

2019 - 2020 Student Impact Report

Bridge the Gap College Prep Continues to Improve the Educational Outcomes and Lifetime Opportunities of Marin City Youth During This Challenging Time

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The 2019 – 2020 school year and subsequent summer were like no other. Yet, with 25 years of experience and success supporting students' multifaceted needs during their journey to and through college, Bridge the Gap College Prep is undeterred by these challenging times. Our number one priority is supporting students' academic progress and social-emotional wellbeing. Thanks to the expertise and flexibility of our staff, we rapidly pivoted to meet their needs. We have demonstrated, time and again, that we are always willing to do what it takes to care for our students and community. And when I say **we**, that includes **you** – our resilient and dedicated staff, loyal and generous donors, devoted volunteers, and committed foundations and business funders. The accomplishments and impact outlined below would not be possible without you. On behalf of our students and staff, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Lisa Raffel
Executive Director

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

College and Career Success Program



BTGCP continues to serve record numbers of Marin City students progressing and succeeding in college

- We deepened our individualized support for our college students by partnering with 10,000 Degrees to bring on a dedicated and highly experienced College Success Manager.
- We have 40 students in college (with some of our College of Marin students deferring the fall semester due to Covid-19).
- We awarded BTGCP scholarships to all of our students to help defray college expenses.

- Our college persistence rate in June of 2020 was 100%. Prior to hiring our first College & Career Advisor in June of 2018, the college persistence rate was 67%.
- Two of our community college students transferred to 4-year schools this fall, one student to UC Davis and one student to UC Riverside.
- We celebrated the college graduation of two longtime BTGCP students, both from HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), one of whom has been with BTGCP since she was in 2nd grade! One of these graduates helped organize Marin City's highly successful Black Lives Matter march, which attracted over 1,500 people.
- We held a virtual college send-off event bringing together rising first-years with BTGCP students in college and those who have graduated. Some key advice shared by BTGCP alumna, Cheyenne:

"Always remember that Bridge the Gap is family. They will help you even if you're in a bad place. It's good to know Bridge the Gap is there and that they care for you."

High School Program

Bridge the Gap College Prep's High School students succeeded in school despite the enormous hurdles of Covid-19



- **100% of our 2020 high school seniors graduated and are headed for college.** Some of our College of Marin students are deferring the fall semester due to Covid-19. **This makes for an 8-year streak of 100% college-bound seniors, with one serving in the US Marines!**
- 100% of our high school students passed the core classes required to qualify for California public universities.
- With our assistance, 100% of our high school seniors completed their FAFSA

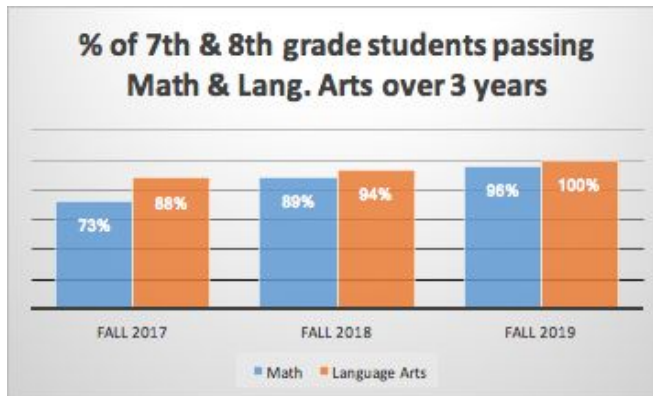
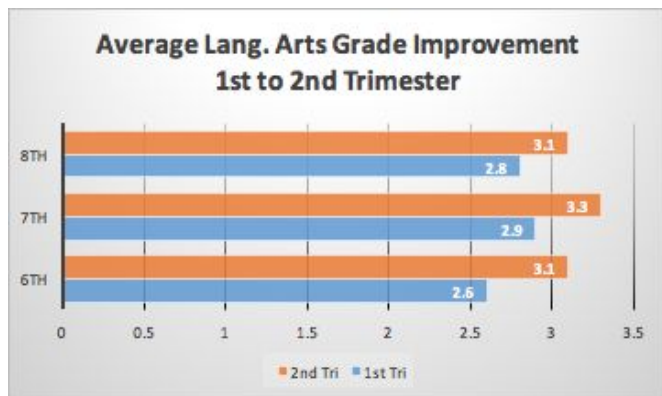
(financial aid) applications.

Scholars Program (4th - 8th grade)

4th - 8th graders continued to show academic improvement this year



- 75% of our rising high school freshmen placed in algebra or above thanks to intensified one on one and small group math instruction throughout the school year and summer. Placing into algebra or above sets students on a strong path to college preparedness.
- The average Language Arts grade of our middle school students showed improvement from the 1st to the 2nd trimester
- The annual percentage of students passing Math and Language Arts over the past 3 years has been improving steadily.



Little Scholars & Little Readers Programs (K – 3rd grade)

Our Little Scholars continued developing their love of reading and essential literacy skills during the academic year and summer, thanks in large part to our volunteers



- We gave 75 books to our young students at our annual Open House in December.
- We matched 40 1st - 3rd graders with one on one volunteers in the Little Scholars evening program.
- We rebranded our traditional summer Little Readers program for K-3rd graders as **Summer Zoom**. Approximately 22 students logged on three times a week and participated in reading comprehension and literacy lessons. A highlight was having author Eric Litwin read aloud his wildly popular book Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes. He donated 30 copies of the book to the students.

- At the end of our Summer Zoom program, 90% of our little readers achieved their reading comprehension goals.

Organizational Growth and Resilience

With the organization's growth and maturation over more than a quarter century, we are now a more experienced staff, with more field expertise. We are driven by strong school collaborations, focused work with other community organizations, and, importantly, by data and a deliberate effort to continually assess and improve our programs.

- We served more students than ever before -- a total of 278 across all programs -- on the pathway to college enrollment and graduation.
- We placed over 120 volunteers.
- We held 3 college tour field trips, plus an incredible career exposure day at Salesforce headquarters.
- We partnered with Bayside MLK Academy, Willow Creek Academy, and a mighty crew of volunteers to launch the Food Bags of Love campaign, which delivered approximately 3800 bags of groceries to Marin City families from March to August. This collaborative effort raised over \$150,000 and donated food and served hundreds of families each week.



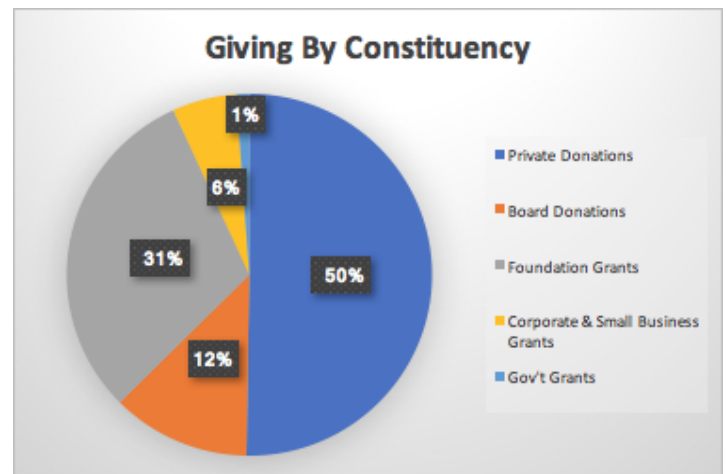
- We took a leadership role in planning a back to school supply drive to ensure that all Marin City youth would have needed materials at home to support their school work.
- This fall, in partnership with Tamalpais High School, we launched an in-person learning hub for Marin City High School students. This hub is part of a community-wide effort to meet the needs of students who need more support to be successful with remote learning and can't afford private tutors.

Financial Strength

Despite having to cancel our in-person Vines & Vision annual fundraiser with four days' notice, we still managed to raise 92% of our FYE20 financial goals this year. This is only possible thanks to both our loyal and new supporters. BTGCP will continue to look for new opportunities to ensure funding for growth and sustainability, including planning a fabulous virtual Vines & Vision fundraiser in 2021, enhancing our Major Gift Program, increasing community communications, and further engaging our BTGCP Board, Advisory Council, donors, and volunteers.

Financial Statement FYE 2020

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Revenue | \$1,629,828 |
| Operating Expenses | \$1,619,851 |
| Net Proceeds | \$9,977 |



BTGCP Students

We continue to grow and serve a diverse group of students and hope to enroll more each year. BTGCP's student population is approximately 44% African American, 30% Hispanic, 16% Multi-racial, 7% Asian, and 3% Caucasian. Students come to BTGCP with myriad factors influencing their school success and level of self-efficacy. Almost all face significant challenges and trauma associated with economic hardship and community marginalization.

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Bridge the Gap College Prep students and families, staff, and Board of Directors, **THANK YOU** for your support and for helping us carry out our mission. Because of you, we are so very proud to end with the list of colleges our BTGCP students currently attend. Congratulations to our students!

Colleges Attended by BTGCP Students



Cal States: Fullerton, Humboldt,
Northridge, Sacramento & Sonoma
College of Marin
College of the Redwoods
Diablo Valley College
Foothill College
Hampton University
Harding University
Los Rios Community College
Minneapolis Community & Technical
College
Missouri Baptist University
Missouri Valley College
UC Davis
UC Merced
UC Riverside
University of Arizona

TO LEARN MORE AND MAKE A DONATION, VISIT
WWW.BTGCOLLEGEPREP.ORG/DONATE