2019

GRATITUDE REPORT

BREAKTHROUGH NEW YORK

A Letter from Beth

Breakthrough New York is a family. We are a collection of students, families, educators, volunteers, and supporters who believe that education has the power to transform lives—and we all work to make it so. Our BTNY family is made up of individuals who chart their own paths and yet share a common goal. And we support one another as we strive to meet that goal of educational attainment, career success, and financial stability. I hope you enjoy reading about one BTNY family in particular who demonstrates this exactly.

The larger BTNY family hit some wonderful milestones in 2019. We received a record number of applications to the program, saw our second class complete the full 10-year program and graduate from college, and were one of five organizations recognized by The New York Jets through its Social Justice Initiative, awarding each organization $160,000. And yet all of these accomplishments speak to what has remained true about the organization throughout its 20 year history: we are making a difference and our students are achieving great success, yet there is still greater need for our program and services.

Thank you so much for being a part of our BTNY family and for all of the success you helped to make possible this year. Looking forward to another wonderful year ahead.

All my best,

Beth

Beth E. Onofry
Executive Director

Breakthrough New York transforms the lives of talented students from low-income backgrounds by providing educational support from middle school through college and into careers. We also inspire talented young people to enter careers in education through our students-teaching-students model. Our goal is to create leaders who break the cycle of poverty in their families and effect positive change in their communities.

Cover Story

One Family—Many Paths to Success

Libia and Sergio Quizhpi have made many sacrifices to see that their four children obtain something that neither of them ever did: a college degree. With the Breakthrough New York community of educators and supporters at their side, their dream is about to become a reality.

The couple immigrated from Ecuador to New York City, settling in Corona, Queens. Sergio toiled in a restaurant kitchen. Libia assisted her husband and ensured that her children got to school safely each day, knowing that education was the key to a better future.

"Like so many immigrant parents, my mother and father have had to prioritize their kids' futures over their own happiness," says Dennis (18), the oldest Quizhpi child, now in his sixth year at BTNY. "They've worked really long, hard hours and spent the little extra money they've had on books for my siblings and me, to help us learn."

"For every obstacle you face, there's someone at Breakthrough who can help you overcome it."

Dennis knows his younger siblings look up to him. "I try to show resilience and an ethical standard for them to follow," he says. "Since I'm furthest of all of us along the path to college and I know it's not easy, I need to set the best example I can."

Dennis' journey on that path accelerated the summer before seventh grade, when he joined BTNY. He knew the extra work over the summer would give him a leg up as he started each new grade and applied to high schools. With BTNY's guidance, Dennis earned a scholarship to the Dalton School.

His transition from his Queens charter school to Dalton, a prestigious Upper East Side private school, wasn't easy. "In the end, I found my place at Dalton and I have to thank Breakthrough for helping me get there," he remembers. "I had many conversations with Breakthrough mentors. They understood that being a scholar isn't just about excelling academically, but also being a part of the student body you're in."

Dennis plans to major in China & Asian-Pacific Studies at Cornell. "I know college will be the most challenging part of my educational journey, so I'm glad to know Breakthrough will be with me for four more years," he states with confidence.

"Without Breakthrough, I wouldn't have the motivation to work as hard as I do."

Gabriela became aware of the potential impact of her family's circumstances as she neared middle school. "I realized my parents' resources might not be enough to get me where I wanted to go," she says.

Seeing her brother's experience at BTNY inspired Gabriela. She wanted to work hard to achieve her dreams, too, so she applied and was accepted. At first the academic rigor was a surprise, but the challenge inspired her, especially as she applied to high schools.

"Breakthrough emphasized choosing a school that would help me be a better student and where I would be happy," she remembers. She chose Townsend Harris, a selective public high school in Queens. Now a sophomore, Gabriela is tackling a tough course load and staying busy with dance and Latin club—on top of monthly BTNY seminars on topics including intersectionality, gun violence, stress management, and free speech on campus.

Gabriela thinks about college a lot. "It's stressful," she says. "I want to go to a college that will support me, where I don't have to choose a major right away." Ultimately, she wants to pursue a career in health or social work, so she can help others.

Still, the Quizphis worried their sacrifices wouldn't be enough. With a modest income, limited English, and scant institutional knowledge of New York City's complex education system, they weren't sure they could provide their children with everything they would need to achieve the dream that bought them here.

"We live in an insular, working class community, but we value education just as much as any other family," Libia says. "We started to see how unbalanced the high school and college admissions processes can be, favoring those who know the system and have means. We didn't want our children to be left behind."

Then, one day in 6th grade Dennis came home and told them he wanted to apply to a program called Breakthrough New York. "At first, we just thought it was a homework program that could keep him busy after school," Libia recalls. "We soon realized it would be able to help him in ways that we couldn't. It was worth the 10-year commitment, so that he could go to a good high school and college."

Today, Dennis and his two younger sisters, Gabriela (16) and Adriana (14), are all BTNY students, receiving personalized guidance tailored to their own unique strengths and needs. This fall, Dennis will become the first in the family to go to college, matriculating at Cornell University. Gabriela and Adriana, attending a highly selective high school and a specialized high school, aren't far behind.

Remarkably, Sergio and Libia donate to BTNY every year. "Breakthrough has done so much for our family and many others, so we give to celebrate and say, 'thank you,'" Sergio says. "We are happy to see Breakthrough grow, because it means they will help more students in the future."

> "Breakthrough, above all, has given our children confidence that the future is theirs to decide."
>
> – Sergio Quizhpi

"I know Breakthrough is helping me get where I want to go."

Adriana joined BTNY for the pasta—at least partly. "Dennis told me about the food, and I told my friend: 'We should join! They serve pasta in the summer!'"

She realized, too, that BTNY would be her portal to a wider world. "I knew it would connect me with many opportunities, like study abroad, scholarships, internships, and college resources."

BTNY was with Adriana throughout one of the most important steps of her young life—high school admissions—providing test prep, interview prep, application assistance, and help narrowing her list to schools that best fit her strengths and goals. With her stellar score on NYC's Specialized High School Admissions Test, she was able to choose Stuyvesant High School, one of the nation's top public schools.

Initially, she wasn't sure she belonged. "Stuyvesant was overwhelming at first. I felt like I was taking someone's place," she says. "But then I thought, 'I earned it,' and started thinking of myself as a Stuy student."

Adriana is keeping her college and career options open, but she loves math and science—especially biology. For now, she's enjoying being an active part of her high school community, trying out for the track team and learning more about Stuyvesant's club for Latino students. And she knows BTNY will continue to support her every step of the way.

Current High School Enrollments

Academy of American Studies
Achievement First East Brooklyn High School
Achievement First University Prep
The American Dream School (2)
Aquinas High School
Ardsley High School
Aviation High School (2)
Bard High School Early College Manhattan (9)
Bard High School Early College Queens (5)
Baruch College Campus High School
Bay Ridge Prep
The Beacon School (27)
Bedford Academy High School
Berkeley Carroll School (6)
Berkshire School
Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School (4)
Bronx Early College Academy for Teaching & Learning
Bronx High School for Medical Science
Bronx High School of Science (8)
Brooklyn College Academy (2)
Brooklyn Friends School
Brooklyn Latin School (5)
Brooklyn Prospect High School
Brooklyn Technical High School (14)
Calhoun School (2)
Cathedral High School (4)
Central Park East High School (2)
The Chapin School (2)
Church Farm School (3)
The Clinton School
Columbia Secondary School (6)
Concord Academy
Coney Island Prep High School
Cristo Rey Brooklyn (11)
Cristo Rey New York (4)
The Dalton School
Deerfield Academy (2)
Democracy Prep Endurance High School (3)
Eleanor Roosevelt High School
Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School
Fordham High School for the Arts
Forest Hills High School
Francis Lewis High School (3)
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
Friends Seminary (2)
George Westinghouse Career and Technical Education High School
Harrison High School
Harvest Collegiate
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College (2)
High School of American Studies at Lehman College (2)
High School of Art and Design
High School of Fashion Industries
Horace Mann School
Humanities Preparatory Academy
Hyde Leadership Charter School (3)
Kent School
Léman Manhattan Preparatory (2)
The Loomis Chaffee School
Loyola School
Malverne Senior High School
Manhattan Bridges High School
Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics (9)
Manhattan Hunter Science High School (3)
Marymount School of New York
Math, Engineering, Science Academy
Middletown High School
Millennium Brooklyn High School (3)
Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School
Mount Saint Michael Academy
Murray Hill Academy
N.Y.C. Museum School (3)
Nazareth Regional High School
New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math High School (5)
The Nightingale-Bamford School
NYC iSchool (2)
Orchard Collegiate Academy
Pace High School (2)
The Packer Collegiate Institute (5)

Park East High School (2)
Pelham Preparatory Academy
Phillips Academy Andover
Poly Prep Country Day School (2)
Queens Technical High School
School of the Future High School (2)
St. Raymond High School for Boys (2)
Stoneleigh-Burnham School
The Stony Brook School (2)
Stuyvesant High School (8)
Tabor Academy
Taft School
The Thacher School
Theatre Arts Production Company School
Townsend Harris High School (2)
Trinity School (3)
Uncommon Charter High School
Uncommon Collegiate Charter High School (2)
Unity Center for Urban Technologies
University Heights Secondary School
University Neighborhood High School
The Urban Assembly New York Harbor School
Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School
Westover School
Williamsburg Preparatory School
Xavier High School (4)
Young Women's Leadership School of Brooklyn

Current College Enrollments

Adelphi University (2)
Babson College (4)
Barnard College
Boston College
Bowdoin College
The Catholic University of America
The College of Saint Rose
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art
Cornell University (4)
CUNY Baruch College (2)
CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College
CUNY Bronx Community College
CUNY Brooklyn College (2)
CUNY The City College of New York (2)
CUNY College of Staten Island
CUNY Hunter College (7)
CUNY Kingsborough Community College
CUNY LaGuardia Community College
CUNY Medgar Evers College (3)
CUNY Queens College (4)
Davidson College
DePauw University
Dickinson College (2)
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Howard University
Johns Hopkins University
Lawrence University
Long Island University Brooklyn
Loyola University Maryland
Macalester College
Manhattan College
Manhattanville College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mercy College
Mount Holyoke College
New York Institute of Technology – New York City

New York University (8)
Northwestern University
The Ohio State University
Penn State University
Princeton University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Saint Peter's University
Skidmore College
Spelman College
St. John's University
St. Francis College (2)
St. Francis Xavier University
SUNY Binghamton University (3)
SUNY The College at Brockport
SUNY Geneseo
SUNY New Paltz (2)
SUNY Onondaga Community College
SUNY Oswego (3)
SUNY Polytechnic Institute
SUNY Purchase College
SUNY Stony Brook University (5)
SUNY University at Albany (2)
SUNY University at Buffalo (4)
Syracuse University
Tufts University (3)
Tulane University (2)
University of Miami
University of Michigan (2)
University of Pennsylvania (2)
University of Rochester
University of South Florida
The University of Virginia (2)
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Ursinus College
Virginia State University
Wesleyan University
Whittier College
Williams College
Yale University

Our Students by the Numbers

Total number of students in BTNY's new class (rising 7th graders)

63

(out of 476 applications, 144 students and their families were invited to interview)

Total number of BTNY students being served this academic (2019-2020) year:

527

38% Come from a single-parent household

53% Are English language learners

75% Qualify for federal free or reduced lunch

65% First in family to pursue college
(definition: parents had not graduated from an American college at the time of BTNY student's birth)

Ethnic Background of current BTNY students:

34%
Black or African-American

31%
Hispanic or Latino/a

24%
Asian

9%
Multi-Racial,

1%
Other

0.8%
White or Caucasian

0.2%
Chose not to identify

Summer Teaching Fellows by the Numbers

Total number of Teaching Fellows: 55

Gender of Teaching Fellows: 82% Female, 18% Male

Ethnic Background of Teaching Fellows:

13% Black or African-American

16% Hispanic or Latino/a

11% Asian

2% Multi-Racial

5% Other

53% White or Caucasian

Summer Teaching Fellows' Schools

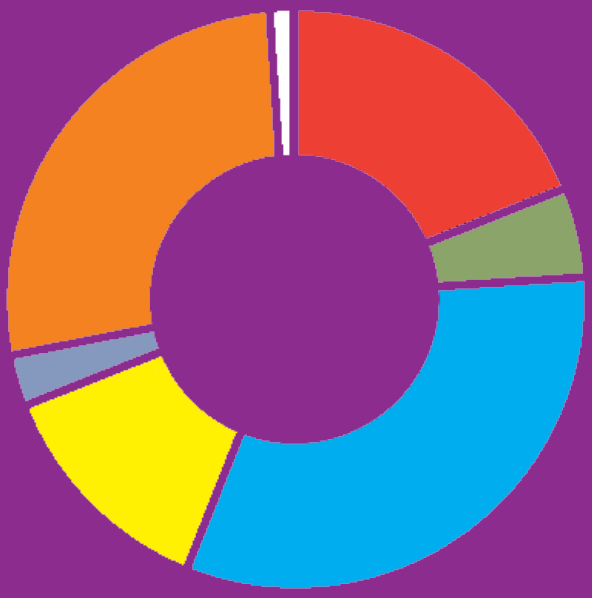
Barnard College
Boston College
Brandeis University
Brown University (4)
College of Saint Benedict
Columbia University (2)
Cornell University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Franklin & Marshall College
Hamilton College
Hampshire College
Harvard University
Haverford College
Jackson State University
Miami University
Middlebury College
New Mexico State University
New York University (2)
Northwestern University
Notre Dame de Namur University
Oberlin College
Pomona College (2)
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Sacred Heart University
Scripps College (3)
Smith College
Spelman College
St. Lawrence University (2)
Swarthmore College
Tufts University
Tulane University
The University of Alabama
University of Michigan (3)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Vanderbilt University (3)
Vassar College

FY19 Financials

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

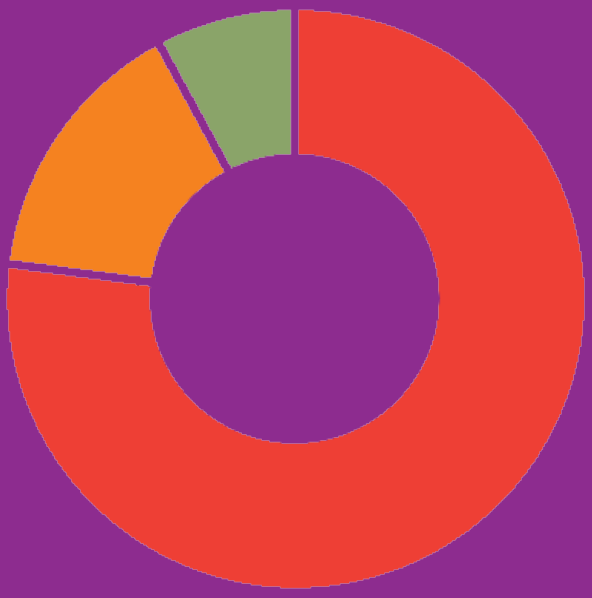
Revenue:

Board (19%)	$542,959
Corporation (5%)	$136,201
Foundation (32%)	$931,609
Individual (13%)	$390,880
Investment Income (4%)	$112,387
Event (net) (26%)	$748,043
In Kind (1%)	$28,750
Total	**$2,890,829**



Expenses:

Programs total (77%)	$2,155,419
Middle School	$1,240,538
High School	$595,114
College	$319,767
Fundraising (15%)	$417,416
Administrative (8%)	$219,573
Total	**$2,792,408**



Breaking Records and Looking to the Future

7th Annual *Are You Smarter than a*

More than 350 attendees gathered at 583 Park Avenue in Manhattan on April 30, 2019 for Breakthrough New York's 7th annual *Are You Smarter than a Breakthrough Student* Gala. The evening was a success, raising more than $900,000 - an event record.

The purpose of the gala is to raise these critical funds, but also to celebrate the success of BTNY students—their efforts, achievements, careers, and more. These successes are possible through their hard work and the broader support of the BTNY community of benefactors, board members, and volunteers.

Inspirational leaders in finance, William E. Clark and Michael C. Dawley, were honored for their commitment and enthusiasm in supporting student success. Sebastian Sanchez, who graduated from Middlebury College in 2018, was the alumnus speaker of the evening. Maria Hackley, Kim Johns, and Cathy Aquila chaired the event.

"Breakthrough New York's mission is more pertinent today than ever," Clark said. "What this organization really does is transform lives, helping young people achieve the success they and their families have worked so hard to achieve. Without Breakthrough and organizations like it, we risk never developing the talent that can change the world and make a real difference to society in the future."

Gala attendees enjoyed dinner and a live auction, and concluded the evening with students in an engaging trivia competition, "Are You Smarter Than a Breakthrough Student?"

Breakthrough Student Gala

Donors

Valedictorian

$100,000 and Above

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Salutatorian

$50,000 - $99,999

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Summa Cum Laude

$20,000 - $49,999

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$5,000 - $19,999

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*According to Independent Sector

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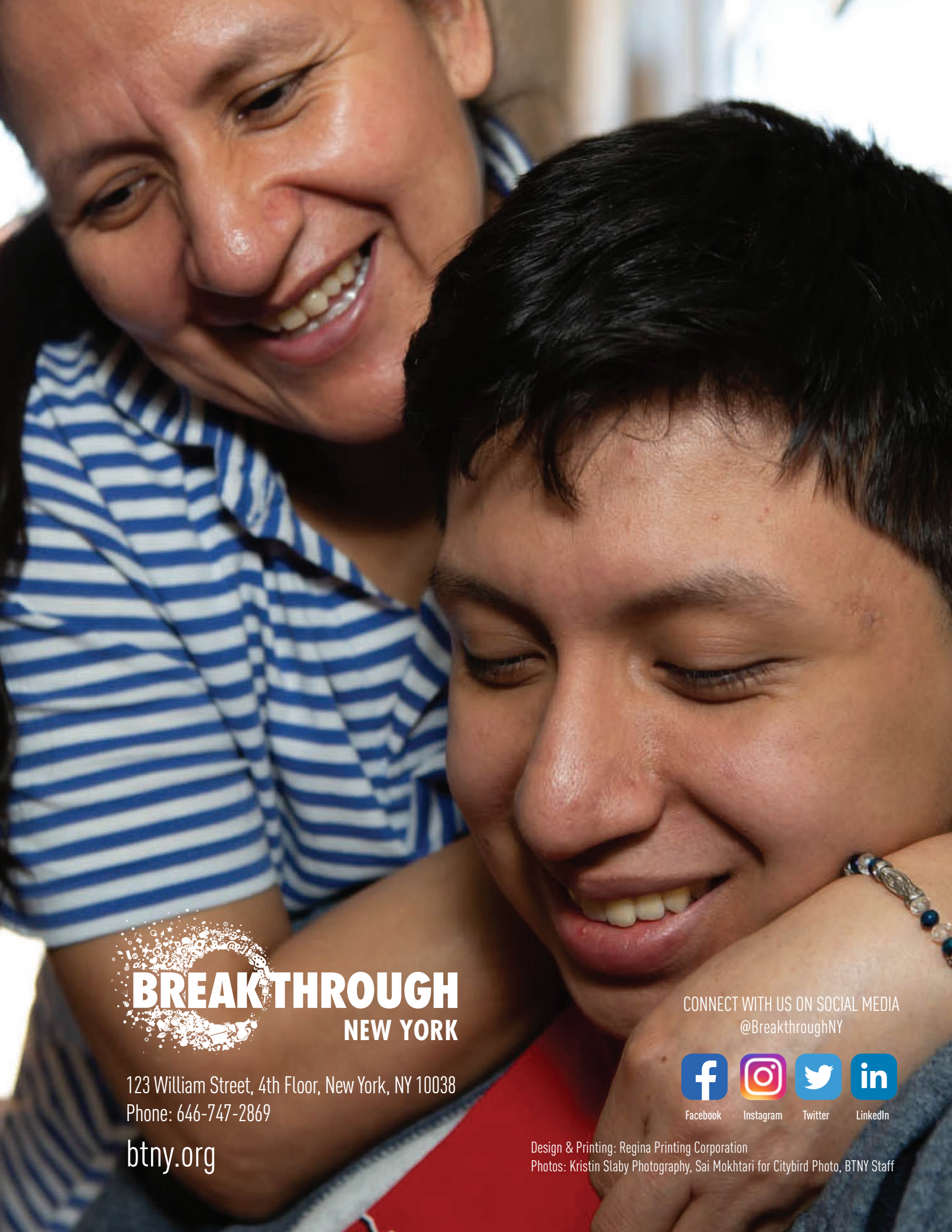

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