

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: [Audrey Fisch, Ph.D.](mailto:audrey@morethanbootstraps.org)

President, More Than Bootstraps

908-397-0893

audrey@morethanbootstraps.org



More Than Bootstraps Awarded \$5,000 Grant from The Provident Bank Foundation
The grant will support stipends for students in the MTB College Access and Success Program

WESTFIELD and PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – September 12, 2022. [More Than Bootstraps](#) (MTB), a New Jersey non-profit dedicated to helping underrepresented, first-generation students access and succeed in higher education, has been awarded a 2022 Community Grant in the amount of \$5,000 from [The Provident Bank Foundation](#).

More Than Bootstraps was selected to receive the grant based on its work addressing the challenges first-generation, low-income students face in getting to and succeeding in higher education. MTB builds on these students' strengths to create a sustainable pathway to and through college. The organization provides first-generation high school students with near-peer mentors -- current college students from their community. College student mentors 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. The grant from The Provident Bank Foundation will help support ten (10) college student Leaders in the academic year 2022-2023.

"We are pleased to help further valuable initiatives put forth by local organizations who are working every day to strengthen the lives of residents in our communities," said **Samantha Plotino**, Executive Director, The Provident Bank Foundation. "We will continue to provide support to these important organizations that have identified an immediate need in the community and for the individuals they serve."

"As we enter our third year of programming with students in and from Passaic, we are enormously grateful for the recognition of our program's contribution to the higher-education success of first-generation students," said **Audrey Fisch**, President of More Than Bootstraps.



Pictured: Andrew Tadrous, Universal Banker; Sandra Ramirez, AVP, Banking Center Manager; Samantha Plotino, Executive Director, The Provident Bank Foundation; Audrey Fisch, President, More Than Bootstraps.

###

About **MORE THAN BOOTSTRAPS**

[More Than Bootstraps](http://www.morethanbootstraps.org) 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.

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

About **THE PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION**

The Provident Bank Foundation was established in 2003 by Provident Bank to enhance the quality of life in the region through support of not-for-profit groups, institutions, schools and other 501(c)3 organizations that provide services in communities served by the Bank. Since inception, the Foundation has granted more than \$27 million to not-for-profit organizations and institutions working toward stronger communities. For more information, visit www.the Provident Bank Foundation.org or call (862) 260-3990.



www.facebook.com/morethanbootstraps



www.Twitter.com/mbootstraps



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



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