DEAR BREAKTHROUGH FRIENDS,

It is with deep gratitude and joy that I share this report on the 2021-22 program year at Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia (BTGP), an independent 501(c)(3) striving to achieve equity and diversity in education. In the pages that follow, we hope you’ll get a sense for how we live our mission, and the impact the organization has made in the lives of our extraordinary students, families, teaching fellows, and friends.

As you know from recent research studies and media coverage, we face a unique time in education, from shortages in our teacher workforce to the need for increased diversity amongst our educators in Philadelphia. And due to the pandemic, we are also seeing student learning losses not experienced in decades. These are certainly unprecedented times, where pathways to a quality education have been challenged and where Breakthrough has sharpened and strengthened its efforts to serve the needs of motivated, underserved youth in Philadelphia and build the next generation of teachers.

From the stories and data in this year’s report, I hope you’ll find, as I do, positive momentum at Breakthrough. We served over 150 students this summer at Germantown Friends School, growing our scholar enrollment by +56% versus last fiscal year, with teaching fellow enrollment increasing as well. 97% of Breakthrough 8th graders have enrolled at special admit, independent, charter or parochial high schools and 3 out of 4 teaching fellows from the Summer 2022 cohort stated that they were extremely/likely to become a teacher after their experience at BTGP. As the numbers of scholars and teaching fellows have increased, we are grateful that support has followed, with approximately $850,000 in revenue raised – an increase of +52% from last fiscal year.

We have made strides towards the priorities stated in last year’s impact report: improving evaluation, metrics and systemization, building awareness of the Breakthrough program and forging relationships among Philadelphia’s educators and school leaders. We have also realized the benefits of our partnership with GFS, whose reputation for academic excellence and passion for intellectual exploration have greatly enhanced our curriculum and program delivery. The year ahead will build on this solid foundation that our Breakthrough community has created, together, with an eye towards enhancing curricular, high school preparation and field trip programming, as well as engaging broader populations of students and supporters more meaningfully to help realize our mission for many years to come.

We continue to be thankful for and humbled by our Breakthrough friends and the backing of you, our supporters. Keep sharing your ideas and enthusiasm, and thank you for your dedication to Breakthrough. Please reach out at any time; we would love to hear from you!

Warmest wishes,

Michelle Palmer
Executive Director,
Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia
WE ARE PROUD OF THE WORK BREAKTHROUGH OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA HAS DONE

on behalf of talented young students and budding educators during the 2021-22 school year. Breakthrough has emerged from its first year under GFS’ umbrella stronger and better positioned to expand its reach and impact. We have expanded our program to serve rising 6th graders, solidified our professional staff with two new hires in student outreach and development, and strengthened our finances. These achievements are especially impressive in light of the challenging circumstances of the last couple years. Thus, we write today with an overwhelming sense of gratitude—to all who have partnered with Breakthrough this year, from staff to volunteers to funders and partners around the country.

As we look ahead to the next year, the need for Breakthrough has never been greater. To remedy the lost educational opportunities of the pandemic and to rebuild the ranks of educators, our city and nation need organizations like Breakthrough to succeed.

In the pages that follow, you will learn about our recent successes and see what is possible when we come together in support of young people.

Jason Duckworth
Chair, Advisory Board
Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia

Dana Weeks
Head of School
Germantown Friends School
Striving to reach educational equity and diversity — this is our mission at Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia. Our independent 501(c)(3) fulfills this mission in two ways – first, by helping underserved middle schoolers in Philadelphia’s public, parochial, and charter schools to reach beyond their neighborhoods, matriculate to competitive high schools and inspire a lifelong love of learning and openness to possibility. As a result, we aim to change the trajectory of middle schoolers’ educational and life journeys.

**OUR MISSION, PROGRAM AND IMPACT**

97% of 8th graders* at BTGP attend special admit, independent, charter or parochial high schools

56% growth in scholar enrollment from 2021 to 2022 summer programs

52% revenue growth from FY 20/21 to FY 21/22 ($849,143 revenue in FY 21/22)

3 out of 4 of teaching fellows stated that they were extremely/likely to become a teacher after their summer 2022 experience at BTGP

13% growth in teaching fellow enrollment from 2021 to 2022 summer programs

*Responses from BTGP 8th grade class (2021)
Our program focuses on the early middle school years, where student disengagement begins and foundational learning for high school success is critically important.

Once accepted to Breakthrough, scholars participate in our multi-year program from the summer before 6th grade until the summer before 9th grade at no cost to their families. For 6 full weeks in the summer and most Saturdays during the school year, scholars receive rigorous academic and co-curricular enrichment, life skills, mentorship, career inspiration and support in the high school application process. Thanks to the generosity of financial and in-kind donors, volunteers and our partnership with Germantown Friends School (GFS), we deliver rigorous coursework (mathematics, writing, reading, science, and MAP testing) and co-curricular opportunities like lessons at Walnut Lane Golf Club, art classes by Mt. Airy Art Garage, soccer, film critique and social justice courses, and Brazilian martial arts. Breakthrough also provides mentorship,
field trips and company visits, Career Conversations guest speakers, and educational/high school resources for families – all in a nurturing and supportive environment where we hope Breakthrough scholars feel it’s cool to be smart, meet like-minded friends and have a lot of fun along the way!

**Secondly, we realize our mission by providing**
college students with hands-on teaching experiences and training to build the next generation of diverse, talented educators.

Such pre-professional development experiences often spark an interest in and commitment to working in the field of education, with approximately 75% of Breakthrough teaching fellows pursuing careers in this sector.

Teaching fellows attend colleges from all across the United States, trek to Philadelphia and begin their Breakthrough experience at GFS with a two-week intensive training workshop. Teaching fellows grow and strengthen their pedagogical knowledge and work with Deans of Faculty from GFS and Instructional Coaches from GFS and the School District of Philadelphia. They then transition into a six-week immersive classroom experience, where fellows learn best teaching practices that engage, inspire, and challenge their students across four core content areas and beyond. The

“I REALLY FELT EXCITED AND MOTIVATED TO COME TO BREAKTHROUGH THIS SUMMER BECAUSE I LEARNED NEW THINGS IN EVERY CLASS AND MADE NEW FRIENDS.”

– Breakthrough Scholar, Summer 2022
fellows practice lesson design and implementation, restorative classroom management strategies, and engage in weekly observations and reflections to grow as pedagogues. Our ultimate goal is to inspire lifelong learners and educators who understand the challenge and amazing opportunity of teaching.

When Breakthrough brings these two special groups together – middle school scholars and college student teaching fellows – the learning environment transforms and the energy is palpable and contagious! As scholars often remark, it is their teaching fellows who leave a lasting impression, serving as near-peer role models and cheerleaders, and making Summer/Saturday academic lessons interesting and impactful. Teaching fellows often share similar sentiments as they reflect on this unique opportunity to be lead teachers in a classroom, work closely and collaboratively with students and peers, and consider their careers in education.

We seek middle school students who meet one of the following:

- Low income or free/reduced lunch
- Live in a single-parent household
- Primary language other than English
- First generation in family to attend college
- Identify as a racial or ethnic minority
- Attend an under-resourced school (public, parochial, charter)
SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: 
Q&A WITH TASHAN XAVIER & ANNA DUFFY

Communications and Development Manager Michelle Reyes Aleti sat down with rising 8th graders Tashan Xavier and Anna Duffy to talk about their Breakthrough experiences.

TASHAN XAVIER

Why did you apply to Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia?

I applied to Breakthrough because it promised me a lot of things that I wouldn’t normally get. When I’m home alone just playing a game, it gets boring. I wanted the interaction that I didn’t have at school because we were virtual at the time. So when I found out that I was going to be in a learning environment with actual kids, that’s what made me go to Breakthrough.

What was your favorite memory from last summer?

Celebration Day – the last day there. It was really fun. Another fun day was Fun Fridays when we went golfing, because it was new. I progressed a little bit and headed up the bracket. And our science projects with Teacher Jasmine were also exciting. We made all sorts of things. We got to make a recyclable microwave. We got to see how to make fire with sand and dirt. These are things that I wouldn’t experience in school because it’s… fire!

Any favorite electives?

Art was one of my favorites. We got to do a lot of things like clay sculpting and paintings. I even made a t-shirt. I was always a creative person. I would always draw on my notebooks in school. I would take a pen and just draw all over them with cool designs.

How has Breakthrough made a difference for you as a student?

It changed me. I learned a lot of new things that helped me going into the school year. Like math, especially with Teacher Drew. He made it really nice and simple for me to understand the work. I also learned new things from the people that came in as our guest speakers (Career Conversations). I think that with all the knowledge that I was taught over the summer at Breakthrough, that it can help me a lot at school. I am also going to the Thursday program (Community Connections) where they will help us with our high school essays, which I’m looking forward to. I am definitely coming back to Breakthrough next summer!

If you were to come along with us while recruiting students, what would you tell a prospective Breakthrough student?

You will have a lot of fun. If it was boring to me, I wouldn’t stay at Breakthrough for all this time. The teaching fellows make it fun and you’ll want to come back. The teachers made it fun with games like Math Kahoots, B.O.S.S. (Blow Off Some Steam - i.e., recess) time,
electives, guest speakers, Fun Fridays, and just the rest of the experience that you don’t really get at school. It’s really all about fun and learning new things and being around people that you’ve never met and different cultures, too.

**How have you grown since joining Breakthrough?**

Well I got taller… I’ve met new people. I also learned new things, of course, from the teaching fellows that I had, like Teacher Drew. I’m also more helpful than I used to be. Normally if somebody needed help, I would wait till they asked me, but now I’ll go up to them if they need help and just help them out.

**How can Breakthrough make a difference in your application process and preparedness for high school?**

I can get some recommendations from the people from Breakthrough. I also got certificates from Breakthrough from the Thursday programs that can also help me get into certain high schools that I want to go to.
**ANNA DUFFY**

**Why did you apply to Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia?**

At school, certain groups of kids can make class difficult. Our teachers are more worried about these groups than they are about giving us a better education. So I thought going to Breakthrough would enhance what I was learning in school and give me a better chance in high school.

**What was your favorite memory from last summer?**

Definitely hanging out with the teachers and students. I saw a couple of kids that I knew and that was nice, and I also made new friends. It was easy to get along with the teachers too. In the past, I’ve had teachers who are very difficult to get along with, or just don’t understand teacher-student relationships and communication. And these teachers (at Breakthrough) did it rather well.

**How has Breakthrough made a difference for you as a student?**

I feel more relaxed in math and science in particular. I was very stressed at school last year as the slides provided by my teacher didn’t help me much. I feel more prepared, especially in reading. One of the biggest projects we had at Breakthrough this year was making a thirty-page children’s book, and I think writing short stories and going over things like thoughts and climaxes, and diagrams with specific details helped improve my writing in general and my understanding of how to write a better story.

**What did you think about the Teaching Fellows at Breakthrough?**

I’m a person who gets close to my teachers in school. I had a really good relationship with them (teaching fellows), and right off the bat I connected with most. They were really nice, and they actually explained things well, and they were always there to help. The Breakthrough teaching fellows have been some of the best teachers that I’ve had. I’ve switched schools, and I’ve had experiences from a private Catholic school to a public school with not much funding. The teaching fellows were really good compared to teachers I’ve had in the past.
If you were to come along with us while recruiting students, what would you tell a Breakthrough prospective student?

Honestly, when I learned that there was a summer school program that was six weeks long, I was very skeptical because school was so stressful and I wanted a break. But honestly, Breakthrough was a good combination of fun and school. I did get to learn things, but in a fun and easy to understand way, and when I needed a break, I got one. The teachers were actually really, really good at explaining things, and made sure I understood everything before we moved on. We also had fun activities, so it wasn’t just watching someone talk for forty-five minutes. We actually interacted, we had fun, and I think that’s the most important thing in education.

How have you grown since joining Breakthrough?

I’ve learned that not everybody learns the same way, which is not something many teachers know. Some people learn from textbooks or just by listening to someone talk, and other people need real world examples or someone by your side to explain it step-by-step. From my experience at Breakthrough, I’ve noticed that I am quick to catch on to new things, and I’m a person that people ask for help. I want to help and be sure kids in my class “get it” when our teacher isn’t there to help them.

How can Breakthrough make a difference in your application process and preparedness for high school?

I know what high schools I want to go to, but I haven’t really started aside from preparing letters of recommendation. I think that one thing high schools look for is dedication in students. I think the fact that I spent six weeks over summer break to learn more and advance my education would be a very big help.
MATTHEW TOSSMAN
A Breakthrough Teaching Fellow, Twenty Years Later

Matthew Tossman has dedicated twenty years to being an educator, and it all started at Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia. Breakthrough caught up with Matthew days before he started his new job as Vice Principal of Philadelphia Parkway Center City Middle College.

When did you work at Breakthrough?

It was the summer between my Junior and Senior years of college… that would have been 2001. I taught 7th grade science.

Why did you decide to join Breakthrough?

I was gearing up to apply to Teach for America, and I thought this (Breakthrough) was probably a good litmus test to make sure this was something I’d be really interested in.

So you planned to be a teacher?

No, I was going to teach for two years and then become a religion professor. That was my plan when I was a junior in college. But then I fell in love with teaching and I’ve been in public education since. This is my 20th year.

What impact did Breakthrough have on you?

There was one Germantown Friends School teacher, Matt Zipin. He was pretty instrumental in the type of teacher I became. He gave me really great feedback and helped me think through things. He was a great role model in how he interacted with students; he just had a very authentic relationship with them. He gave me a piece of advice that I always give to new teachers I work with: don’t try and be the teacher that you think you should be; just be yourself. It’s a fundamental pillar of what I think about myself as an educator.

“The type of educator I became came from the people that I worked with at Breakthrough.”
Any other Breakthrough memories that you recall?

When I was teaching seventh grade physics, we were doing project based learning where we were building mousetrap cars and bridges and all sorts of things. There was one day that I came in dressed as Isaac Newton and basically answered questions as if I were him. I was carrying an apple around, throwing it up and down all day. It was probably pretty corny, but it was a lot of fun. I still do stuff like that even now; I am constantly looking for ways to have fun. Somebody from Breakthrough took a picture and gave it to me in a little frame at the end of the summer and I still have it.

What’s next for you?

I was working in the central office at Mastery as their Senior Director of Post Secondary Strategy. But I missed the kids. At the central offices, my work was important and intellectually interesting but didn’t have the same emotional connection as working with kids. So, I am excited for my new job as Vice Principal of Philadelphia Parkway Center City Middle College.
DREW BUKASA
Paying It Forward

Drew Bukasa and his twin sister Arlene spent the summers before their 7th, 8th, and 9th grade years participating in Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia as scholars. Then, in the summers after his Junior and Senior years in high school, Drew returned to Breakthrough to be a teaching fellow and teach the younger generations.

How did you find out about Breakthrough?
My sixth grade science teacher Ms. Heinz was actually a teaching fellow at Breakthrough when she was younger, and she said I should apply. At first, I didn’t want to do it because it meant school during the summertime. I’m glad I did because I have great friends from Breakthrough from sixth grade up until today.

What impact did Breakthrough have on you?
Breakthrough made coming to school fun again. I feel like if I hadn’t attended, I probably would not be the way I am in school right now, because I always had issues with being motivated and liking school. Being around kids who actually wanted to learn made me see school in a different light. Also, having the extra support system and knowing that you will have it next year was very helpful to me.

What memories stand out most vividly to you?
There are so many. If there’s a highlight, I would say it would be the DC trip. There was also a full-day scavenger hunt in Center City. Everybody had different teams and each item had a certain amount of points. I can’t forget Mr. Nick – he had a different song and dance every single day. He used to rap for us and sing poems too. I also took an improv elective. I never thought I would be acting, but it was the best elective I took at Breakthrough.

“BEING AROUND KIDS WHO ACTUALLY WANTED TO LEARN MADE ME SEE SCHOOL IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.”
What was it like going from scholar to teaching fellow?

It was odd to be known as a teacher. They (scholars) thought I was 21 years old, but I was only three or four years older than they were. But I connected with them. I knew that most of these kids probably did not want to be there during their summers. I knew ways to mess with them and have fun with them in class. The biggest thing during off time was playing basketball games with them to connect. They love basketball. We even had a teaching fellow and scholars basketball game.

Any advice you have for scholars starting at Breakthrough?

Don’t be afraid to talk to your teaching fellows. It may seem awkward meeting new people and having new teachers, but teaching fellows are also nervous too, and we can be both nervous together!

What’s next for you?

I started at the University of Pennsylvania this fall, and I’m looking at majors in math or economics. I want to be a high school teacher, but first I am going into business, maybe finance or maybe financial consulting. I want to introduce kids in the inner city to the world outside and the finance industry and business as a whole. At Breakthrough, this teaching fellow Gino and I had a Money 101 course teaching things like how budgeting works and understanding credit cards!

I could go straight into teaching, but I feel like with firsthand experience in the business world, I can actually start teaching people about what actually happens. I feel like the students will grab onto it more because they understand that you’ve done it before.
Scholars and teaching fellows had a fantastic time during the 2022 summer program at Breakthrough, with each day bringing new and different experiences. 18 teaching fellows trained in a nine-week summer residency from June 13 to August 12, where they taught Breakthrough scholars for six weeks.

Teaching fellows served as lead teachers in the classroom and received daily professional development and training by Deans of Faculty, Ceora Wearing-Moore and Matt Greenawalt, as well as from Instructional Coaches from the Philadelphia School District and Germantown Friends School (GFS). Gabby Goodman, Sarah Alden, Nichelle Garnett and Adam Hotek were our dedicated Instructional Coaches and Stewart Calloway served as a dynamic Dean of Students this summer.

Scholars participated in four academic courses per day, as well as study hall, All School Meeting (ASM), various electives, and Small Learning Community (SLC) time from Monday to Thursday. Fridays were focused on co-curriculars and fun (it is summer, after all!), where students participated in art, golf, capoeira, soccer with Germantown Soccer Club, and even a giant water slide. Breakthrough art students also displayed their self-portraits at Mt. Airy Art Garage (MAAG) during a teen gallery presentation. Special thanks to Dan Gordon for making MAAG and soccer possible with your donation. Wacky Wednesdays and ASM...
provided another level of fun for our scholars on a daily basis, where SLCs participated in spirit checks and other community-building activities. We had a particularly spirited and healthy competition around earning “SLC points” with our rising 9th graders – congratulations to SLC 7 for taking the title!

Scholars particularly enjoyed the interactive classroom lessons – making a solar oven, dissecting cow eyes, writing and delivering persuasive letters to local representatives on immigration, and a Zoom visit from a cast member from the movie Avatar. Ten guest speakers also shared about their careers and life experiences via our year-round Career Conversations series, and our summer program was visited by three media outlets including CBS, ABC, and WHYY.

In-kind donors kept our program engaging throughout the summer. We are grateful for in-kind donations from Rita’s Italian Ice, Bredenbeck’s Bakery & Ice Cream, Robert Bynum, Wawa, Walnut Lane Golf Club and Cradles to Crayons. Down North Pizza came to speak to our scholars about their restaurant and unique model, proving that businesses can be built around the formerly incarcerated.

The summer program concluded for our scholars with Celebration Day on August 5th. Students had the opportunity to participate in a fun-filled morning created by the teaching fellow Arts and Celebration committee, and hosted by volunteers from RSM US LLP and teaching fellows. Fun activities included a blindfolded life-sized Connect Four, corn hole, jump rope, tie-dying shirts, and other field day activities. Thank you to our amazing Breakthrough parents for your financial contributions and in-kind donations; we appreciated the pizza, snacks, cake and beverages!
MEET THE SUMMER 2022 TEACHING FELLOWS

**Drew Bukasa** (He/Him)
Currently attending University of Pennsylvania

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 8th  
**Subject Taught:** Math  
**Elective Designed:** Soccer

I joined Breakthrough as a way to pursue my interest in education, and decide if I want to actually be inside the classroom as a profession. My experience at Breakthrough did exactly that – I do want to be in the classroom, but I also learned being in the classroom is not the only way I can have an impact on education.

**Nathaniel Carr** (He/Him)
Currently attending Germantown Friends School

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 8th  
**Subject Taught:** Math

I joined Breakthrough because I love working with kids. What I love most is the connections I am able to make with them, as well as that moment when you can tell that they understand something. The pride in that, and the joy in that is what drove me to Breakthrough.

**Caleigh Clarke** (She/Her)
Currently attending Ithaca College

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 6th  
**Subject Taught:** Science  
**Elective Designed:** The F Word: Exploring Feminism in Fantasy & Fairy Tales

I joined Breakthrough to further my journey from a young Black girl born and raised in the Bronx to an empowered female educator ready to take flight while pouring back into my community. I am immensely grateful for those I have met through this fellowship program, their paths intersecting with mine, to help me in planting the seeds for the new generation. My favorite part of the summer has been getting to witness my students have their lightbulb “aha” moments in class. It is extremely rewarding to see them learn and have fun during our labs or deconstructing of gender politics.
**Iliana Correa** (She/Her)
Currently attending Arcadia College

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 7th  
**Subject Taught:** Science  
**Elective Designed:** Puzzling Your Way through the Summer

My favorite part of the summer program was the flexibility of content lessons. I was able to change lessons and create my own with support from my fellow teachers and instructional coach.

**Catherine Crochunis-Brown** (She/Her)
Currently attending Swarthmore College

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 6th  
**Subject Taught:** Literature  
**Elective Designed:** Intro to Creative Writing

Teaching and education have always been subjects that fascinate me, especially connected to reading and writing. I joined Breakthrough because I wanted to see whether teaching young people is something I connect to in practice and could pursue post-college. I especially wanted to teach for the first time with the support and community from other aspiring and experienced teachers which Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia provides. After this summer with Breakthrough, I can definitely envision myself pursuing a teaching job after graduation. I especially enjoyed listening to music together, writing and performing daily cheers in our morning SLC time, and watching the kids act as leaders and collaborators in and outside of the classroom.

**Katie Cusick** (She/Her)
Currently attending University of Pennsylvania

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 8th  
**Subject Taught:** Writing  
**Elective Designed:** Art

I joined Breakthrough as a teaching fellow because I love working with kids and have a passion for education. In the future, I hope to work as a teacher and then hopefully move onto public policy related to education, considering I major in political science. Breakthrough has been an incredible way to prepare for this field and I have learned so much in such a short time!
**Rebecca Drucker** (She/Her)
Currently attending Wesleyan University

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 8th

**Subject Taught:** Literature

**Elective Designed:** Express Yourself!

I know I want to go into education, but I wasn’t exactly sure if I wanted to teach or be a librarian and what age group would work. I have always enjoyed tutoring, but I did not know what it would be like to teach with several students in the room. So when I saw the Breakthrough program, I thought it would be a great way to fully experience what it is like to be in a classroom as well as seeing the various dynamics of different grades.


**Jojo Greenberg** (She/Her)
Currently attending Bryn Mawr College

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 6th

**Subject Taught:** Writing

**Elective Designed:** Artistic Expression and Fabric Painting

Only a few months before applying to Breakthrough, I realized I wanted to pursue teaching or something in the education field. Especially in light of the rapid teacher shortage, and my love and passion for helping underrepresented children in education, I decided I wanted to join Breakthrough. My favorite part of the summer has been fostering individual relationships with students. The trust built between students and me is palpable and is truly one of the most rewarding feelings I have ever experienced.


**Gigi Guida** (She/Her)
Currently attending University of Michigan

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 9th

**Subject Taught:** Literature

**Elective Designed:** Friendship Bracelet Making

I wanted to be a Teaching Fellow at Breakthrough to test a theory I’d been mulling over: Could learning to teach remind me of what it was like to love to learn? And I have to say, it certainly has. Teaching is thrilling, and my students have modeled for me what learning joyfully looks like. Inspired by my experience this summer, I feel more ready than ever to return to being a student this fall. I loved building community with students and other teaching fellows!
Louise Hay (She/Her)
Currently attending Middlebury College

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 9th  
**Subject Taught:** Science  
**Elective Designed:** Yoga, Mindfulness and Meditation

My curiosity about teaching is what drew me to Breakthrough, as it gave me the ability to step into the role of teaching fellow and be a leader in the classroom. My favorite aspect of the program was building relationships with my students and watching them grow. I am grateful for the amazing people I met and the lasting relationships I have built with the staff through this program.

Jonathan Irvine (He/Him)
Currently attending Temple University

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 9th  
**Subject Taught:** Writing  
**Elective Designed:** Mindfulness/Meditation/Yoga

I joined Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia to enhance my public speaking and leadership skills. I wanted to see what it would be like to be a teacher instead of a student. Being a teacher is not easy, but it is one of the most rewarding professions there is. The relationships you build, the camaraderie amongst the fellows, and the community are unlike anything I have ever been a part of. I can easily say this has been one of the best summers I have ever had!

Jasmine Prime (She/Her)
Currently attending Howard University

**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 8th  
**Subject Taught:** Science  
**Elective Designed:** Breakthrough Magazine

I aspire to become a high school English teacher after college and I eventually want to become an education lawyer. I joined Breakthrough to fall in love with teaching and interact with students. In my education program, we do not begin student teaching until our senior year, so I wanted to get a head start and learn a different aspect of teaching. My favorite part of the summer program was interacting with the scholars and building a community among the fellows.
Claire Slack (She/Her)
Currently attending Tufts University
**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 7th
**Subject Taught:** Writing
**Elective Designed:** Poetry
I’ve always considered teaching as a possible career, but never knew if it was for me. I joined Breakthrough as an opportunity to explore this interest. This summer I was able to immerse myself in these interests and narrow down my future pursuits. I really enjoyed teaching my elective and being able to share some of my favorite poems with my students. They have really impressed me with their poems, and I hope they all continue writing.

Cullen Vance (He/Him)
Currently attending Boston College
**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 7th
**Subject Taught:** Literature
**Elective Designed:** FIFA World Cup
I hope to use my life experiences as an example of multiple pathways on the same journey. My favorite part of the teaching fellow program was the department meetings!

Ruthie Weinbaum (She/Her)
Currently attending Yale University
**Grade taught in Summer 2022 Program:** Rising 6th
**Subject Taught:** Math
**Elective Designed:** Breakthrough Sings!
My favorite part of the summer program was getting to form relationships with sixth graders and work with them rather than against them. Helping my students to become self-sufficient individuals was very satisfying.
Tyler Haines
Currently attending St. Olaf College

Seth Mooring
Currently attending Morehouse College

Sizwe Morris-Louis
Currently attending Central High School
Special thanks to our Summer 2022 Career Conversation guest speakers, who shared their unique perspectives, career paths, industry insights and even some impromptu musical performances! They covered a wide range of topics this summer and fielded many interesting questions from our scholars and teaching fellows.

1  **JEONG ALLEN**  
JLA, LLC Independent Anesthesia Contractor  
Nurse Anesthesia

2  **BILL GREENFIELD**  
Member, Board of Visitors at Temple University School of Medicine  
Psychiatry

3  **SARAH HALLOWELL**  
Boston Consulting Group*  
Case Study: Philadelphia Fire Department Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia Teaching Fellow Alumna

4  **SUDHIR KONDISETTY**  
RSM US LLP*  
Consulting

5  **T. HOANG LE**  
Boston Consulting Group*  
Strategy Consulting

6  **JUSTIN MINTER**  
Teacher at Fairwold Academy, Mental Health Counselor at Behavioral Wellness Center, and Basketball Coach at Germantown Friends School*  
Special Education, Coach and Life Skills

7  **QUEADE NORAH**  
Currently touring as Annabeth in The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical  
Career in Musical Theater and Vocal Performance

8  **CHRISTOPHER SALAZAR**  
GOAT Group  
The World of Sneakers and Operations

9  **GINA COQUIA SALAZAR**  
Former Director of Sourcing, J. Crew  
Career in Fashion / Retail

10  **CHRISTOPHER GARY SIMMONS**  
LLR Partners  
Investing and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Finance/PE

11  **ANDRE THICKENING & FATIR WOODS**  
RSM US LLP*  
Accounting

* Corporate Sponsor of Breakthrough Spring Soirée (May 2022)
WELCOME SUE CHEN!
Recruitment Manager at Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia

Sue Chen is the newest member of the Breakthrough team and currently serves as the organization’s Recruitment Manager. While serving in admissions and enrollment management, she had the opportunity to work with applicants and their families, and managed data in all application-related processes. Sue earned her undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and East Asian Studies from Bucknell University.

Sue has always strived to work with first-generation students like her, and to ensure equity in education. “Breakthrough is unique because we are able to mentor students in their early years of middle school, a critical time in their education, to help them reach their fullest potential,” she says.
BREAKTHROUGH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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MICHELLE PALMER  
Executive Director

MICHELLE REYES ALETI  
Communications & Development Manager

SUE CHEN  
Recruitment Manager

SAKINA PARKS  
Program Manager
FINANCIALS

Revenue and Expenses
Last 3 Fiscal Years
*Without donor restrictions

Revenue*  $547,433  $560,435  $849,143
Expenses
FY 19/20  9/1/19 to 8/31/20
FY 20/21  7/1/20 to 6/30/21
FY 21/22  7/1/21 to 6/30/22

52% GROWTH vs. FY 20/21

$1,000,000
$750,000
$500,000
$250,000
$0
($250,000)

$500,000
$250,000

“AT BREAKTHROUGH, PEOPLE SUPPORT YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.”
– Breakthrough Scholar, Summer 2022
Revenue by Source
FY 21/22

66.9%
Foundations/Grants

2.1%
EITC

5.3%
Event Sponsorships

25.5%
Individual

0.24%
Other

Revenue Expenses

Revenue by Source
FY 21/22

66.9%
Foundations/Grants

2.1%
EITC

5.3%
Event Sponsorships

25.5%
Individual

0.24%
Other

Revenue Expenses
BREAKTHROUGH OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA REPORT OF GIFTS FY 21/22

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 (listed in alphabetical order)

$50,000+
Peggy and Rich Greenawalt
The Lenfest Foundation
William Penn Foundation

$25,000 - $49,999
The Connelly Foundation
Hilda and Preston Davis Foundation
Jason and Angela Duckworth
The Patricia Kind Family Foundation
The Brook J. Lenfest Foundation
Pincus Family Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
Arcadia Land Company
Jean and Michael Fitzpatrick
Robert and Susan Fleming
GCP Capital Partners
Anne and Philip Glatfelter Foundation
Greenfield Foundation - Rosenberg Fund
George and Elissa Hirschhorn
Joan C. Mazzotti and Michael C. Kelly
Meridian Bank
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Dana and William Weeks

$5,000 - $9,999
Sasank Aleti and Michelle Reyes Aleti
Alliance HP
D. Jeffry Benoliel and Amy Branch Benoliel
Black Women Give Foundation
John and Eugenie Flaherty
David and Linda Glickstein
Patricia Higgins
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Christopher Ludwig Foundation
Odessa Technologies Inc.
Philadelphia Insurance Companies

PNC Charitable Trusts
David and Karina Reuter
Carla Thompson and Erskine Payton
Truist
Veritable, LP
Wells Fargo & Co.

$1,000 - $4,999
Ad Prima Charter School
Anonymous (2)
Jordan Bastien
Brian and Bridget Blake
Bluestone Foundation
Bono Family Fund
Francine and Kenneth Boone
Boston Consulting Group
Bray Family Foundation
Cornelius Brown
Lyn Buchheit
David Bushnell and Kimberly Pelkey
Michael Byrnes
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Edward and Karren DeSeve
Mark and Laura Dingfield
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation
Page Fahrig-Pendse and Sagun Pendse
Christopher Farrell and Mary Pisculli
Pauline Gray and Ned Barnard
Robert and Susie Harries
Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial
Barbara and Edi Karni
Alexander and Marnie Kerr
Peter and Emilie Lapham
Stephen Leitzell
Christian R. & Mary F. Lindback Foundation
Magnolia Fund
Jim and Mimi McKenzie
George McNeal
Noelle and Michael Muniz
Overbrook Presbyterian Church
Sharon Parker
Pennsylvania Lumbermens Mutual Insurance
Company
The Philadelphia Foundation
David and Betsy Plimack
RBC Wealth Management
Jonathan E. Rhoads Trust
Jonathan and Julia Rhoads
John and Theresa Rollins
RSM US Foundation
Karen Scholnick
Temple University Office of Community Affairs
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and
Southern New Jersey
Vizi
VSCP Law
Cheryl Wade
The David Nation/Suzan Willcox Family Fund
of the Philadelphia Foundation
Sally West Williams
Lisa Wolschina & Associates —
Real Estate Keller Williams / Haddonfield
Karen and Peter Wong

$500 - $999
Jeffrey and Kelsey Beachell
Edward Biester and Carol Press
Robin Canada and David Moos
Elizabeth Cleveland
Comcast Corporation
Conservest Capital Advisors
Saryu and Jitu Desai
Mark and Tobey Dichter
Dick Dupuis and Marj Little*
Susan Fazio and Carlo DiGiovanni
Jill Greenfield Feldman
Matthew and Sarah Forti
Hannah Caldwell Henderson and
Alan Henderson
Summer and Cliff Kazmarek
David Kern and Karen Vaccaro Kern

Priscilla Kinney
Anthony Kyriakakis and Aleni Pappas
LLR Partners
Thomas and Amina Loder
Jon Malloy
Michele McDonald
Betsy and John Neiva de Figueiredo
Roan O’Sullivan and Sue Lee
Kim and Daniel Price
Victoriano and Crisanta Reyes
Samuel and Nicole Rhoads
Jennifer Rickard
Dan and Anya Rosin
Michael and Jen Sala
Elizabeth Seltzer
Robert and Susan Silverstein
Whitney Soule and Chris McLoon
Edward and Lisa Spaniel
Craig Stevens and Lynn Rzonca
Keino Terrell and Fonda Daughtry
David Wade and Kim Paymaster
Flora Barth Wolf and Laslo Boyd
Amy Yamamoto
Wesley and Anne Yamamoto

Under $500
Craig Ablin and Pam Vassilikos
Alexander Ackerhalt and Daniela Mardarovici
Lamonte and Zarah Adams
Anonymous (10)
Joycellen Auritt and Leslie Schlessinger
Giovanni Bacarella
Richard Bartholomew
Florence Battis Mini and Michael Mini
Kate Behan
Kevin Bell and Kelly Regan
Thomas A. and Elizabeth Bell
Judy Berkman
Robert and Ilene Blain
Denise and David Bolish
Lloyd and Merrill Brotman
Rebecca Buffum and Bill Becker

* deceased
Chris Burba and Sarah Light
John Bustard and Bonnie Andrews
Hope Butler
Eric Carlson
Marybeth Celelo
Alison T. Celelo
Paul Chi and Jenna McNeill
Liste Andre Cleary and Matt Cleary
Darren Coleman and Michelle Todd-Coleman
Kate Cornwell
Joan Countryman and Ed Jakmahu
Beatrice Cromwell
Frances and Poppy Cummings
Monique Curry-Mims
Caroline Davidson
James Degnan
DHF Associates, Inc.
Leslie Diaz
Charles and Gene Dilks
Brian Duggan and Jill Pederson
David Dye and Karen Heller
Brendan Elick and Phyllis Barksy Elick
Tom and Ellie Elkinton
Nancy and Michael Evans
Richard and Alice Farley
David J. Feldman
Maxine Field
Jacob Fisher and Ronnie Rubin
Anne Flaherty
John Doyle Flaherty
Katherine Flaherty
Anne Fleming and William Wright
Elizabeth Fleming and James Worrell
Katie Fleming Capecchi and Dan Capecchi
Raftia Foster
Sally Frazee
Julie Friedberg and Slava Kozlov
Robin Friedman and Declan Spring
Michael and Bonnie Frumer
Mauricio and Louisa Garrido
Kate and Chris Garrity
Nancy Gellman
Elizabeth Gemmill
Ilana Goldfus and Ben Profeta
June Gondi
Marshal and Tamar Granor
Matt Greenawalt and Anna Stowell Greenawalt
Thomas and Sandra Greenwood
Rick and Hallie Grodin
Gina and Raniel Hidalgo
James Hightower
Jamal Hill
Caroline Hogan
Katherine Hovde and Kenneth Kulak
Sandra Jewett
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Rebecca Johnson and Lawrence Weisberg
Louise Johnston
Carol W. Jones
Matthew Katz
Dorothy Kurz
Jessica Lee
Michael and Hannah Levenberg
Sumeet and Monica Mainigi
Subarna and Sarita Malakar
Karen Malchione
Jack Malinowski and Deborah Frazer
Diane Mallery
Dianne P. Manges
Peter F. and Nancy Brockway Marvin
Kellie McGowan
Sarah McMenamin
Jake Muscato
Louis Nayovitz Foundation
Nancy Neraas
Nancy Newman and Jonathan Morley
Chloe and Marcus Niiranen
Jennifer and Lee Noonan
Oladimeji and Charla Okewole
Michelle Palmer and Conrad Waldron
Mary Pao
David Pasanek
Aleshia Pate and Michael Garvin
Kathy and Chris Paulmier
Nancy Petersmeyer
Angelo Pinti
Brian Reyes and Britt-Marie Alm
Eve Prensky Roe and Fred Roe
Matthew Prowler and Reina Wilkes Prowler
Thomas Rafferty and Anna Burke
Kevin Rasmussen and Vivian Su
Carol Rawlings Miller and Jim Miller
Debra and Ike Roberts
Patricia Rose and Marta Dabezies
Law Offices of Daniel Rosin and Richard Rosin
Shannon Rowley-Lavelle and Sean Lavelle
Jean Ruff
Mohamed Rushdy
Jacopo Samson
Erik Savage
Deena Schneider
William M. Scott III
Parvin and Jean Sharpless
Marjorie Shiekman
Duane Michelle Sims
Brian and Alyson Solomon
Michelle Sonsino and Matthew Lewis
Ann and Steve Sparkes
Darren Spielman and Liza Rodriguez
Lynne Strieb
Madison Swart
Brian Szakacs
Ryan Taylor
Daniel Thompson
Alan Tofig
Charles and Heather Tranen
Joseph Trianosky
Lise Twiford
Elizabeth Ueland
Eileen Vass
William Vieth
Alec and Sally Walsh
Peter and Jean Warrington
Sarah West
Linda White
Randal and Leanna Lee Whitman
John Williams
Keleigh Williams
Jill Willits

Barbara Wybar
Matthew Young
David Younkin and Diana Gomez
David and Jacqueline Zavitz
Laurena Zeller
Julie Zimmerman

Gifts In-Kind
A+ Test Prep and Tutoring
Adelie Coffee
Adventure Aquarium
Appliq
Arden Theater Company
Bredenbeck’s Bakery & Ice Cream Parlor
Conrad Waldron and Michelle Palmer
Cradles to Crayons
Debra Stevens and Friends
Duane Michelle Sims
Cin Cin
Estée Lauder
First Tee Golf
Frosted Fox
Georgia Tech
Haven Human Asset Ventures
Herb Scott Catering
Ilana Goldfus
Jansen
Jason and Angela Duckworth
Jim Curtin / Philadelphia Union
Kim Olds
Laurentius Salon
Mara Lemos-Stein
Museum of the American Revolution
Nutrition Unlimited
Philadelphia Eagles
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Philadelphia Phillies
Prema Prabhakar, PhD
Rita’s Water Ice
Robert Bynum
Royal Boucherie
Sasank and Michelle Aleti
Spavia
Toto’s
University of Pennsylvania
Vizi
Wawa
Wellness with Lisete
Zahav

2022 Spring Soirée Auction Winners
proceeds supported program delivery for scholars and teaching fellows

Lamonte and Zarah Adams
Jason and Angela Duckworth
Sarah Dunn
Matt Handel
Thomas and Amina Loder
Sunil Mulani and Kanchan Rai
Sharon Parker
David and Karina Reuter
Wesley and Anne Yamamoto

Special thanks to:

Anne M. & Philip H. Glatfelter, III
Family Foundation

Arcadia Land Company

The Brook J. Lenfest Foundation

Connelly Foundation

Davis Foundation

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GermanTown Friends School

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