





**“They are always there to support me and have excellent service and programs.” - Bresee Parent**

Dear Friends,

Martin Luther King Jr. preached that “only in the darkness, can you see the stars”. It’s only now in the wake of almost two years of Covid-19’s spread, isolation, fear, and the dimmer it got for all of us, that I’ve started to understand what Reverend King was talking about. To give an indication of the immense need here in central Los Angeles, over the course of a usual program year, Bresee serves, on average, approximately 3,000 youth and family members. During this last 2020-21 cycle, through the pandemic, Bresee assisted over 9,000 youth and families, three times our annual average.

To meet our community’s basic needs over the past year, our parking lot became a “makeshift vaccine clinic” where we mobilized with our partners to vaccinate over 2,500 community members. Our multipurpose room became a “food-storage base” where teams of volunteers helped us organize large-scale food distributions for thousands challenged with food security. Our computer lab became an “emergency rental-assistance hub” where our staff assisted hundreds upon hundreds affected by loss of income from the pandemic, pay down their rental arrears in full, so their families wouldn’t be evicted.

All the while, our now 39-year commitment to helping young people achieve long-term, self-sufficiency remained steadfast. Throughout the pandemic our dedicated team continued to offer both in-person and virtual tutoring, counseling, gang prevention, sports, leadership training, financial literacy, workforce development, paid internships, college access, and scholarships to over one thousand youth.

In the midst of this great darkness, we’ve been blessed to witness so many beautiful stars emerge. They include our over 50 staff who never stopped working towards the mission, the volunteers who have come in droves, the philanthropic sector, board members, and donors who’ve dug in a little deeper to support the work. Yet, the brightest stars we see even more clearly now are the countless young people in our community like Jose Cervantes whose story, featured in this impact report, continues to teach us what it means to be resilient in the face of incredible adversity.

On behalf of our Bresee family, may your light continue to shine through the darkness. We thank you for your partnership and continuing to invest in LA’s future!

Peace,

Seth Eklund  
Executive Director

# Bresee's Impact

During the 2020-21 program year, through the pandemic, Bresee assisted over 9,000 youth and families, three times our annual average.

## Totals



**9,323**  
participants served



**\$12,987,707**  
in increased income for the community

## Emergency Support



**2,728**  
vaccinated



**\$697,200**  
distributed in meals & groceries



**\$11,124,863**  
distributed in housing assistance

## Educational Support



**1,257**  
youth served



**\$80,760**  
in college scholarships

# Family Services

▶ Ms. Ramirez and her children in their new Westlake apartment.



## Housing Stability for the Ramirez Family

For many families facing financial strain due to the pandemic, on the verge of homelessness, programs such as Bresee's Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) serve as a beacon of hope by offering a crucial lifeline. Ms. Ramirez, mother of 4, including a teenage girl, two teen sons, and a young daughter, had separated from her boyfriend after the relationship had become abusive. She was temporarily living in a motel room with her kids, including her teenage daughter who has a little boy of her own, until she came into contact with Bresee's HPP program. "When they told me that they were coming to pay for the motel, I felt good because I didn't have money. I was just paying for food because I wasn't working. I couldn't leave my daughters alone in the motel," commented Ms. Ramirez.

Bresee's Housing Stability Advisor (HSA) was then able to negotiate with the apartment complex landlord to secure a rental agreement for the Ramirez family despite the fact she had no established credit. Bresee's HPP was able to pay for the initial deposit and two months of rent, as Ms. Ramirez returned to work to stabilize her family. Now living in a comfortable 2 bedroom apartment in Westlake with her children, Ms. Ramirez expressed, "My daughters are happy. They're in a stable home. We're now eating house food. Yesterday we started cooking because we didn't have electricity before. We're happy now."

## FSC

Bresee's Family Source Center (FSC) team worked with over 3,500 clients throughout the pandemic to meet families basic needs of food and emergency rental assistance as well as providing services to help families with long term economic self sufficiency.

# 2,024

GIVEN (Grocery Initiative for Vital Emergency Needs) grocery cards distributed worth \$607,200

# 664

Families obtained free tax prep receiving \$976,544 in tax credits

# 167

Families assisted with Immigration Services

# 124

Families Received Financial Coaching

# 2,658

families assisted with housing stability and rental assistance through the HPP, ERAS, & ERAP (Homeless Prevention and Emergency Renters Assistance Programs).

# Youth Programs



► GRYD's Annual Dia De Los Muertos celebration.

 **308** laptops distributed



► Sports Leadership Community Circle.

## GRYD

Bresee's Gang Reduction and Youth Development team provided counseling, family meetings, and youth development activities for the 126 youth most at-risk for joining gangs in the Olympic Zone of Los Angeles. Upon graduation, youth demonstrated an average 65% reduction in risk factors associated with joining gangs.

## M&M

Bresee's Middle School team provided summer programming, virtual learning, and daily homework assistance and enrichment activities including dance, art, karate, and soccer for a total of 144 students throughout the school year. The Multi-generational Program fostered connections between youth and seniors through a technology training program that developed skills in email, and internet basics.

## ECD

Bresee's Education and Career Development team provided technology training, paid internships, college access, and scholarships for over 164 High School students.

## SPORTS LEADERSHIP

Bresee's Sports Leadership & LAFC Youth Leadership team provided \$1,000 paid internships to 20 High School Youth Leaders who in turn led athletic classes for over 150 youth. Leaders showed a 30% social emotional growth in teamwork, social skills, and leadership. 100% of the seniors graduated from High School and were accepted to college.

# Youth Programs

*"The staff and volunteers have impacted me so much. They have taught me many things. I was struggling with math, but they provided me with help and just in a few weeks I was able to improve my grades." - Sulek, 6th grade student*



▶ Middle School Dance Workshop.



**45**  
paid high school internships



**98%**  
college persistence



▶ High School Intern Celebration.



▶ Sports Leadership soccer workshop.

# Scholarship Recipients

► Bresee's first year scholarship recipients.



## First Year

Mayra A.	CSULB
Neri A.	Boston University
Melissa B.	CSULA
Sandra C.	CSUN
Paul C.	UCLA
Devin H.	Dickenson College
Henry J.	UC Berkeley
Bertha L.	UC Riverside
Peter L.	UCSD
Rebekah S.	UC Berkeley
Evelyn V.	Azusa Pacific
Leslie V.	Wellesley University

## Sophomores

Leslie C.	UCLA
Jason C.	USC
Reynaldo G.	CSULA
Jose J.	Bucknell University
Daniela M.	CSUN
Jocelyn M.	CSULA
Esmeralda M.	UCLA
Azucena O.	CSULA
Jenna P.	SF State
Rachel R.	West LA College
Carolina R.	CSUDH
Paola T.	CSUN
Cristopher T.	CSUN
Fatima V.	CSULA
Amanda Z.	UC Davis

## Juniors

Jacky A.	UC Davis
Francesca A.	UCLA
Miguel C.	UC Berkeley
Esther F.	UCSB
Maria F.	CSULA
Valerie G.	UCSC
Angelica M.	UCSB
Reza M.	UCSB
Lindsey S.	UC Merced

## Seniors

Xeyla H.	UC Davis
Karen M.	Mount Saint Mary's
Bryan P.	CSULA
Ashley P.	CSUN
Hazel R.	UCLA
Beatriz R.	CSULA
Ana S.	Princeton
Michelle T.	CSULB
Christy U.	CSUDH
Jazmin U.	CSUDH

**\$80,760**  
in scholarships  
awarded to  
**46 students**

*"The Bresee scholarship provided the financial means for me to pursue my goal of being the first man in my family to go to college."*

- Peter L.

# Investing in LA's Future



► Bresee Alumni Jose Cervantes, with Family Services Director Dunia Perich, and LAFC YLP Co-Founder Sergeant Brodie Segrave.

## Jose Cervantes

**Age:** 22  
**University:** UCLA  
**Major:** Sociology  
**Bresee Program:** LAFC Youth Leadership Program

Born and raised in South Los Angeles where the percentage of residents that obtain a form of degree is less than 5% I was able to graduate from UCLA earning my Bachelors. This was due to having a strong support system such as my family, who migrated from El Salvador in hopes of better opportunities for future generations, my friends who had my back in all of my decisions, and resources such as Bresee which continues to help me grow as a person from the very first time I became involved.

Bresee has truly brought once in a lifetime opportunities that if it was not for the center, I would never have been able to experience. I became involved with Bresee back in 2013, during my 9th grade year when the LAFC Youth Leadership Program they launched at my high school Augustus Hawkins, first started with it's Friday night soccer clinics. The clinics were so much fun, with hundreds of kids showing up, that when the opportunity arose to lead the soccer clinics presented itself I had to take it.

I went through an application and interview process, was selected, and then underwent an intensive summer training to be able to become a Youth Leader. Everything I learned I would go on to apply in every other part of my life. Leading soccer clinics helped me grow out of my shell as I not only led hundreds of middle school students, but also got the chance to lead our team of 25

Youth Leaders. In my junior year of high school I was selected through Bresee to go on a trip across the ocean to Ireland and Northern Ireland to play soccer. It was a trip that I will never forget as I made friendships and memories that are unforgettable.

In my senior year when I was applying for colleges, I was able to apply for the Bresee Scholarship. I was interviewed and fortunate enough to receive the scholarship that helped me out financially all four years at UCLA, and graduated with no loans. The scholarship went beyond just financial support, but also provided me with emotional support as the Bresee staff checked in with me on a regular basis.

With Bresee's partnership with MLS LAFC and my relationship with Bresee Board Chair Rich Orosco, who is Vice President of LAFC's Brand & Community, I currently have an internship working as a matchday host. Working on the pitch at Banc of California stadium during LAFC games for the past 3 seasons I have gained such valuable experience. I am currently working at a law firm with aspirations of pursuing higher education. Looking forward, I hope to continue giving back to the next generation of young people in Los Angeles, just as Bresee invested in me.



# Community Based Staff



*Bresee has given me the opportunity to fulfill my passion by mentoring youth and supporting families in need.” - Boris V, GRYD Senior Case Manager*



**30%**  
of Bresee’s 54 staff are alumni  
of our youth program



**53%**  
live within 5 miles of the  
Bresee Community Center



**88%**  
are bilingual



**92%**  
identify as people of color



# July 2020- June 2021 Donors



## \$250,000 +

City of Los Angeles GRYP  
City of Los Angeles FamilySource Center

## \$100,000 to \$250,000

Ballmer Group  
Best Buy Foundation and The Clubhouse Network  
California Community Foundation  
Los Angeles Unified School District - ASES  
The Eisner Foundation

## \$50,000 to \$99,999

LA84 Foundation  
LAFC Foundation  
Chay and Kim Lapin  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)  
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## \$25,000 to \$49,999

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Koreatown Youth and Community Center  
Laureus Sport for Good Foundation USA  
PwC Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
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The Rose Hills Foundation

## \$10,000 to \$24,999

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*"I donate to Bresee because I believe in the Bresee mission, the leadership, the staff, and the families we serve. This youth center genuinely empowers the youth and families we serve to thrive. Bresee feels like family. Family helps family."*

*-Ramon Pack III*

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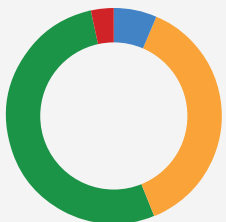
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**Up to \$99**

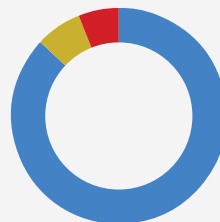
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**Income: \$4,154,908**

- 52.64% Government & PPP
- 37.46% Foundation & Corporate
- 6.47% Individual Support
- 3.43% In-Kind & Other Income



**Expense: \$3,614,831**

- 86.99% Programs
- 6.94% Fundraising
- 6.07% Administrative

# Volunteers

*"After one year of volunteering at Bresee, I have learned what it means to actively work with a community to help create a positive impact that will not only affect individuals now, but will also carry on in the future." - Jessica Tavera, UCLA student*



**Total Hours**  
**1,780**

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Angie Aramayo  
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Audrey Pham  
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## Our Mission

Bresee battles poverty by empowering youth and families in Los Angeles with the skills, resources, and relationships necessary to thrive.

## Our Vision

A diverse community of Angelenos working together to break down barriers and lead fulfilling lives.

## Our Values

Integrity | Resilience | Life-Long Learning  
Community | Compassion



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