

Greetings,

Thank you for your continued support of Think Big for Kids. It's hard to imagine we live in a country where nearly 38 million people are in poverty, representing roughly 12% of the population. What is more unimaginable is that 40% of American households are below the threshold of annual income they need to meet the basic necessities to live in today's economy.

Kids don't choose this for themselves. They are born into poverty and face many obstacles to overcome their situations and discover their potential. Think Big for Kids is *educating* kids on what is possible, and we are creating *opportunities* for them to go make it happen. **Our goal is to reach and serve more kids, and to do that we ask for your help by making a donation to support our program.**

The three pillars of our program define how we change a kid's journey for their future – Career Exploration, Mentorship and Job Readiness & Placement – and we are seeing the results. As we approach the end of the school calendar year, I'd like to highlight some of our impact and outcomes.

Our Career Exploration pillar provides middle school students with career showcases and skill building workshops, opening their eyes to many different industries and careers that match their interests. We held over 300 showcases and workshops, exposing 1,600 kids to jobs, soft skills and career paths to get them excited for their future.

I am thrilled to announce we awarded 73 scholarships to deserving students in our program, doubling the number from last year. On May 11, Think Big hosted a <u>scholarship celebration event</u> to honor these students as well as their friends and family members in attendance. We are so proud of them!



I invite you to watch a short video of Anthony, who wrote in his scholarship application essay, "I can honestly say that I'm not glad that we experienced homelessness, but I am now more grateful for what I have, and I vowed to never give up on my goals, like how my mom didn't give up on us when we struggled." Anthony plans to go to college with a major in graphic design to become a professional illustrator. He says his determination is his special characteristic and we can't wait to see all that Anthony is able to accomplish for his future. View Anthony's one minute video here.

We will continue to support our kids through their first job and Think Big mentors will play a big role in providing these students with the guidance and help they need to succeed. Our students' post-graduation plans range from electrician apprenticeships to engineering to healthcare, marketing and more. Since our inception in 2016, Think Big has served thousands of kids and is on track to reach our vision of serving 10,000 kids by 2025.

You know my enormous passion for our mission, so I am inviting you to join in our effort and donate to help us serve more kids. Your contribution *will* make a difference to break the cycle of poverty for kids and raise the next generation of the workforce in our community. Your donation check can be mailed to Think Big for Kids, Inc. (EIN# 83-3978138), 1219 Rolling Woods Lane, Lakeland, FL 33813 or made directly through the donation page on our website at www.thinkbigforkids.org.

Thanks in advance for your strong commitment to Think Big. Your decision to donate is greatly appreciated!

With Gratitude,

Tony DiBenedetto, Founder

Think Big for Kids

