



RAISE THE BARR

INVEST IN DREAMS, CHANGE THE GAME.

Annual Report
2023

HOW DOES EDUCATION AFFECT POVERTY?

For starters, it helps end it (Concern Worldwide US).

Source:
[Higher Learning Advocates](#)

Nearly
10%
of all U.S. undergraduate students (1.7 million) are
single mothers.

25%+
of single-mother students have difficulties accessing
child care.

U.S. single mothers are
1.8x less likely to live in poverty
when they hold an
associate's degree
and
3x less likely to live in poverty
when they hold a
bachelor's degree
than those with only a high school diploma.

Black women
account for
31%
of the country's single-mother student population.

Native American women
account for
23%
of the country's single-mother student population.

DID YOU KNOW?

OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE.

Every day, we seek solutions to the issues single-parent students face as they work toward earning a degree while parenting on their own. We celebrate the strength, resourcefulness, and resilience single parents possess, and we work hard to clear the path so they can achieve their educational goals and fully realize their dreams.

We aim to increase opportunity and economic mobility for single parents and their children through higher education.

OUTCOMES FROM RTB'S INVESTMENT

RTB SCHOLAR PROFILE:

Among all of our 2023 cohort members,

100%

were full-time students.

79%

were first-generation college students.

96%

were single mothers.

74%

were Black, Indigenous, Asian, and/or Persons of Color.

1.8

was their average number of children.

67%

were employed.

29 years

was their average age.

\$19,222

was their average income.

COHORT OUTCOMES:

67 scholars

participated in a scholarship cohort or stable housing cohort in 2023

with a...

96%

success rate!

5

graduated.

59

remained enrolled or transferred to a four-year institution.

3

withdrew.

2,010 hours

of direct one-on-one coaching took place between RTB staff and scholars.

\$25,560

was provided to students for emergencies that may have derailed enrollment, employment, and/or access to basic needs.

1,300+ hours

of financial empowerment, academic guidance, parenting support, and networking took place across both regions.

105 kids

made lifelong buddies at family-friendly gatherings.

OUR PROVEN MODEL

We have three primary cohort types for single parents across California and Minnesota. All cohort members receive:

- One-on-one coaching
- Financial assistance in one of three forms:
 - Scholarship
 - Rental/basic needs subsidy
 - Income-based housing in an RTB-branded facility, known as “The Huddle”¹
- Access to an emergency grant of up to \$1,000²
- Participation in workshops focused on developing financial literacy and empowerment, academic and career pathways, parenting, networking/mentorship, and more²



1) Although we broke ground on our first “The Huddle” facility in 2023, we have not yet invited scholars to join this cohort. All 2023 scholars participated in either the scholarship cohort or stable housing cohort.

2) To increase our impact, we offer emergency grants and other programming to single-parent students across California and Minnesota, regardless of their membership in one of our cohorts.

SUCCESS STORIES

KAYLA H.

SCHOLARSHIP COHORT, MINNESOTA

“

Being a single parent with limited support, navigating through unforeseen financial hurdles can be incredibly overwhelming. However, Raise The Barr has provided me not only with financial support, but also with guidance and a sense of stability during these tough times. Whether it's helping me cover essential expenses like car repairs, or supporting me through other stressful life events, Raise The Barr has been there every step of the way. Living in a somewhat rural area, having a car is a necessity for me to attend mentor events, school functions, and maintain employment. The unwavering support [from RTB] has allowed me to continue pursuing my education without added financial strain.

The kindness and assistance I've received from Raise The Barr inspires me to pay it forward. I hope that one day I can make a difference in someone else's life, just as Raise The Barr has done for me.

”

Kayla is currently pursuing a degree in business administration, works as a doula, and aspires to ultimately become a midwife.





ETEL S.
SCHOLARSHIP COHORT,
CALIFORNIA

“

I was born and raised in Honduras; I moved permanently to America in 2017 when I married my ‘prince charming.’ Shortly after, I found myself trapped in an abusive relationship, and in 2018, while being pregnant, I ran away from him, I reached out to friends in California, and we have been living here since then.

In 2020, during Covid-19 pandemic, I decided to come back to school to pursue a bachelor’s in business administration. By that time, my life was full of uncertainties, such as my immigration status, my divorce and custody of my daughter, childcare, driving / getting a driver’s license, and independency in general.

I have been honored to be a Raise The Barr scholarship recipient for two years in a row.

RTB has provided me not only with economic funds, but also with a safe space where I have found support and community.

Last year, I was a recipient of an Emergency Grant to help me pay for driving lessons, and for a first-time driver like me, professional lessons made the difference on becoming more confident behind the wheel.

Today, I am a senior college student; I am expecting to graduate in Fall 2024. As of January 2024, I obtained my driver’s license, and I started a part-time job. **I feel so happy and proud of myself because I have been driving back and forth to work, and I am already feeling the sense of freedom and independence that was stolen from me while suffering domestic violence.**

All I can say is that my daughter and I are and always will be grateful for the help and support we have received from RTB, and we cannot wait for all the accomplishments that are coming our way, such a place of our own that we will call home, my graduation, and securing a full-time job that will provide for all of our expenses.

Raise The Barr has changed my life, and I appreciate every single person, organization, and donor that makes this wonderful program possible, so single parents like me can have an opportunity of a better future for us and our children.

”

MELISSA R.

STABLE HOUSING COHORT, CALIFORNIA

“

As a single student-parent, I have encountered many obstacles. One of them was finding a stable home for my daughter and myself. I had been sleeping in my relatives' living rooms for an exceedingly long time and have had to move from house to house. It was difficult to cope with, because, as a mother, you would hope to have a stable home when bringing a child into this world.

That all changed in December of 2023. **After two years of living in my stepfather's living room, I was able to move into a studio apartment. I finally had a place to call my home.** Raise The Barr has helped this dream, this major goal to be accomplished. I did not believe this would be something attainable until after I graduated from college. Thank you to the Raise The Barr for all your support and guidance. Since becoming part of the cohort, so many wonderful things have come about. Seeing the excitement in my daughter's face when I gave her the news was priceless. Again, thank you very much to RTB, the impact you have had on my life is amazing. You are a great organization! I am blessed and happy to be part of RTB.

”







INSPIRED BY OUR STAFF

66

EVELYN BATRES

WHOLE-FAMILY PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, CALIFORNIA

As a former single-parent student, working with RTB's scholars and their families has been nothing short of a gratifying experience. It is a privilege to be a part of the programming team and provide workshops, academic support, and other support services to our scholars to equip them with the resources and tools they need to graduate college and achieve economic mobility. Witnessing our dedicated scholars transfer from community colleges to universities, attain employment, secure stable housing, and tackle their classes successfully semester after semester while building a strong community with each other, despite many challenges, is truly rewarding and the reason why I am so passionate about the work we get to do every day.

99

“

CHRISTIANNE JOHNSON

WHOLE-FAMILY PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, MINNESOTA

Taking the time to help, support, and serve families that reflect my recent past has been simply rewarding. Not only helping develop, but being a part of the RTB MN cohort family for the past two years has given my passion for education new life. I'm proud to be a part of a team where the voice of the people matters—the staff, the scholars, and their families. As we continue to grow, I'm excited to see how many more single-parent students we can support through their academic journeys.

”



A SUCCESSFUL PILOT:

In 2023, RTB's first stable housing cohort, in which we partnered with Long Beach City College (LBCC), had exceptional outcomes.

COHORT MEMBER PROFILE:

Among our 2023 LBCC Stable Housing Cohort members,

100%

were **housing-unstable** upon entry into the cohort, meaning they had received an eviction notice in the past year or were behind on rent payments by at least two months.

1.4

was their average number of children.

100%

engaged with CalWORKS, CARE, or Basic Needs Program at LBCC.

90%

were Black, Indigenous, Asian, and/or Persons of Color.

60%

were first-generation college students.

55%

were employed.

27%

worked full-time.

LBCC COHORT OUTCOMES:

In the first 18 months of this two-year pilot program,

100%

of scholars remained in stable housing and had access to basic needs during the program.

100%

of scholars report improved financial circumstances by either reducing debt, creating a savings account, or both.

100%

of scholars who were transfer-ready made a successful transfer to four-year schools.

Students who completed nine or more units earned, on average, a

3.2 GPA.

One student passed her class(es) for the first time in

4 years.

One participant took five courses and earned a

4.0 GPA.

ALISA T. LBCC SCHOLAR:

“

[RTB's] encouragement and supportive relationships have been instrumental in my academic success. With their help, I was able to focus mainly on my academic goals of pushing forward to complete my double majors. **I am proud to have earned a 4.0 in all five courses, and I am thankful for the role that Raise The Barr services and my children played in my success.** I believe that this achievement is a testament to the power of hard work, perseverance, and the importance of having a strong support system.

”

THE HUDDLE:

an innovative approach to affordable housing for single parents and their children

According to EducationData.org (September 2023), living expenses are the second largest cost of college after tuition and fees. Whether it is less expensive to live on or off campus depends on local markets. Securing safe and affordable housing is a critical need for single-parent student success. The Huddle on 5th is RTB's new affordable housing program, which will provide single-parent students and their families with income-based housing paired with wrap-around services to ensure that they thrive as both students and parents.



In October, we broke ground on **The Huddle on 5th**, a brand-new 18-unit apartment building in West Sacramento. This facility will be the first of this kind in the state of California—but it won't be the last!

OUR DONORS' PERSPECTIVES



**KRIS &
MARK
COLIN**
CALIFORNIA

“

We have supported Raise The Barr because we wholeheartedly believe in its mission. As advocates for education and equality, we recognize the immense challenges single parents face in pursuing their academic goals while balancing the responsibilities of parenthood. Raise The Barr embodies the spirit of grassroots activism, striving to ensure that education remains accessible to single parents.

We admire their dedication to empowering these individuals, recognizing their resilience, resourcefulness, and unwavering determination. Raise The Barr works tirelessly to dismantle barriers and pave the way for brighter futures filled with possibility and opportunity. It's an honor for us to support such a vital cause that uplifts and empowers families in our communities.

”

“

There are many ways to support Raise The Barr. We have been fortunate in our ability to donate financially and leverage the company match feature provided by many corporations. Along with the monetary donations, we feel it's equally, if not more, important to show support through volunteering at the various RTB functions, serving on its scholarship committee, and attending its youth events. The families served by RTB deserve to feel seen and valued. They need to know that there is hope and help for single parents struggling to make a difference in their lives.

It's been our pleasure to support Anthony, Lori, and RTB in their quest to transform the multigenerational success of single parent families.

”

**APOORVA
& DARYA
SHAH**
MINNESOTA



THE BACK OFFICE:

RTB's Board of Directors, affectionately known as the Back Office, is a dedicated group of volunteers who are primarily responsible for mission advancement and steering the organization towards a sustainable future. The RTB BOD boasts 100% participation in board giving, further demonstrating their confidence and belief in the mission. [Learn more](#) about our BOD.



“

RTB is doing a great job of thinking holistically on how to best support single-parent students and their families—from building community with other scholars in a similar stage in life, to scholarships and housing, they're truly fueling generational change.

”

MALIK RUCKER

SAMANTHA GAMMELL

“

From the moment I met Lori and heard her and Anthony's story, I knew I wanted to be involved with Raise The Barr. This was further confirmed when meeting and talking with current and past RTB scholars about their experiences and families. They are truly extraordinary. The value of education has always been a priority in my own family and I truly believe in the power of education as a tool to strengthen our communities and promote equality. It is an honor to serve on the RTB Board of Directors and support our scholars and their families achieve their educational dreams and invest in their futures, two generations at a time.

”

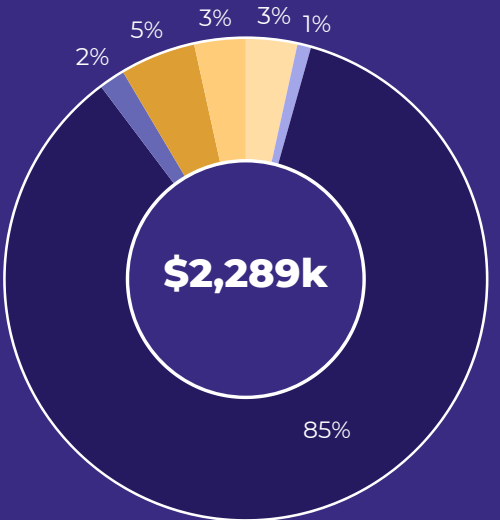
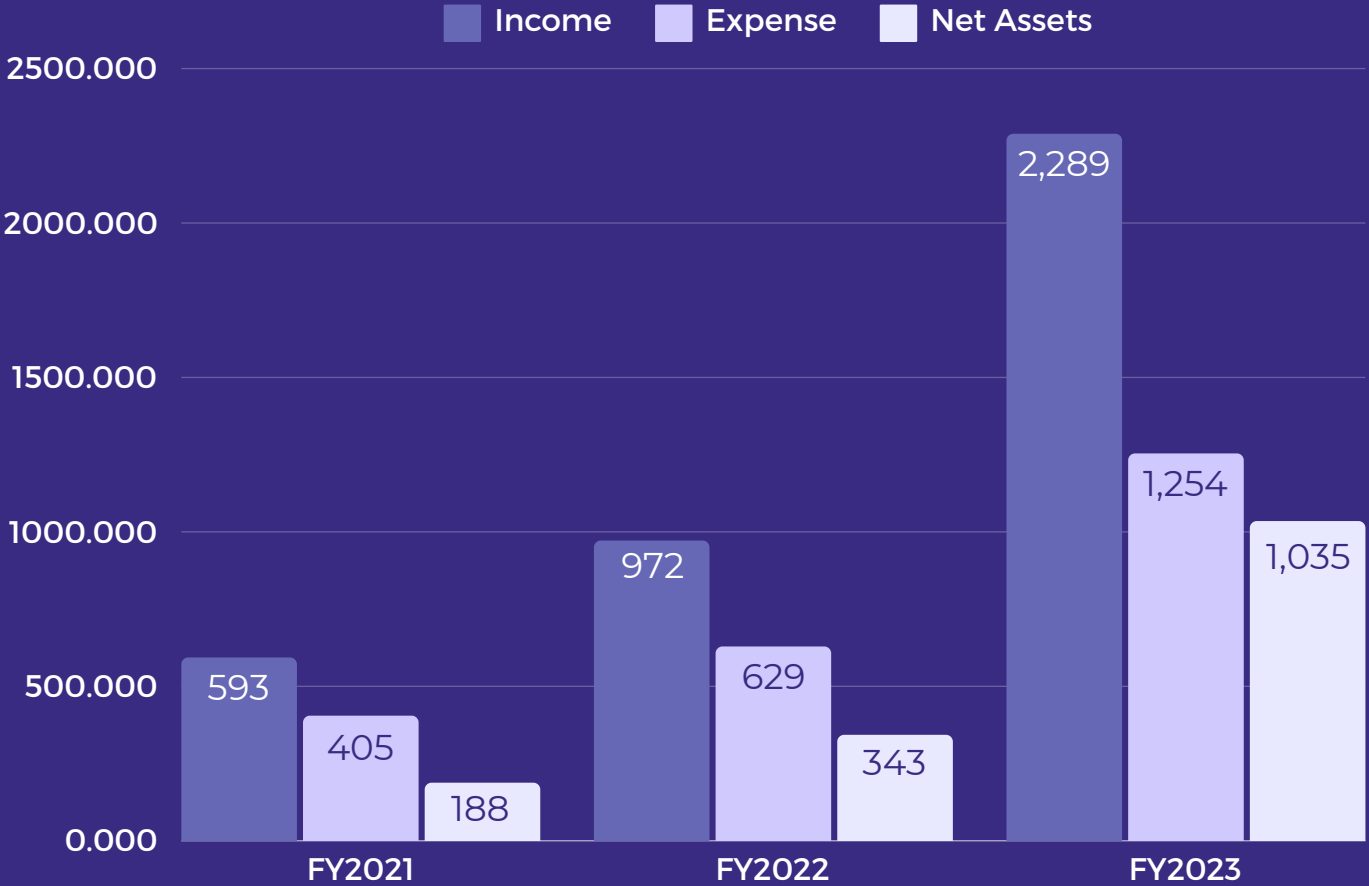
Malik and Samantha have both served on our BOD since 2022.



2023 FINANCIALS

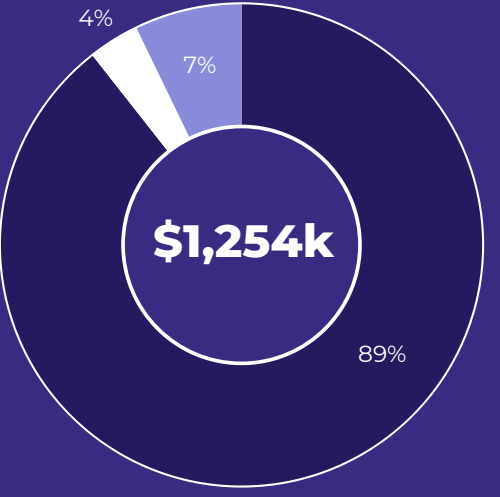
Three-Year Financial Analysis

(In thousands of dollars)



FY2023 Income

- Business/Corp – \$79k
- Individuals – \$21k
- Foundations – \$1,954k
- Private Grants – \$40k
- Other Income – \$116k
- Net Special Events – \$79k



FY2023 Expenses

- Programs – \$1,121k
- Admin – \$43k
- Fundraising – \$90k

For every dollar we raised, **89 cents** went directly to programming.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$100,000+

ICONIQ Impact

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Love Bravely

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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Tara Wilson

\$1-\$4,999

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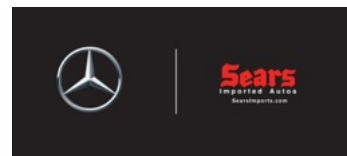
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JOIN OUR WINNING TEAM

By working together, we can achieve greatness.

The Law of Significance says that one person can make a difference, but it takes a team to create an impact that lasts. Join us in building this impact!

The Draft – become a scholarship reader and help select the next cohort of RTB scholars

Position Coach – support mentorship, sit on panel discussions, attend networking events

The Squad – join an event-planning committee and help RTB achieve its event goals

General Manager – sponsor a cohort of 10 with a contribution of \$25,000

Season Ticket Holder – become a monthly donor with exclusive benefits

**Contact info@raisethebarr.org for inquiries and to get more involved.*

HOW WE WILL CONTINUE OUR IMPACT IN 2024



Increase scholarship cohort size
in each region, allowing us to scale our work.



Launch two new stable housing cohorts
and work to make these permanent on our partner campuses.



Deepen our relationships
with partners and community members to meet our scholars' top request for greater career-mentoring and networking opportunities.



Increase the number of emergency grants
distributed to families in need.



Welcome residents to The Huddle on 5th
(West Sacramento) which, with an average stay of three years, will serve an estimated 100 families over the next decade.



Secure location for The Huddle 44
(LA County stable housing cohort).



[Raise The Barr founded by NFL Player Anthony Barr](#)



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