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**More Than Bootstraps Awarded \$1,500 Grant from Westfield Foundation
and \$750 Grant from the Westfield Rotary Club Foundation**

The grants will support stipends for students in the MTB College Access and Success Program

WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY – June 8, 2021. [More Than Bootstraps](#) (MTB), a New Jersey non-profit dedicated to helping low-income, first-generation students access and succeed in higher education, has received a \$1,500 grant from the [Westfield Foundation](#), a community foundation that provides funding support in the arts, health, aging, historic preservation, social services, and civic projects, and a \$750 community service grant award from the [Westfield Rotary Club Foundation](#), an organization of business and professional men and women in Westfield who value service above self in Westfield and throughout the world.

Audrey Fisch, the founder and president of More Than Bootstraps, is a long-time Westfield resident. As a college professor, Dr. Fisch understands the many challenges first-generation students face in getting to and succeeding in higher education. MTB, however, builds on these students' strengths and resources to create a sustainable pathway to and through college. The organization provides first-generation high school students, the majority of whom are students of color from low-income communities, with near-peer mentors (current college students from the community) and financial assistance from their junior year of high school through their college years. The college student Leaders meet weekly with their high school Fellow mentees and follow a curriculum of activities designed to guide the high school Fellows through the college search, application, and assimilation process. The Leaders, working as a mentoring cohort, in turn, strengthen their own college-going identities and improve their chances of success in higher education.

MTB launched its initial fundraising efforts in January 2020 with an event held in Westfield on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Donations from individuals, including many Westfield residents, and local organizations such as Temple Emanu-El of Westfield and Westfield-based Union Innovation NJ Alliance ([UNINJA](#)), provided sufficient resources to support five college student Leaders and six high school Fellows in the first year of operation. MTB will expand the mentoring program for the 2021-2022 academic year and serve 16 high school Fellows and eight college student Leaders. The new grants will provide one year of monthly stipends for three MTB high school Fellows.

“We are fortunate to have two amazing community partners in the Westfield Foundation and the Westfield Rotary Club Foundation and to be able to make an impact on the lives of these college-bound students,” said Audrey Fisch, president of More Than Bootstraps.

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

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