

You Can Make a Difference

With our High Hopes 100 Campaign we have set an ambitious goal—raise \$2 million by 2016 to support **100** scholarships, **100** enrolled scholars, and a **100%** graduation rate.

Invest in Your Community

100% of your donation goes directly to scholarships and program support for our scholars. By investing in a High Hopes Scholar, your generosity will help towards a more equitable and just society—starting right here in Berkeley.

“I support the Berkeley Community Fund because it makes a true difference in the lives of remarkable young people. Tears came to my eyes at the Scholarship Ceremony when I heard of the hardships these students had overcome and what they had achieved.”

— Arlene Blum, Executive Director, Green Policy Science Institute

Invest in Our Scholars

Mentoring changes lives—and who knows? It just may be yours.



Some students may need direction on seeking financial aid or advice on navigating a tricky roommate situation. Others just may want someone to talk to every couple months. The mentor-mentee relationship

is integral to our program. The time commitment is more than manageable, and the rewards for both scholar and mentor can be tremendous.



“I come from a family where graduating high school is a miracle. All I want to do is go to college to show everyone that a kid who has been in foster care for 16 years can be somebody. I will not be a victim of circumstances.”

— Shahidah Lacy, 2009 High Hopes Scholar



berkfund.org

2111 Martin Luther King Junior Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

(510) 542-2126



Artist



Nurse



Motivational Outreach Speaker



Businessman/Economist

High Hopes to High Success

BERKELEY
COMMUNITY FUND

The Berkeley Community Fund

The BCF has been working to improve Berkeley community since 1991. We envision an economically and socially diverse city whose promising youth become engaged and caring global citizens.

We provide \$16,000 needs-based scholarships to motivated low-income Berkeley youth who embody the spirit and values of our unique city and will be Berkeley's ambassadors for years to come.

This financial support helps close the significant gap between the true cost of attending college and the typical financial aid package.

The BCF helps students successfully navigate the challenges they encounter at school through our College Success and Mentoring programs.

"It is so motivational and good to know there are people who believe in me and support my dreams."



Ben Johnson
2012 High Hopes Scholar
Architect

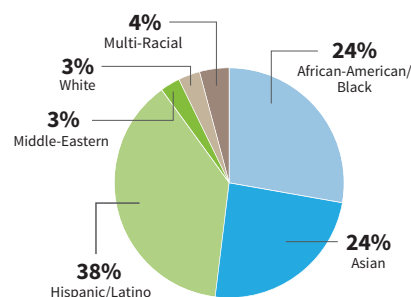


Anais Arias-Aragon
2013 High Hopes Scholar
Composer

Scholarships

- \$1.76 million awarded 2008-2014
- More than 80 active scholars (as of spring 2015)
- 90% college graduation/persistence rate
- 73% of scholars from families earning less than \$50K annually
- 28% of scholars from families earning less than \$20K annually
- 90% first-generation college students

BCF Scholars 2008–2014



BCF Scholars come from a variety of backgrounds reflecting Berkeley's diversity

Only 25 percent of college freshmen born into the bottom half of the income distribution will manage to complete college by age 24, while almost 90 percent of freshmen born into families in the top income quartile will go on to finish their degree.

— Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

College Success & Mentoring

- The BCF matches each scholar with an adult mentor who helps them navigate the college experience.
- Scholars receive support from our College Success Coordinator to help them overcome challenges.
- Scholars are provided with peer support through a community of scholars and alumni.
- Scholars are connected to internships and career opportunities.
- BCF provides summer workshops on financial aid, budgeting, course selection, and career exploration.

Berkeley Community Fund Scholars are a remarkable group of students whose backgrounds are as diverse as their life stories and career paths.

In 2014, the BCF launched its High Hopes 100 Initiative, to help students like Berhan, Leticia and Shahidah. When **Berhan** came to the United States from Ethiopia at age 14, he barely spoke English. As a High Hopes Scholar, he graduated from UC Riverside in 2013 with a B.Sc in Physics. He is currently working towards his Ph.D. in Economics.

Leticia was a teen mom determined to be successful for her son. She is now on track to graduate from UC Berkeley with a degree in Social Welfare in 2015. **Shahidah** spent 16 years in the foster care system and wanted to prove that “she could be somebody.” She graduated in 3 1/2 years from Holy Names University with a B.A. in Psychology and is currently in law school. Berhan, Leticia, and Shahidah are not the exceptions—each and every one of our scholars have overcome enormous challenges and demonstrated tremendous drive to graduate from college and start making their world—and ours—a better place.

Impact and Opportunity

Since its inception in 2008, the graduation/persistence rate for BCF High Hopes Scholars has been nearly 3 times the national graduation rate for first-generation, low-income students that began their schooling at four-year universities.

National graduation rate*



BCF graduation/persistence rate**



* Pell Institute **The BCF figure reflects both graduation and college persistence rates as some of our scholars are still in college.