with your peers at the end-of-year celebration.

lam... The valuable a problem solver a trailblazer not a quitter a role. not a quitter a role model exactly where I am supposed to be a SURVIVOR

creative

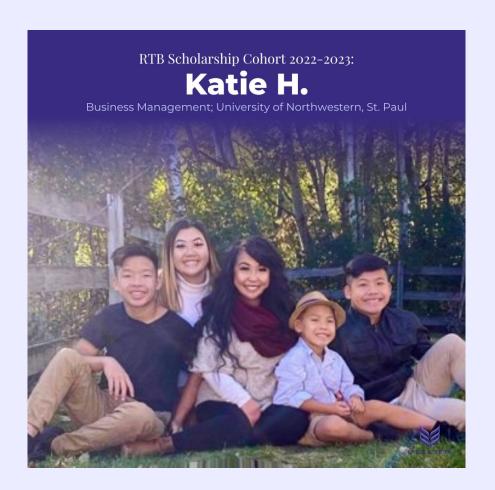


# **Success Stories**

"I'm Brenda, Raise The Barr's Whole Family Program & Emergency Grant Coordinator. After earning my Associate's degree in Psychology, I transferred to UCLA to attain my Bachelor's in Sociology, and that's when I was awarded an RTB scholarship. Lori, RTB's executive director, implemented my and other RTB scholars', feedback and suggestions into RTB's programming to continue to serve the single-parent family population innovatively.

Two years later, as an RTB team member, I'm honored to pay it forward, because student-parent services such as RTB made it possible for me to complete my Master's program at UCLA and become a Licensed Associate Social Worker. My career goal is to do exactly what I'm doing now: giving back to the student parent community."

- Brenda Coronel, RTB Alum and current CA Program Coordinator



## Memorable Moments:

## Katie H.

This is Katie, a social butterfly who enjoys playing volleyball and scrapbooking. She's also a single mother of four who studies business management, and she aspires to one day open her own accounting firm. Katie has been an RTB scholar for four years.

Katie shared with us, "I do not see myself as a victim of being a single-parent among a minority; rather, I strive to make a difference by showing others that I wouldn't be where I am now without the continuous support I receive from [the] Raise The Barr scholarship team, committee, sponsors, and donors, to be able to graduate in May 2023 for my bachelor of science in Business Management while working full-time as an accounting clerk."

## Memorable Moments:

## **Dustin H.**

This is Dustin, a classic car aficionado who loves working with kids and making people laugh. He is studying liberal arts, and he plans to work as a coach in a school district.

"When I received an email that I was selected for this scholarship, I was in shock." Dustin shared. "I thought there was no way they would select a single dad to receive an award. I thought most awards would go to single mothers. Words cannot express how thankful I am to be selected as a recipient of this scholarship. I look forward to working with people within the foundation and learning as much as I can."





## Memorable Moments:

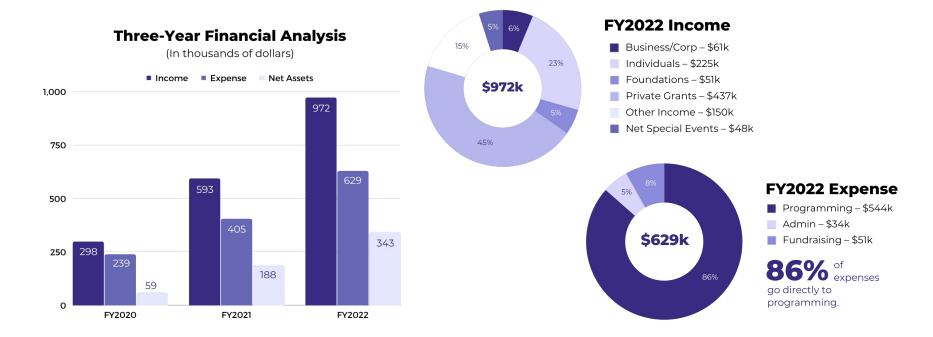
## Amanda S.

This is Amanda, a single mother of four living in CA. Even though Amanda is not a member of our 2022-2023 scholarship cohort, she applied for our emergency grant after her son was hospitalized last year.

"At one year old, he struggles with seizures and even had to be put into a coma because of the severity of one of his prolonged seizures... His medication was extremely expensive, not covered by insurance, and set me back tremendously, but RTB was able to help me cover the cost, relieving so much stress and anxiety... I will never forget how you helped me when it seemed like no one else could."

RTB's emergency grants are available to all eligible single-parent students across CA and MN.

## Financials



## **Looking Ahead: Strategic Initiatives**

"RTB's recent growth is indicative of how powerful its model is – families need supports that go beyond scholarship, and in listening to their parents, RTB continues to be ahead of the curve." – David Croom, Washington DC-based Board Member



Raise The Barr is a small nonprofit with big ambitions. With six years of evidence proving our methodology we are confident we can make lasting impact in the lives of those we serve.

One of our main goals is to replicate the Long Beach City College stable housing cohort model in Minneapolis by 2024. This partnership has been incredibly successful in providing stable housing and support services to this year's cohort, and we believe in its potential to help even more families.

In addition, by 2025 we plan to double the number of scholarships we distribute annually to 40 single-parent families. To hold that commitment we intend to fund half of our annual scholarships through an endowment fund.

Another important program we're working to initiate is a statewide single-parent student fellowship in Minnesota. This platform will empower single-parent students to become advocates on their campuses and influence policy that reduces barriers to success.

Finally, by 2025, we plan to launch "The Huddle", a central hub in LA County that will provide safe, affordable housing for single-parent students and their children, along with an early childhood education center. At Raise The Barr, we are committed to helping families break the cycle of poverty through education and stable housing.

Through the generosity of our supporters, our confidence is high that over the next three years, we will attain our goals.

## Our Championship Team

### **Board of Directors:**

Top: Anthony Barr, Lori Barr,
Amber Berrios, David Croom,
Lela Diaz, Samantha Gammell,
Brad Heitzinger
Bottom: Melanie Hoffert, Chris
Jahnke, Mabel Muñoz, Janine Radoc,
Malik Rucker, Mai-Anh Tran





























Autumn Green, Cherry Lai, Gloria Perez, Chanda Smith-Baker, Darrell Thompson











### Staff:

Top: Mark Barr, Evelyn Batres,
Carmen Borgia,
Yvette Chong-Coontz,
Brenda Coronel, Aaronica Jackson,
Christianne Johnson
Bottom: Stephanie Sandler, Brian Zirbel



















## With Gratitude, THANK YOU

## to our FY 2022 Supporters for Helping us Tackle Poverty Two Generations at a Time.

#### \$100.000+ Donors

Anthony Barr
California Community Foundation
ECMC Foundation
Long Beach Community. College District

#### \$50,000 – \$99,999 Donors

Mortensen Family Foundation NFL Foundation

#### \$25.000 - \$49.999 Donors

Capital Group Chief Genesco Sports Enterprises Nicolle Mortensen

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Luke Walker

Jill Plumb

## Join Our Team

Together, we can build a championship team. We have many opportunities for you to join us.

**The Draft** – support the selection process for cohort members, become a scholarship committee member. **Position Coach** – share expertise about your professional industry as a speaker at a workshop, become a resume reader.

**The Squad** – join the Los Angeles or Minneapolis event committees.

**Equipment Manager** – coordinate the Back-to-School Supply Drive and December Holiday Gift Giveaway **General Manager** – sponsor one of our 10-member cohorts for an academic year with the gift of \$25,000 for scholarship funds.

**Season Ticket Holder** – ensure organizational stability, become a monthly donor.

**Join Our Conference** – leverage our network and market your business through a creative sponsorship partnership.

**RTB Fan Club** – sign up for our quarterly newsletter and stay engaged with us on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

For more ways to get involved, email us at info@raisethebarr.org.











