

# TRANSFORMING FUTURES

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE  
IN FOSTER CARE CREATE  
THE LIFE THEY WANT.

Annual Report  
2025



PIVOTAL

Pivotal scholar Briana with her coach, Sarah Gentle

# MISSION & VISION

Pivotal supports young people in and from foster care to realize their educational and career goals and ensure their equitable access to opportunity.

We envision a community in which every young person gets the education, career, and life they want for themselves.

## OUR CORE VALUES

This year, we updated our core values to ensure they are aligned with our mission and vision and truly reflective of the work we do.

### COLLABORATION

Communication | Connection | Inclusion  
Youth-Led | Community-Centric

### IMPACT

Adaptable | Expert | Effective | Data-Driven

### INTEGRITY

Trustworthy | Organization | Accountable  
Reliable | Consistent

### COMMITMENT

Enthusiastic | Tenacious |  
Mission-Driven | Youth-Focused

### COMPASSION

Caring | Empathetic | Accepting |  
Respectful



# FROM OUR CEO

**“Progress is the activity of today, and the assurance of tomorrow.”**

These words from Ralph Waldo Emerson perfectly capture the essence of the Pivotal mission. This year, our scholars made truly exceptional progress with the dedicated support of their Pivotal coaches. Their day-in, day-out, step-by-step hard work propels our scholars toward the lives they dream of, filled with opportunity, success, and happiness. Briana and Jennifer, whose stories are shared later in this report, are shining examples of how our scholars are assuring their tomorrows.

Last year, Pivotal scholars achieved historic outcomes with high school graduation, college matriculation, and bachelor’s degree attainment rates far exceeding the state and national averages for young people from foster care. And because we connect scholars to other critical resources such as housing and mental health care, they are avoiding the fate of so many other foster youth who experience staggering rates of homelessness, incarceration, and substance addiction upon aging out of the system.

We also made significant strides in our career readiness programs. Pivotal corporate partners hosted Career Days where our scholars explore potential career paths, build professional development skills, and identify internship and job opportunities. Of course, it is a major accomplishment to earn a college degree. But equally important, we want to ensure our scholars successfully launch and persist in their careers.

One of the most exciting developments of the year came from Pivotal donor Louise de Putron. As part of her incredible \$1 million commitment over three years, she has designated \$50,000 per year to create a mental health fund so scholars can access therapy and other services they need.

As we look to the future, we cannot help but recognize the tumultuous times we currently face. Despite this, Pivotal is moving full steam ahead. We are building on our successes and embarking on a new strategic plan that I look forward to sharing with you later this year. Our newly updated core values of **collaboration, impact, integrity, compassion, and commitment** are guiding this work as we chart a course for the future to ensure our long-term sustainability and impact.

Thank you for your partnership in creating a community in which all foster youth get the education, career, and life they want for themselves.



**MATT BELL, CEO**



# FINANCIALS YOUR SUPPORT, THEIR SUCCESS

Thanks to your generous support, in Fiscal Year 2025 we provided:

**\$291,069**

IN SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$1,538,862**

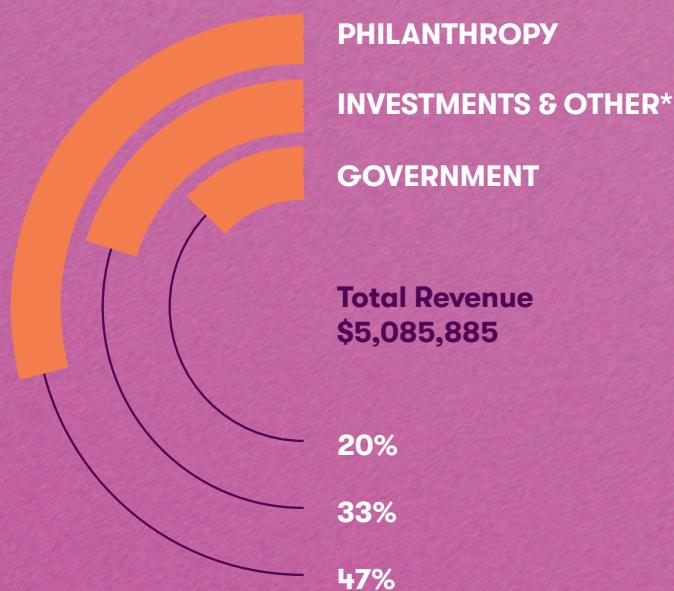
IN 1:1 COACHING

**\$47,090**

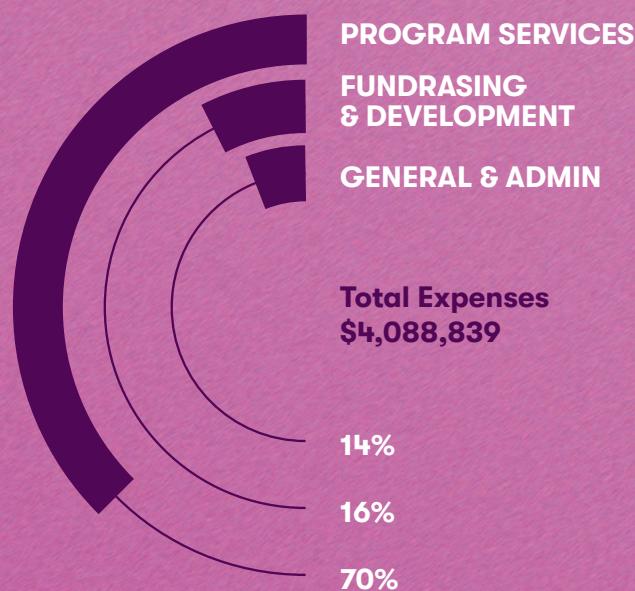
IN YOUTH OUTREACH AND  
MENTAL HEALTH FUNDS

## 2024-2025 Financials

### Revenue



### Expenses



\* Includes a one-time \$763,000 Employee Retention Tax Credit.



## CELEBRATING THEIR BIG DREAMS

In June, we hosted our end-of-year celebration to honor our post-secondary students. The day was filled with summer vibes, delicious food, and great company as we came together to celebrate our scholars' hard work and achievements over the school year.

"It's essential that we come together to celebrate our wins. No matter how big or small, every victory deserves recognition," said CEO Matt Bell. "Events like this represent Pivotal's mission coming to life and show our scholars that we are deeply committed to their academic and professional success."

**"When I transferred, Pivotal sent me a college swag bag with a little SJSU teddy bear. It meant so much to know that people were rooting for me. These small gifts and notes might seem simple, but they make you feel seen, supported, and celebrated."**

**- Angelica, Pivotal Alum**

Leading up to the celebration, Pivotal Board members Mike Savage and Paul Silvergate hosted a Dream BIG event where attendees made graduation leis for our scholars, put together college swag gifts for transfer students, and wrote notes of encouragement to students graduating or transferring to 4-year universities.

As these students step into the next chapter of their lives, we know they will continue to break barriers and accomplish amazing things!

# THE REALITY FOR FOSTER YOUTH

For the more than 365,000 young people in foster care in the United States, the statistics are sobering: they face higher rates of homelessness, unemployment, and academic disruption than their peers. But behind every number is a young person with dreams, talents, and the drive to succeed if given the chance. At Pivotal, we're changing the narrative by listening to our scholars, investing in their goals, and building pathways to lasting stability.

**We know that when foster youth thrive, communities do too.**

## FOSTER YOUTH NATIONALLY:

- 17% of foster youth experience homelessness by age 21.
- By age 17, 30% experience incarceration and 24% are referred for substance abuse assessment or counseling.
- By age 21, 45% reported not having full- or part-time employment.

---

## FOSTER YOUTH IN CALIFORNIA:

- In the 2024-25 school year, 31% of foster youth in California were chronically absent compared to 17% of all students.
- 44% of foster youth in California report experiencing some level of justice system involvement before the age of 17.
- In the 2023-24 school year, 25% of foster youth in California dropped out of high school, as compared to 9% of non-foster students.
- Foster youth change placements an average of 1.5x per year before the age of 18.



“

**Pivotal has been a life-changing part of my educational journey. When I felt overwhelmed and close to giving up, Pivotal reminded me that I was not alone and that my dreams were worth fighting for.**

– Iris, Pivotal Scholar

# OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

**445**

SCHOLARS SERVED

**159**

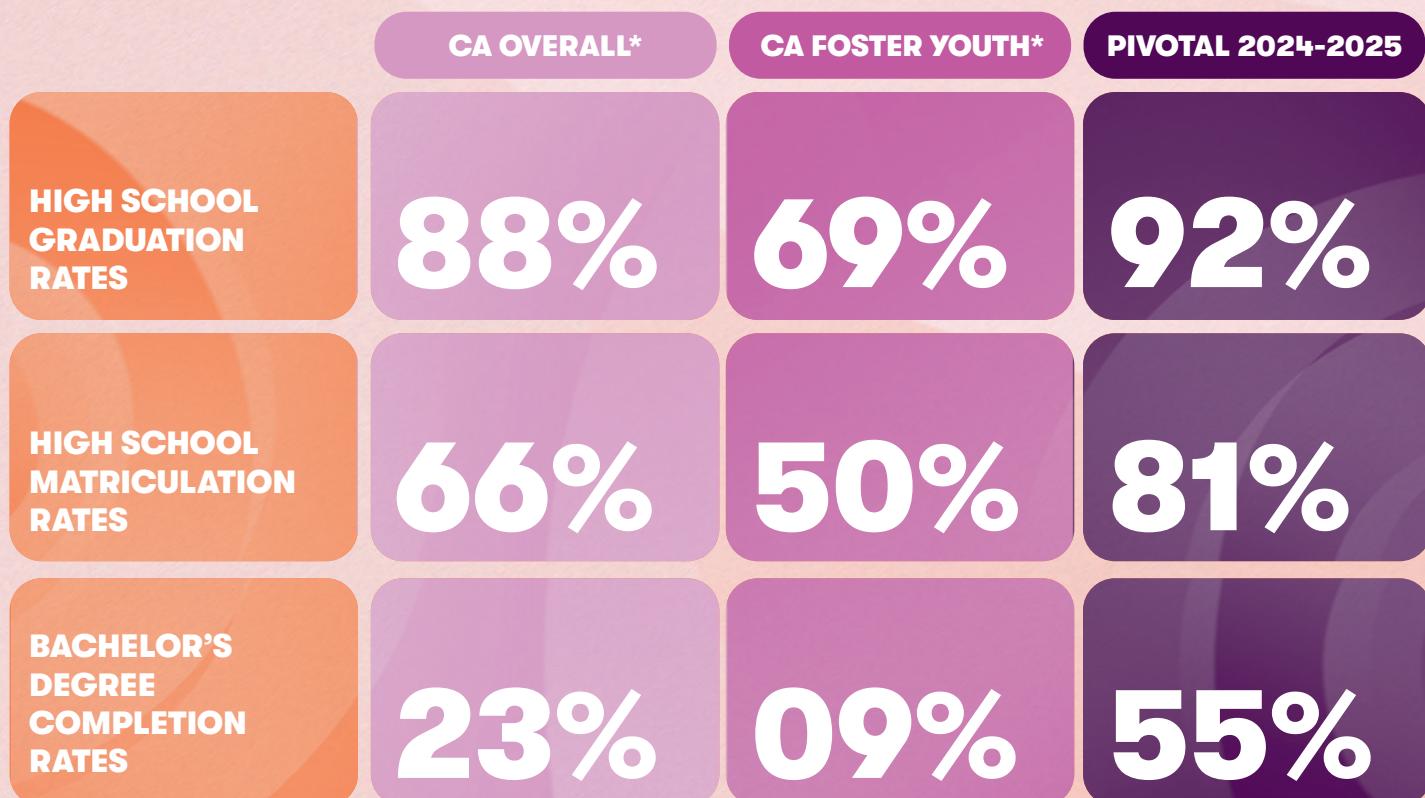
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED

**4,981**

HOURS OF 1:1 COACHING

## CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

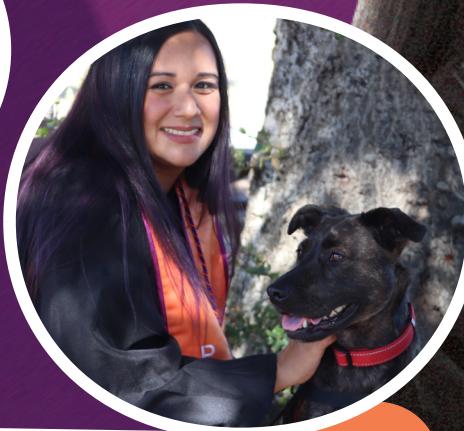
Pivotal scholars excelled in the 2024–2025 academic year. With the support of their dedicated coaches, our scholars beat the odds across the board this academic year, surpassing California averages for foster youth and underscoring how our individualized, trauma-responsive programming can help these young people transform their lives and find paths to success.



\*Based on the most recent public data available from 2022-2025

LEARN MORE AT [PIVOTALNOW.ORG/STATS](https://PIVOTALNOW.ORG/STATS)

# MEET BRIANA



**“Sometimes success  
feels like staying afloat.”**

That's how Pivotal scholar Briana describes her life journey. Briana transitioned out of foster care at 18, two years before the Extended Foster Care bill passed. This California law extends services to foster youth beyond their 18th birthday, but it passed long after Briana could take advantage of it. With the help of a Pivotal scholarship, she had started at Dominican University six months earlier, but when the dorms closed during the holiday break, she had just turned 18 and was on her own. With nowhere to go, she became unhoused.

She was lost and distraught and still dealing with mental health issues stemming from the trauma she had experienced when she was younger. She reached out to one of her sisters who came without hesitation to help gather her belongings.

While she was still unsure of her future and sleeping on friends' couches, she got an email from Pivotal about a part-time job opportunity at the Hub - a youth-led and youth-organized community center dedicated to supporting current and former foster youth. She applied and eventually became one of ten founding members of the organization. She buried herself in her work, setting aside her education to

focus on raising her newborn daughter. Unfortunately, she was also grappling with a turbulent and abusive relationship with her daughter's father. When her daughter turned one, she made the decision to leave her partner, not only to protect herself and her child, but to create a healthier future for them both. “I wanted to break the cycle of abuse and foster care.”

She worked at the Hub for 12 years, quickly discovering that she had a passion to work with underserved youth. She found herself consistently talking to these young people about the importance of education. “I realized that I had to point that finger back at myself and work to finish my college degree.”

Briana re-enrolled in community college, but she was still navigating mental health issues. Her severe PTSD and frequent panic attacks eventually led to agoraphobia, an anxiety disorder that made it difficult for her to go anywhere on her own. By this time, she was working regularly with a Pivotal coach, Sarah, and when she explained that she was terrified to go on campus, Sarah immediately offered to accompany her and help ease back into that environment.



“Sarah helped me feel like I belonged there. She’s legally blind and works with a guide dog named Future. Her steady presence and the way she navigated the world with confidence made me feel less alone in my own challenges. It also helped me see that using a service animal could be empowering. I had been considering a service dog and meeting Future helped solidify that decision.”

That’s when Ariel entered her life, a service dog from Operation Freedom Paws who became a vital part of her healing journey. Ariel helped her gain confidence, manage her PTSD and panic attacks, return to school, and stay on top of her coursework. “Ariel really helped me to live life,” she says. Sarah also helped her realize that she was ready to take the next step and transfer to a four-year university.

“I don’t know where I would be without Sarah. When I got the acceptance to San Jose State University, Sarah was the first person I called – even before my fiancé! If it wasn’t for her support, I don’t think I could have made it happen.”

Briana graduated from West Valley College and transferred to San Jose State University the

following fall to work on a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

“I’ve learned that I just have to keep at it, keep chiseling away. I’m proud of everything I’ve accomplished – my graduation, but also the work I’ve done at the Hub, and being part of that process to help other foster youth.”

Briana is motivated by her daughter, now ten years old, but she says she’s also learned to become her own motivator. “I want to do good for myself, so I can do good for others. I want to eventually start my own nonprofit, working in mental health and animal therapy. Far too few foster youth have access to mental health services, and I want to do all I can to change that. I can’t wait to see where life takes me next.”

“Sometimes success feels like just staying afloat.” But Briana is finally beyond treading water. It may not always be smooth sailing, but she’s charting new waters now, with her daughter, her fiancé, her faithful companion, Ariel, and of course, her Pivotal coach by her side. The world has opened up to her, and new destinations await!

# IN HER OWN WORDS: JENNIFER



Being from foster care is a lot. For me, the challenges I faced while in the system knocked me off my educational path. I struggled with substance abuse, homelessness, and incarceration. I didn't graduate from high school, and I never really knew how to get to college. Growing up, it was never something that I thought I could do. I just assumed it wasn't for me.

I eventually got my GED and decided to go to San Jose City College to get certified as an alcohol and drug counselor. It was there that I met my Pivotal coach Kayla, who showed me that I had other options.

I was just going to get my certificate and get out of there, but Kayla really motivated me to go further. She helped me gain confidence in myself and the things I could do. Still, when she suggested that I consider transferring to San Jose State University, I was skeptical. I had no idea how to do that, and I certainly didn't think I could afford it. Kayla insisted that I could. She helped me get a Pivotal scholarship, find other financial aid, and keep going to get the credits I needed to transfer. She believed that I could do it, and I did! I graduated with honors and transferred to San Jose State where I earned my degree in sociology.

Once again, I didn't think I would continue my education beyond my bachelor's degree but with Kayla's encouragement, I applied to UC Berkeley's Social Work program and got accepted! I've been working full-time, and this is a full-time program so

it's going to be a big change. But this is my dream school and my dream career so it's a leap of faith.

I really thought my life was too far gone to make anything of it – I had made such a mess, and I didn't think there was any coming back from that. But in just the last few years, I've done so much and made so many positive changes.

What drives me is my passion for helping others in my community. Not too many people who have been through what I have been through have the opportunities that I've had, and I want them to know that with the right motivation and drive, they can have the things they want.

***If it wasn't for Kayla believing in me when I didn't believe in myself, I wouldn't be where I am today.***

I'd have gotten my certificate and become an alcohol and drug counselor, which would have been fine. Being an alcohol and drug counselor was a goal for me. But becoming a social worker is a dream and Kayla and Pivotal helped me see that this dream could be my reality.

I don't know what the next chapter in my life will look like. I just know that I have this opportunity and that I want to make the most of it. I am proud of everything I've accomplished and I'm grateful to people like Kayla and programs like Pivotal's that helped me along the way.

# FROM POTENTIAL TO PROFESSIONAL

We know that with the right support and resources, Pivotal scholars can set the bar higher than they imagined and achieve their dreams. But it can be hard for young people from foster care to know what career options they have. To showcase some of the professional paths that might be open to our scholars, we reached out to our corporate partners who immediately stepped up to host a series of Pivotal Career Days.

Comerica, Harmonic, Equinix, and Excite Credit Union invited Pivotal scholars to visit their corporate offices, tour their facilities, and network with professionals to learn what their educational and professional paths looked like.



**Attending Pivotal's Career Day with Comerica was a great summer experience. We got to see how different parts of the bank work, like marketing and small business partnerships. Hearing from employees who started as tellers and worked their way up was really inspiring.**

- Sebastian, Pivotal Scholar

**Thank you to all our Career Day hosts**



Are you interested in hosting a career day at your company? Contact our Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships, Priya Mistry ([development@pivotalnow.org](mailto:development@pivotalnow.org)) to learn more!

# THE WEIGHT OF TRAUMA

Philanthropist Louise de Putron with Pivotal CEO Matt Bell



Foster youth carry a lot on their shoulders. Trauma, instability, and loss coupled with lack of consistent support and frequent school changes often lead to mental health challenges like anxiety, PTSD, and social isolation. It's also common for young people in and from foster care to cope with their trauma by engaging in high-risk behaviors such as violence, substance use, and delinquencies and to experience higher levels of unemployment, homelessness, and incarceration.

When Pivotal Dream Maker Circle Donor, Louise de Putron, heard about these challenges, she wanted to help. Her generous multi-year gift allowed us to launch **Pivotal's Mental Health Fund** to connect our scholars to the resources they need when they need it most. Louise's gift also includes support for our scholarship and coaching programs.

**"Young people from foster care face unique and often invisible challenges that require more than just financial aid," said Louise. "With this gift, I hope to not only open doors to education, but also to help build a foundation of mental wellness that allows young people to truly succeed."**

This year, we've begun a program to help scholars access therapy, assessments, specialized treatment, and other mental health services. Led by Pivotal's Director of Coaching Programs, Savonna Stender-Bondesson, LCSW, this initiative is helping our scholars take real steps toward healing.

"Many of our scholars require ongoing, long-term therapy to help them assess and address their mental health needs and heal from trauma," says

Savonna. "But finding consistent, affordable care isn't easy. That's where our coaches come in."

For scholars still in care, County-provided mental health services are available until age 21. But once a scholar ages out, their options are limited. Ironically, as they navigate adulthood, this is the time when they're more likely to benefit from long-term therapy and reflection.

The Pivotal Mental Health Fund works to help these scholars find the support they need. We are building partnerships with local organizations and mental health practitioners, many of whom have deep experience working with foster youth. The Mental Health Fund is directly paying for, or supplementing, the cost of these services to help Pivotal scholars overcome the mental health barriers preventing them from achieving their goals. Our scholars have received multiple forms of therapy, including ADHD assessments, substance-use counseling, and short-term intensive treatments, to address the complexity of their individual needs. In addition, our coaches are receiving additional Mental Health First Aid training and building new processes to identify scholars who most need this type of support.

We're incredibly grateful to Louise for her generosity and to Savonna and our incredible coaching team who are bringing this vision to life and proving what's possible when compassion, expertise, and community come together. Together, we're addressing one of the most urgent needs facing foster youth today, ensuring every scholar has access to the healing they deserve.

# LEADING US INTO THE FUTURE

## Board of Directors

### **Maribeth Portz**

Board Chair

### **Paul Silvergate**

Board Treasurer

### **Lupe Diaz**

Board Secretary

### **Matt Bell**

Chief Executive Officer

### **Mike Saviage**

Immediate Past President

### **Pattie Cortese**

Board Member

### **Robyn Klitgaard**

Board Member

### **Dontae Lartigue**

Board Member

### **Nkia Richardson**

Board Member

### **Tamesa Rogers**

Board Member

## Leadership Team

### **Matt Bell**

Chief Executive Officer

### **Candice Chung, CPA**

Chief Financial and  
Operating Officer

### **Chelsey Souza, CFRE**

Chief Development Officer

### **Ashley Matysiak, MSW**

Director of Program Partnerships

### **Rachel Rehert**

Director of Data, Learning,  
and Evaluation

### **Savonna Stender-Bondesson, LCSW**

Director of Coaching Programs



We are deeply grateful for the dedication and leadership of our Board of Directors, whose guidance continues to advance Pivotal's mission and impact. In 2025, Board members provided strategic direction and remained steadfast in their commitment to improving outcomes for our scholars.

## Welcoming Our Newest Members

This year, we welcomed two exceptional leaders to our Board of Directors: Tamesa Rogers and Robyn Klitgaard. Tamesa brings over 25 years of experience in the tech industry, most recently as Chief People Officer at NETGEAR. Robyn joins us after a distinguished 32-year career in public service, including roles with the Santa Clara County Probation Department. Both share a deep commitment to equity, education, and youth empowerment that align powerfully with Pivotal's mission.

## Thank You, Mike Saviage!

After a decade of service, Mike Saviage is stepping down from the Board. A former Board Chair and Finance Committee member, Mike played a critical role in guiding Pivotal through periods of growth and transformation.

Originally a member of the TeenForce Board, Mike carried his dedication forward when TeenForce merged with Silicon Valley Children's Fund to form Pivotal. As a former Adobe executive, he helped build a lasting corporate partnership that provided financial support and time and talent to support workforce development for foster youth. In addition, Mike hosted events at his home, partnered with friends to raise support, and continually involved his community by organizing care packages, graduation gifts, and other meaningful celebrations for our scholars. While stepping down from the Board, Mike will continue to support our work, and we are grateful to have him remain part of the Pivotal family.

# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Our work wouldn't be possible without the support of the partner nonprofits, corporations, colleges, and service groups who provide resources and help us improve outcomes for foster youth in our community. Together, we're breaking down barriers and helping our scholars thrive in school, in their careers, and beyond.

## Corporate Partners

Acer  
Adobe Foundation  
AdvantEdge  
Blach Construction  
Capital One Credit Union  
Comerica Bank  
Deloitte Foundation  
Enterprise Mobility  
Equinix  
Excite Credit Union  
Gardner Health Services  
Harmonic  
Heritage Bank of Commerce  
In-N-Out Burger Foundation  
Insperity  
Intel  
KLA Foundation  
M&M Technologies  
Pure Storage/Pure Good Foundation  
Star One Credit Union  
TekWissen

## Community Organizations

Bill Wilson Center  
BreakThrough LA  
CASA of San Mateo County  
Catholic Charities  
Child Advocates of Silicon Valley  
Community Health Partnership  
Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)  
Housing Trust Silicon Valley  
Intern & Earn, Santa Clara County  
Juma  
Kids In Common  
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Loved Twice  
One Simple Wish  
Razing the Bar  
Shine Together  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
StarVista  
The Central Labor Council Partnership  
The Foster Youth Pre-College Collective  
Work2Future

## Educational Institutions

California State University  
Cañada College  
De Anza College  
Evergreen Valley College  
Foothill College  
Gavilan College  
Mission College  
San Jose City College  
San Jose State University  
Santa Clara University  
West Valley College

## Mental Health Partners

Clarissa Harwell, LCSW  
Jennifer Metzler, Family Navigator  
OneLife Counseling Center  
TriHealing Counseling Group  
Yes To Therapy

## Government Organizations

San Mateo County Department of Children and Family Services  
San Mateo County Office of Education  
Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services  
Santa Clara County Office of Education

## ENGAGE. ENCOURAGE. INVEST.

Become a Pivotal Corporate Partner and explore how your company can make a meaningful difference and support academic and career success for foster youth. Whether through sponsorships, internship or job opportunities, or strategic collaborations, your partnership can help open doors and change lives.

Contact our Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships, Priya Mistry ([development@pivotalnow.org](mailto:development@pivotalnow.org)) to learn more!

## OUR DONORS

# YOU ARE PIVOTAL

We are very grateful to all our donors whose generosity is pivotal to the success of our scholars.

This list reflects donors who generously gave from **July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025**.

If you find an error or have a question, please contact Chief Development Officer, Chelsey Souza ([development@pivotalnow.org](mailto:development@pivotalnow.org), 408-458-8394).

## Individual Supporters



Dream Makers Circle

The Pivotal Dream Makers Circle brings together supporters who are deeply committed to helping foster youth achieve their dreams. By giving \$5,000 or more each year, members provide life-changing support for every young person we serve. Dream Makers receive special recognition, an invitation to our annual celebration, and other exclusive experiences.

### \$100,000+

Anonymous  
Crown Family Philanthropies  
Louise de Putron  
Sheri Sobrato  
Lisa and Matt Sonsini  
Mary and Mark Stevens  
George G. and Jeannette A. Stuart Charitable Fund  
Grace and Steve Voorhis

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

Robin and Lindy Driscoll

### \$10,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous  
John and Lee Blaettler  
Chortek Family Philanthropic Fund  
Helen Danna  
Tara Farnsworth  
Laura and Gary Lauder  
K. Le Giving Fund  
Lee, Tom and Wong Giving Fund  
Atte and Reeta Lahitiranta  
Connie and Bob Lurie  
Jamshid Mahdavi and Karen Fabrizuis  
Dianne and Regis McKenna  
John O'Farrell and Gloria Principe  
Maribeth Portz and David Wanek  
George and Sandra Quinn  
Jessica and Leonard Speiser  
Kevin and Stacia Wells

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous  
Debbie and Paul Baker  
Gerri Bock  
Elaine Cardinale  
Chris and Laura Duke  
Elise and John Gerich  
John O'Donnell and Therese Post  
Caroline Phan  
Marilyn and Marc Rogers  
Sarah and Carl Rosendahl  
Mike and Leslie Savige  
Brian Strom and Yvonne Thorstenson

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Joe Anderson  
Naomi Andrews and Dan Levin  
Sharon and Brian Annis  
Marijke and Caleb Annis  
Jennifer Batra  
Matt Bell  
Jean Bourne  
Karen Carrie  
Pattie and Dave Cortese  
Michael Corwin  
Shari Countryman and Bryan Wolfgram  
Jane Decker

Gretchen and Matt DiNapoli  
Steve Dow  
Elisabeth Dutton and Daniel Shader  
Alison and Greg Dykema  
Susan Eliot  
Sigrid Eyres  
Concepcion and Irwin Federman  
Katherine and Nick Folger  
Maureen Fong  
Leslie and Martin Gates  
Carolyn Genirberg  
Brian Gil  
Teri Gregory  
Nancy Heinen and Dennis DeBroeck

Mary Ann Jankord  
Sara and Ricardo Jenez  
Nancy and John Kidd  
Robyn and Mark Klitgaard  
The Kuechler-Montes de Oca Family  
Tammy and Ken Kolda  
Steve and Susie Laughlin  
Martha and Sam Lazarakis  
Patricia and John Lindsay  
Andrea Mackenzie  
Jeanne MacVicar  
Kate Paisley and Eric Raff  
Joseph and Mary Ann Ramirez  
Nkia and Damon Richardson

## OUR DONORS

This list reflects donors who generously gave from July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

### \$1,000 - \$4,999 (CONT'D)

Monica and Agustin Rivera  
Tamesa Rogers  
Allen and Cindy Ruby  
Paul and Jennifer Silvergate  
Claire and John Sturm  
Paul Styka  
Colleen Tate  
Geoff Tate  
Andrea and Joseph Thomas  
Leslie and Michael Trigg  
Betty Van Wagenen  
Charles and Catherine Wilmoth

### \$500 - \$999

Leonard and Kimberly Almalech  
Anonymous  
Charlene Archibeque  
Lisa Auerbach  
Dawn Bercow  
Dianne and Warren Bunting  
Dan and Karen Carter  
Lin Florinda Colavin  
Terrie Creamer  
Dean Didech  
Pamela Dougherty  
Maria D'Souza and Stephen King  
Lisa Egert-Smith  
Georgia Ellenikiotis  
Maggie Fitzgibbon  
Brian and Karen Fox  
Jean and Brian Ho  
M.K. Hochberg  
John and Lisa Hogan  
Patricia James

Harriet Jennings  
Yeuen Kim and Tony Lee  
Deborah and Paul Lee  
Eileen Licitra  
Jean Liitschwager  
Sarita Lopez  
Meri Maben  
Regina and John Madigan  
Sivakumar Makineni  
Marc and Laura McGeever  
Sean and Therese McKenna  
Fiona Meier  
Priya Mistry and Carl Haywood  
Deborah Mueller  
Constance and John Robbins  
Anne Marie Sconberg  
Brian Shew  
Dan and Cheryl Smith  
Doug Southard  
Chelsey and Adam Souza  
Eric Stone  
Marika Sykora  
Catherine and Jeff Thermond  
Danilo Torres  
Donna Troxell  
Andrew and Doreen Williams  
Brandy Wright  
John Zoglin

### \$250 - \$499

Anonymous  
Ann Bates  
Antoinette Battiste  
Michael and Colleen Campi  
Timothy Chu  
Karyn Cilker and Justin Warner

Valerie and Andrew Corradini  
Marian and Robert Curto  
Donn Dobkin  
Linda and John Ellis  
Terese and Dennis Ferrara  
Gerri Finkelstein Lurya  
Sandra Gant  
Kevin Gardner  
Diana Gilbert  
Gustavo Gonzalez  
Jennifer Guethlein  
Katherine and David Hammill  
Shane and Kimberly Jackstet  
Venkat and Mamatha Ketineni  
Anne-Laure and Olivier Kohler  
Carolyn Loew  
Klare Marzano  
Raakhee Mistry and Hank Dempsey  
Daniel and Joan Moser  
Michael Mulcahy  
An Nguyen  
Bill and Maggie Parkin  
Elissa Perrin  
Sue Pires  
Wayne Prescott  
Gordon Readey  
Carol Rehwald  
Kathleen Robins  
Crystal Rose  
Lynn Sakamoto  
Marcie Soderquist  
Steven Sosnowski  
Mary Souza  
Stephanie Taylor  
Justin Tran and Linda Yam  
Mary Ann Van Paul  
Heather Wood



Pivotal's compassionate coaches provide foster youth with financial, social, and emotional support to build confidence and plan for education and careers. We're proud to fund work that equips these young people not only for good jobs but for lifelong skills to create happy, successful lives.

- Debbie and Paul Baker, Dream Maker Circle Members

## OUR DONORS



### Pivotal GEMs Shine Bright

Pivotal GEMs are a special group of donors who want to support our scholars regularly and choose to **Give Every Month**. These incredible individuals help provide us with ongoing stability by choosing to make monthly donations and ensure we can continue to support our students year after year.

Matt Bell  
Terrie Creamer  
John Fioretta  
Jennifer Guethlein  
Bryan Johnson  
Nancy and John Kidd  
Cheryl Knepfler

Klare Marzano  
Fiona Meier  
An Nguyen  
Serena Ramirez  
Carol Rehwald  
Monica and Agustin Rivera  
Kathleen Robins

Paul and Jennifer Silvergate  
Chelsey and Adam Souza  
Claire and John Sturm  
Danilo Torres  
Ericka and Michael Wood  
Heather Wood  
Brandy Wright

### Foundation and Corporate Supporters

#### \$100,000+

KLA Foundation  
Sobrato Philanthropies  
The Leo M Shortino Foundation  
Valley Foundation

#### \$25,000 - \$99,999

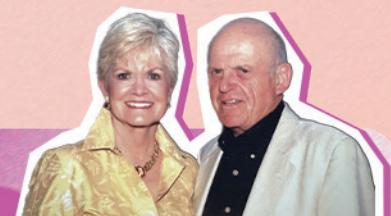
Adobe Foundation  
Anonymous  
Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative  
Comerica Charitable Foundation  
Deloitte Foundation  
Enterprise Mobility  
In-N-Out Burger Foundation  
Myra Reinhard Family Foundation  
Thomas and Ellen Hogue Family Foundation  
Warmenhoven Family Foundation  
William and Charlene Glikbarg Foundation

#### \$5,000 - \$24,999

Apple Inc.  
Blach Construction  
Brandenburg Family Foundation  
Equinix Foundation  
Federation Jewish Teen Foundation  
Harmonic  
House Family Foundation  
June and Julian Foss Foundation  
Kapil and Margaret Nanda Family Foundation  
Kieve Foundation  
Pure Storage / Pure Good Foundation  
Rotary Club of San Jose  
Safadi Family Foundation  
Sanders Dickinson Foundation  
Star One Credit Union  
W. Bradley Electric  
William C. Hyne Foundation

#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Applied Materials Foundation  
ASML Holding  
Christopher Ranch Foundation  
Gardner Family Health Network  
Google  
Heritage Bank of Commerce  
Inspurity  
Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation  
Mirnahill Foundation  
Mission City Community Fund  
Pennock  
Price Waterhouse Coopers  
Samberton Family Foundation  
San Jose Water Company  
Target  
The J. Michael Bodnar Foundation



We invest in the Pivotal mission because of its life-changing impact on foster youth. Our support is helping Pivotal scholars far exceed the all-too-often poor outcomes for these young people, enabling them to achieve the lives they so richly deserve.

- Connie and Bob Lurie, Dream Maker Circle Members

# HONORING THEIR LEGACIES

While this year gave us much to celebrate, it also brought deep loss. We said goodbye to two members of our Pivotal family, both taken too soon by cancer. Their presence, leadership, and generosity shaped our organization in lasting ways.



## REMEMBERING JULY LOPEZ

July Lopez served as our Accounting and Finance Manager, though her contributions extended far beyond ensuring smooth financial operations. July had a gift for seeing and supporting her teammates, offering encouragement during difficult moments, and celebrating accomplishments. She held space for others in a way that made the Pivotal office feel lighter, warmer, and more connected.

Her absence is deeply felt, but her influence continues to guide us. We are profoundly grateful that she chose to devote the final years of her life to the Pivotal team and the young people we serve.

## REMEMBERING MARILYN ROGERS

We also honor the memory of Marilyn Rogers, who dedicated her retirement years to a second career supporting foster youth. Marilyn helped lay the foundation for Pivotal's Corporate Partnership program. Persistent, warm, and deeply mission-driven, she had a remarkable gift for inspiring others, showing them the joy and purpose that come with supporting foster youth.

Marilyn also served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for one of Pivotal's scholars, Frankie, providing steady encouragement and advocacy. Marilyn proudly celebrated Frankie's college graduation shortly before her passing.

## INTRODUCING OUR LEGACY SOCIETY

Marilyn and July embodied Pivotal's values in every way and their legacies continue in the memories we have of them and the scholars whose lives they touched. Both women believed deeply in Pivotal's work and were donors themselves. Marilyn also included Pivotal in her estate plans. Her generosity aligns with the launch of the Pivotal Legacy Society, which recognizes individuals who choose to make a lasting impact through planned giving. Members of this distinguished circle help ensure that future generations of young people have the resources, guidance, and opportunities they need to thrive.

Anonymous  
Matt Bell  
Diane and Lee Brandenburg  
Shane and Kimberly Jackstelt  
Thais Palmer  
Marilyn Rogers  
Lisa Sobrato Sonsini

# ECHOES INTO THE FUTURE

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MONICA RIVERA, THE 2025 RECIPIENT OF PIVOTAL'S ELISE CUTINI HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY (ECHO) AWARD!

Monica is the driving force behind the new Pivotal Alumni Association, a volunteer-led team dedicated to connecting Pivotal alumni in meaningful, long-lasting ways. Her leadership reflects exactly what the ECHO Award honors: individuals whose impact will continue to create hope and opportunity for young people long into the future.

At the first annual Pivotal Alumni Reunion, Monica shared why this community matters so deeply. "Alone, we shine brightly, but together, we form constellations that guide those still navigating their own journeys." Her belief in the transformative power of connection, especially among those who share lived experiences, has shaped the vision, structure, and spirit of our Alumni Association and leadership council.

Her ability to turn adversity into purpose is part of what makes her such an extraordinary leader. Reflecting on her own journey, she said, "Our greatest level of healing doesn't happen in isolation. It happens in safe, nurturing, and supportive relationships. The Alumni Association is the next phase in our individual and collective upward spiral of healing and growth. It happens when we see ourselves reflected in each other's stories." This belief is embedded in the Council's mission and the community it is cultivating.

Launching a new volunteer-run initiative is no small feat, but Monica's tenacity, generosity, and heart have made it possible. Her leadership has transformed the twinkling of an idea into a connective constellation, one that will illuminate the path for scholars and alumni for years to come.



## OUR DONORS

# PIVOTAL ALUMNI

Angelica Aguilar  
Jennifer De La Cruz Vargas  
Marcian Diamond  
Lupe Diaz

Samantha F. Hernandez  
McArthur Hoang  
Dontae Lartigue  
Vanessa Payne

Monica Rivera  
Diana Urias  
April Vance  
Brandy Wright





P.O. Box 26835  
San Jose, CA 95159  
[www.pivotalnow.org](http://www.pivotalnow.org)  
[info@pivotalnow.org](mailto:info@pivotalnow.org)

## HOST A DREAM BIG EVENT

Open your home, spark inspiration, and help foster youth soar.

By hosting a Dream BIG event, you'll bring your community together to learn how Pivotal empowers young people from foster care to discover their potential and pursue their boldest dreams.

Your gathering can ignite hope, spark connections, and help young people from foster care thrive.

**Interested? Contact our Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships, Priya Mistry ([development@pivotalnow.org](mailto:development@pivotalnow.org)) to learn more!**



Dream BIG event hosts, Leonard and Jessica Speiser with Pivotal scholar Iris, and CEO Matt Bell.

EIN: 77-0166138

