

# Meet the winners!

Congratulations to the Building Bright Futures Scholarship recipients! Thirty-four residents received \$1,000 in scholarship money and six received laptops to support them on their academic journeys.



**BUILDING  
BRIGHT FUTURES**

## YOUTH WINNERS

**Gisselle:** A graduating high schooler on the way to University of California, Los Angeles, Gisselle is majoring in Cognitive Science. With that degree, she plans to continue to medical school to eventually make a larger impact in her community. As a first-generation college student, she plans to use this scholarship to aid her transition to independent living in hopes that the financial strain will be lesser on her family.

**William:** A graduating high school senior and first-generation college student, William will be attending the University of California, Davis come fall. He plans to obtain his Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and microbiology. The scholarship will be used to help fund his room and board.

**Casie:** In her third year at Cal Poly Pomona, Casie is majoring in accounting with a goal to pursue a master's degree in accountancy. She hopes to land a position in a school district or at a prestigious accounting firm. She plans to use the scholarship to pay for much-needed school supplies.

**Anh Huy:** After moving to the United States from Vietnam, Anh Huy had to restart her college career despite having only one semester left to graduate from the National University of Vietnam. She is now on track to obtaining her bachelor's in computer science. She plans to use the scholarship to pay for necessary supplies, housing and lab fees.

**Javier:** Graduating from high school this summer, Javier strives to obtain his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Although his educational career took a turbulent turn after his family dealt with the catastrophic after-effects of COVID-19, Javier was able to get back on his feet and used his newfound determination to propel him further. He is an advanced placement student with a 4.5 GPA. Javier will use the scholarship funds to cover costs for equipment.

**Ashley:** A resident of La Misión in Oceanside, Ashley plans to study criminology at Cal State San Marcos, with the eventual goal of becoming a detective. She lives with three siblings and her mother, who is a single mom, so the scholarship will be a significant help to her family. She is also planning on getting a job to help pay her expenses. She is a four-year varsity soccer player at El Camino High who also volunteers teaching children soccer.

**Mariely:** A resident of Melrose Villas, Mariely was traumatized at age 11 when immigration officers took her father away. She focused her attention on her education, determined to succeed despite the challenges. That pathway led her to study for her Bachelor of Science in nursing at California State University, San Bernardino, where is expected to graduate in December. She will use her scholarship to help cover her remaining college costs.

**Alex:** A first-generation college student and a resident of Melrose Villas in San Marcos, Alex is pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing at California State University San Marcos. His goal is to create greater financial stability than his parents have had. For much of his college career, he held a part-time job on top of his studies but has found it difficult to balance both as he nears graduation. The scholarship funds will help him cover his costs as he finishes his schooling.

**Ashley:** Ashley graduated in June from Yorba Linda High School with stellar grades and is a volunteer at her local food bank. In fall 2023, she plans to study accounting at Santiago Canyon College with a goal of becoming an accountant. She lives in a two-bedroom apartment at Villa Plumosa with her sister, mother and stepfather. Because her mother and stepfather are currently unemployed and her father is recently divorced, she is on her own to fund her college dreams.

**Ireland:** A graduating high school senior, Ireland is on her way to the University of Santa Cruz to obtain a bachelor's degree in education. Her goal is to reform the educational system to make it offer more resources and services to children in underserved communities. She plans to use her \$1,000 scholarship to pay for her basic needs while at school.

**Cyrenity:** A graduating high school senior, Cyrenity will be attending Howard University in the Fall. She is on track to obtaining a Bachelor of Science in biology. With this degree she hopes to become a gynecologist and combat medical racism. She has a large family so the scholarship will be used to pay for school supplies and any necessary basic needs.

**Jocelyn:** A first-generation college student, Jocelyn is studying psychology at UCLA with a goal of going on to graduate school for a master's degree in social work or school psychology. A resident of Vista Verde in Ontario, her family has struggled with food security and often had to move yearly to find affordable housing. Even though she felt unprepared for the challenges of college, she quickly realized that she earned her place at the prestigious university – as evidenced by her top tier grades. She will use her scholarship to pay for transportation and other college costs.

**Gorgeanna:** A first-generation college student, Gorgeanna is soon to be in her second year at the University of California, San Diego, studying human biology. She is currently on track pre-med to pursue her dreams of becoming a neonatologist. She plans to use her \$1,000 scholarship to continue paying for books and other much-needed items and supplies for the new school year.



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**Cornesha:** A single mother to a three-year-old, Cornesha is a junior at California State Los Angeles. She is on track to obtaining a bachelor's in rehabilitation services after dropping out eight years ago due to unforeseen circumstances. While her heart is set on becoming a probation officer, she is happy to be in a career that allows her to help others. The \$1,000 scholarship will be used to help her stay afloat while she juggles work, school and her child.

**Esmeralda:** A first-generation college student, Esmeralda will attend UC Irvine in fall 2023, with plans to study psychology. A resident of River Canyon Apartments, her goal is to become a physician's assistant with a focus on dermatology. She was inspired to pursue this passion by her challenges and discoveries regarding health and mental health during the pandemic. At Cathedral City High School, she participated in career-oriented and health-focused academic pathways.

## ADULT WINNERS

**Alexia:** A first-generation college student who is graduating this year from Cal State Fullerton, Alexia is seeking a Bachelor of Science in public health so she can provide supportive services for low-income individuals much as she benefitted from Hope through Housing programs. Her struggling family moved from a garage to San Antonio Vista Apartments when she was a child.

**Brenda:** A resident of Corona del Ray, Brenda is completing a certificate in child and adolescent development at Norco College. Her goal is to transfer in winter 2023 to UC Riverside, where she plans to major in psychology and earn her teaching credential. Her goal is to become an elementary teacher with a focus on advocating for underrepresented children. Since she returned to full-time studies, she and her husband have faced financial challenges as they raise their three children.

**Jenae:** Jenae's path to college was disrupted by multiple family hardships. She set aside her dreams to work and care for her siblings. Along the way, she married and had three children. When her eldest began kindergarten this year, she was inspired to relaunch her own studies – while keeping her full-time job. A resident of Arbor Villas, she attends Fullerton College. She is seeking a degree in business management with the goal of becoming a project manager.

**Charles:** A veteran who was injured during her service, Charles lives with his wife and two children at Veterans Park in Pomona. After losing his job as a mechanic during COVID, Charles decided to seek a new career that would place less stress on his injured back. Today, he attends Columbia Southern University, seeking a Bachelor of Science in occupational health and safety. He hopes to help uphold better working conditions than those he experienced as a mechanic.

**Karen:** A single mom who resides at Veterans Park in Pomona, Karen juggles a part-time job and school along with volunteer service on Skid Row. She is seeking an Associate of Arts in political science and hopes to become an advocate for underrepresented groups and show that with perseverance and support, people can overcome any obstacle.

**Sonja:** A resident of Spring Valley Apartments, Sonja is competing a certificate as a peer support specialist for youth at Loyola Marymount University and plans to attend Southern California Seminary in the fall to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in biblical studies with a minor in counseling/psychology. Her goal is to earn a master's degree in psychology/counseling so she can help challenged children become strong adults.

**Alexis:** A resident of Citrus Grove apartments in Rialto, Alexia will be attending Sonoma State in fall 2023, with plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in biological sciences. She would like to become a doctor. As one of four children of a single mother, she is relying on scholarships to fund her college dreams.

**Olufemi:** A first-generation college student, Olufemi is studying literary journalism and psychology at UC Irvine. She is a resident of Rancho Verde Village Apartments in Rancho Cucamonga and, because her family doesn't have much money, she has pursued scholarships to support her academic career.

**Glenda:** After a 10-year marriage ended, leaving her with no marketable skills, Glenda took a job as a warehouse worker to support her two children. A resident of Mountainside Apartments, she wanted something better, more meaningful. She saved her money and, after a year, became a certified nursing assistant. Now she is pursuing training as a licensed vocational nurse at Chaffey College. She is inspired by her children and seeks to inspire them in turn.

**Claudia:** A resident of Monterey Village and mother of three, Claudia is seeking her Bachelor of Nursing at Nightingale College. She hopes to become a registered nurse specializing in oncology and eventually a nurse practitioner. She delayed her degree so she could care for her father, who had Alzheimer's Disease. The experience has strengthened her resolve and passion to care for others.

**Chelsea:** Chelsea was pursuing a nursing degree as a freshman in college when she got into an abusive relationship and became pregnant. She quit school to care for her daughter. They bounced from place to place until she was accepted as a resident at Citrus Grove in 2020. Now, with stable housing, she is able to attend American Career College, where she is seeking her licensed vocation nursing degree while working part time to support her family.

**Marly:** A single mother of two, Marly is a resident of Hawthorne Terrace and a family support specialist. She is pursuing a Master of Science in human services at Walden University so she can help make a difference in her community and advance her career. Even while working full-time, she has struggled to pay for her degree and does not qualify for government or school financial aid.

**Louis:** After serving in the infantry, Louis realized that his options for work were limited to policing or security jobs. Wanting more, the resident of Veterans Park in Pomona enrolled at Cal Poly Pomona, where he is completing a degree in information security and forensics. His goal is to become a systems administrator and perhaps open his own web design firm. He has exhausted his VA education benefits and is now paying to complete his degree on his own.

**Michael:** Michael has worked a vast array of jobs as he positioned himself to pursue his goal of becoming an MRI technician. He's lugged bags at the airport, worked security at airports and has earned his certification as a nursing assistant. He continues to work a full-time and a part-time job to cover his expenses as he attends West Coast Ultrasound Institute's MRI short program. His goal is to eventually launch his own MRI practice.

**Fe:** A single mom, Fe is completing her high school degree at the College of the Desert. She hopes to attend college so she can find a stable job after a tumultuous upbringing. When she was a child, her family moved from the U.S. to Venezuela. When she was a teenager, they fled violence and economic challenges to Mexico and, briefly, Texas. She has been on her own since her teen years. At 18, she moved back to the U.S. and discovered she was pregnant. Since then, she has focused on raising her child, who has autism.

**Tika:** A single mother of four children, Tika is a certified nursing assistant who would like to become a registered nurse. She has completed her licensed vocational nursing courses and is taking classes at three colleges to complete prerequisites needed to qualify for an RN bridge program in spring 2024. She is no longer eligible for government-financed financial aid.

**Jazmin:** A case worker who works with at-risk children, Jazmin is completing courses at East Los Angeles College in anticipation of transferring to California State University San Bernardino in fall 2023. She will pursue a degree in child development. A resident of Vista Verde apartments, she is a single mother who found herself homeless after a divorce who has been rebuilding her life. Her goal is to inspire her daughter as her daughter has inspired her.

## LAPTOP WINNERS

**Nerie:** Graduating from high school this summer, Nerie is a first-generation college student who aspires to be a perioperative nurse and has a long-term goal of becoming a cardiac surgeon. She wants to continue her education so as to one day travel the world and provide care to a broader range of communities. Nerie is receiving a laptop.

**Davide:** A graduating high school senior attending Cal Poly Pomona as a mathematics major, Davide strives to obtain a level of education that his parents did not have the privilege of experiencing. Through Building Bright Futures, he received a laptop that will help him achieve his educational goals.

**Trinity:** A high school senior on her about to start her first semester at Houston Christian University, Trinity is working towards a Bachelor of Science in nursing. Her goal is to help others as caretaking has always been a passion of hers. She received a laptop that will help her pursue her academic dreams.

**Mayra:** Currently attending the College of the Desert, Mayra is working towards obtaining her associate degree in mass communications and a certificate in Social Media marketing. She is fully committed to building her career after losing her job in 2022. During her professional journey, her goal is to cultivate an inclusive and well-informed community. She received a laptop that will help her get closer to her educational goals as she continues to maneuver online schooling.

**Melissa:** A single mom of two children, Melissa is attending Smith Chason College to obtain a licensed vocational nursing degree. A resident of Sunset Heights, she is now a certified nurse assistant. Her LVN degree will bring greater financial stability to her family and allow her to do more for her two girls. She will also be able to do more to help patients in her new role.

**Dondi:** A single mother who lost her job during the dotcom crash, Dondi reinvented her career path with a new focus on architectural design. She is now studying for her associate degree at Mesa College. A resident of Vista Terraza apartments, she grew up in a low-income household and watched her mother struggle to break free of an abusive relationship. She hopes to continue her academic career and earn her bachelor's degree.

**Jade:** A resident of Rancho Verde Village, Jade is a single mother whose child has mental disabilities. She put her education on hold to care for her child and is now attending Chaffey College to obtain her associate degree in nursing. Her journey to the degree will be slow – six years – as she balances her education with her responsibilities as a mother. She hopes to become a labor and delivery nurse so she can help mothers who may face similar challenges to her own.

**Wendy:** A resident of Parkside Apartments and mother of a 10-year-old girl, Wendy has a passion for music. She has taught herself to play the guitar, piano and drums. Her husband is a professional musician. Together, they lead a nonprofit that provides music education for school-age children. Now, she is pursuing a formal degree at Southwestern College to better serve her community and to secure a job in music education.