

Dear Friends of More Than Bootstraps,

MTB was founded by educators who understand the significant obstacles that first-generation college students face on their journey into and through higher education. To succeed, they need [More Than Bootstraps](#).



We employ a near-peer mentoring model to create a community of success. College students from within the community return to their high school to guide their younger peers 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.

We have made significant progress over the past few months and are excited to share our recent accomplishments with you.

Partnership with Passaic Public Schools

More Than Bootstraps has partnered with the Passaic Public Schools to increase the number of first-generation students entering and succeeding in higher education. Together, we are building and implementing a program that supports students as well as their families, teachers, and staff.



[Press Release Announcing the Partnership](#)

First Cohort of MTB College Student Leaders

MTB Student Leaders 2020-2021



Rogreka
Clayton



Michelle
Contreras



Jocelyn
Gonzalez



Johana Lastor-
Montes



Dhruvi Rana

A major accomplishment this year was recruiting and training the first class of college student leaders for More Than Bootstraps. After conducting interviews with several recent graduates of Passaic High School, we selected five leaders who will help guide and mentor fifteen Passaic High School students and their families during the 2020-2021 academic year.

[Meet our College Student Leaders](#)

Graduate Student Interns from Rutgers School of Social Work



More Than Bootstraps recruited two graduate students in the Rutgers University Masters of Social Work (MSW) program to serve as MTB interns. **Olivia Sharp** and **Yisel Gonzalez** provide support to the college and high school students and their families.

Graduation Ceremony for Summer Training Program



On August 21, 2020, the initial cohort of five college student leaders graduated from the MTB summer training program. Over the first three weeks of August, the leaders participated in daily on-line sessions with guest speakers and experts on imposter syndrome, first-generation resilience, microaggressions, the hidden curriculum of college, mentoring strategies, college admissions, financial aid, and much more.

The speakers at the online graduation ceremony included **Jeannette Torres-Gomez**, the Principal of Passaic High School, **Christina Schratz**, the President of the Passaic Board of Education, **Richard J. Helldobler**, the President of William Paterson University, and **The Honorable Hector Lora**, the Mayor of the City of Passaic.

[Watch our Graduation Video](#)

Partnerships to Supply Laptops to First-Generation Students

More Than Bootstraps is collaborating with [Revvn](#) and [Laptop Upcycle](#) to obtain laptops for our college student leaders and high school students. As a certified benefit corporation, Revvn is committed to reducing waste and closing the connectivity gap by providing tech access in order to empower communities. Laptop Upcycle, a Montclair, NJ based division of HackNCraftNJ, Inc., believes all public school students should have access to the technology and hardware they need to learn regardless of their family's income level.



\$2,500 Grant From KearnyBank Foundation

In July 2020, the KearnyBank Foundation awarded a \$2,500 grant to More Than Bootstraps. The funds will be used to provide stipends for seven

Support the Students in More Than Bootstraps

To date, More Than Bootstraps has raised nearly \$30,000. The total includes cash donations from forty-seven individuals and in-kind contributions from board members to cover administrative expenses. Institutional support includes a \$250 matching gift from the CME Group Foundation, \$1,000 from Temple Emanu-El and the \$2,500 grant from the KearnyBank Foundation.

We need your support to continue the program next year. A contribution of **\$75** can help cover the monthly stipend for a high school student. A **\$2,000 gift** can support a college student leader for an entire semester.

Make a donation today!

Check: 421 Highland Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

Venmo: @morethanbootstraps

Paypal: paypal.me/MoreThanBootstraps

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

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