

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: [Audrey Fisch, Ph.D.](mailto:Audrey.Fisch@morethanbootstraps.org)
President, More Than Bootstraps
908-397-0893
audrey@morethanbootstraps.org



More Than Bootstraps Awarded \$14,000 Grant from Focus for Health Foundation
The grant will support stipends for students in the MTB College Access and Success Program

WESTFIELD and PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – June 20, 2023. [More Than Bootstraps](https://www.morethanbootstraps.org) (MTB), a New Jersey non-profit organization, has received a \$14,000 grant from the [Focus for Health Foundation](https://www.focusforhealth.org) to support its college access and success work in Passaic, New Jersey.



Now completing its third year of programming, MTB employs a near-peer mentoring approach to address the challenges first-generation, low-income students face in getting to and succeeding in higher education. Working with underrepresented students in Passaic, NJ, the organization matches high school students with near-peer mentors – graduates of the Passaic Public Schools currently enrolled in institutions from Princeton to Passaic County Community College. College Student Leaders meet weekly with their high school mentees and follow a curriculum of activities focused on personal and professional development, college and financial aid awareness, and communication with families. Once a month, the full group convenes for workshops and guest presentations.

Grants and donations to More Than Bootstraps fund the monthly stipends that allow the high school and college students in the program some time and space to devote to their professional development and college-going activities while still meeting their financial responsibilities.

“We are enormously grateful for the recognition of our program’s contribution to increasing access to and success in higher education for first-generation college students,” said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps. “Word of the success of our program has spread among students and families in Passaic and demand currently outstrips our resources. This grant from Focus for Health enables us to continue to grow the number of students we serve.”

Interested donors are invited to visit the MTB website: www.morethanbootstraps.org/donate.

###

About MORE THAN BOOTSTRAPS

[More Than Bootstraps](#) builds a community of first-generation, underrepresented students who empower each other to access and succeed in higher education. *More Than Bootstraps is a 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID 83-2245008.* For more information, visit www.morethanbootstraps.org or call (908) 397-0893.

About the FOCUS FOR HEALTH FOUNDATION

The [Focus for Health Foundation](#) is a 501 (c) 3 foundation that provides funding to organizations addressing health disparities, racial justice, criminal justice reform, and child sex abuse. The Foundation funds innovative organizations for systematic change and seeks partnerships to support and work with groups engaged in identifying and minimizing the social causes that make individuals vulnerable to poor health outcomes. Their goal is to level the playing field so that everyone has the same opportunities in life.

MTB DIGITAL PRESS KIT: www.morethanbootstraps.org/mtb-digital-press-kit



www.facebook.com/morethanbootstraps



www.Twitter.com/mbootstraps



www.linkedin.com/company/more-than-bootstraps/



<https://www.instagram.com/morethanbootstraps/>