

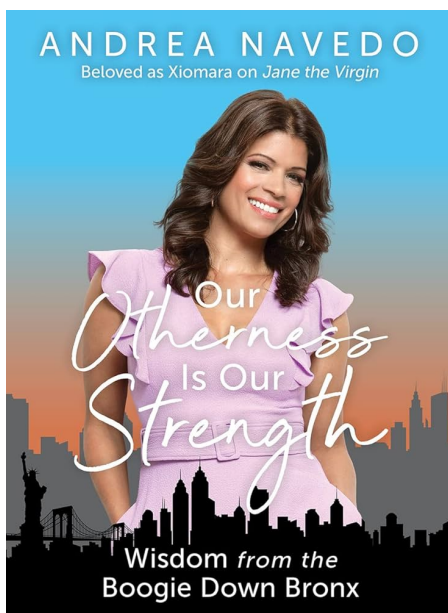
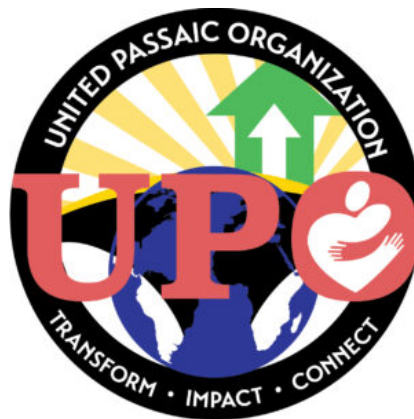


## More Than Bootstraps Celebrates MLK Day with Andrea Navedo

A day of service and celebration of the dreams of first-generation college students.

WESTFIELD and PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – January 12, 2024

**More Than Bootstraps (MTB)**, a New Jersey non-profit dedicated to helping low-income, first-generation students access and succeed in higher education, welcomes Andrea Navedo to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In collaboration with the United Passaic Organization (UPO) and Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Navedo will speak with students and the general public. The event will also feature the grand opening of UPO's community food truck.



Navedo, star of *Jane the Virgin*, will be reading from her new book, *Our Otherness is Our Strength: Wisdom from the Boogie Down Bronx*, and sharing words of wisdom with the High School Fellows and College Student Leaders of MTB, all of whom, like Navedo, are or will be first-generation college students.

Students and volunteers will gather at 10 a.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 857 Main Ave., Passaic, NJ, to begin a day of service. The general public is welcome at 11 a.m. for the UPO Food Truck Grand Opening featuring hot turkey sandwiches and more.

Navedo will speak privately with students at 12 and again to members of the public at 1. She will be available to sign books.

Registration is required. <http://bit.ly/MLKNavedo>. Questions can be directed to UPO, 973-472-2488.

“We are thrilled to welcome Navedo to Passaic and enormously grateful to UPO Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Janelle C. Hall, Rev. Julius B. Hargett, Sr., and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church for their partnership on this event,” said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps. “As we celebrate Dr. King and honor his legacy, we recognize the importance of education but acknowledge the challenge of navigating higher education for first-generation students.”

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### MTB Digital Press Kit

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More Than Bootstraps is a nonprofit created by educators seeking to level the playing field and remove some of the substantial barriers that first-generation college students encounter in accessing and succeeding in higher education. More Than Bootstraps employs a near-peer mentoring model to create a community of success. College students from the community return to guide their younger peers in the community through the college search, application, and assimilation process. These leaders, working as a mentoring cohort, in turn strengthen their own college-going identities and improve their own chances of success in higher education.

Students are selected based on their desire to attend college and their commitment to the program rather than grade point average or test scores. All students in the MTB program receive stipends, laptop computers, and access to emergency resources to help them with the many non-tuition expenses of higher education.

*More Than Bootstraps is a 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID 83-2245008.*

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