



CHARITABLE FOUNDATION®

Mentoring Programs MAKE THE GRADE

Building strong communities starts with educating our children. BJ's Charitable Foundation® supports organizations that mentor underserved kids so they can stay on the path toward college or a trade school. Here are two programs that highlight these efforts.



Now older and prepping for college, students from I Have a Dream — Overtown take overnight field trips to Florida campuses. They meet with career counselors, admissions personnel and attend orientations.

◀ Experiencing Campus Life

I Have a Dream — Overtown, Miami, FL, is dedicated to making college a reality for first-generation students in the lowest income area in Miami-Dade County. In 2004, approximately 50 first graders from the Phillis Wheatley Elementary School were adopted by this organization with the goal of being the first in their families to attend college in 2015.

"We have recently hired a college assistance placement counselor to help our kids fulfill their dream."

~ Mark Buchbinder, Founder

Achieving an Education ▶

School on Wheels of Massachusetts (SOWMA), Brockton, MA, has developed a High School Plus (HSP) program to help teens impacted by homelessness stay engaged with their education, graduate high school, and complete a college degree or achieve a vocational certificate.

"Words cannot describe how grateful I am for your help."

~ Kenny, Student

With only 1 in 4 homeless teens predicted to graduate high school, SOWMA's HSP program helps break this cycle. Students pursuing a post-secondary education continue to receive SOWMA assistance throughout their time in school.



Kenny is a student at Massasoit Community College in Brockton, MA, and the first in his family to attend college. Tayler is shown receiving a scholarship award from Sun Life Financial. She plans to transfer to the University of Massachusetts, Bridgewater, to pursue a degree in English education.



For more about BJ's Charitable Foundation and the programs we support in your community — or to apply for a grant — visit www.bjs.com/charity.