

TRANSFORMING FUTURES

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

Annual Report
2025



Pivotal scholar Briana with her coach, Sarah Gentle

PIVOTALTM

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

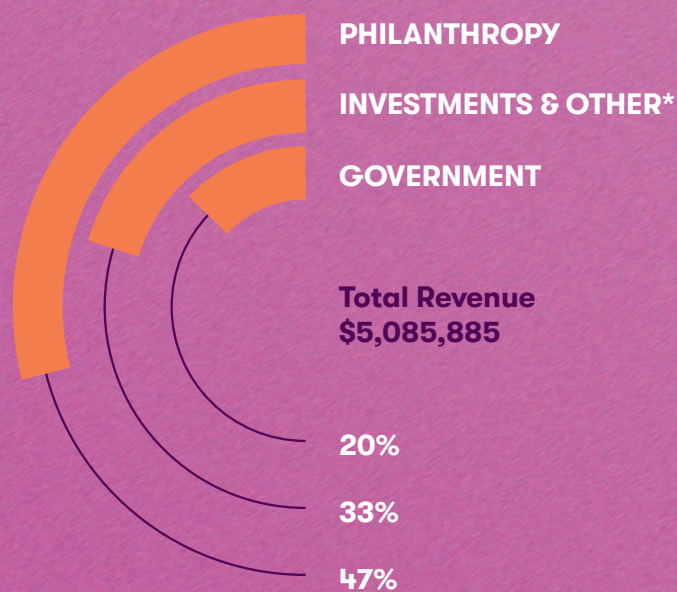
IN 1:1 COACHING

\$47,090

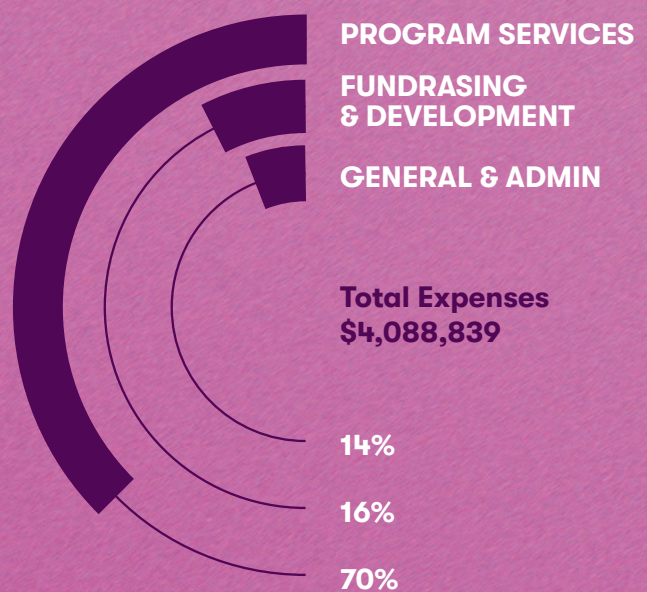
IN YOUTH OUTREACH AND
MENTAL HEALTH FUNDS

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 Saviage and Paul Silverglate 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.

	CA OVERALL*	CA FOSTER YOUTH*	PIVOTAL 2024-2025
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES	88%	69%	92%
HIGH SCHOOL MATRICULATION RATES	66%	50%	81%
BACHELOR'S DEGREE COMPLETION RATES	23%	09%	55%

**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) 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

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Paul Silvergate

Board Treasurer

Lupe Diaz

Board Secretary

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Mike Saviage

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Board Member

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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

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

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

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

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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 Saviage
Brian Strom and Yvonne Thorstenson

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Nancy and John Kidd
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The Kuechler-Montes de Oca Family
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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
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\$500 - \$999

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Dan and Karen Carter
Lin Florinda Colavin
Terrie Creamer
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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

\$250 - \$499

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



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 Knepler

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

Paul and Jennifer Silverglate
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
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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. Hyrne Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Applied Materials Foundation
ASML Holding
Christopher Ranch Foundation
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Google
Heritage Bank of Commerce
Insperity
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 Jacksteit
Thais Palmer
Marilyn Rogers
Lisa Sobrato Sonsini

ECH^OES 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





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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) to learn more!



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

EIN: 77-0166138

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

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