

THE BURTON BOOK FUND

**IMPACT
REPORT**

2020-21



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth



JOHN BURTON Advocates *for* Youth

OUR MISSION:

John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) improves the quality of life for youth in California who have been in foster care or homeless by advocating for better laws, training communities to strengthen local practices, and conducting research to inform policy solutions.

JBAY was founded in 2005 by John Burton, a former member of Congress, the California State Assembly and President Pro Tem of the California State Senate. JBAY works in three areas: education, housing and health.

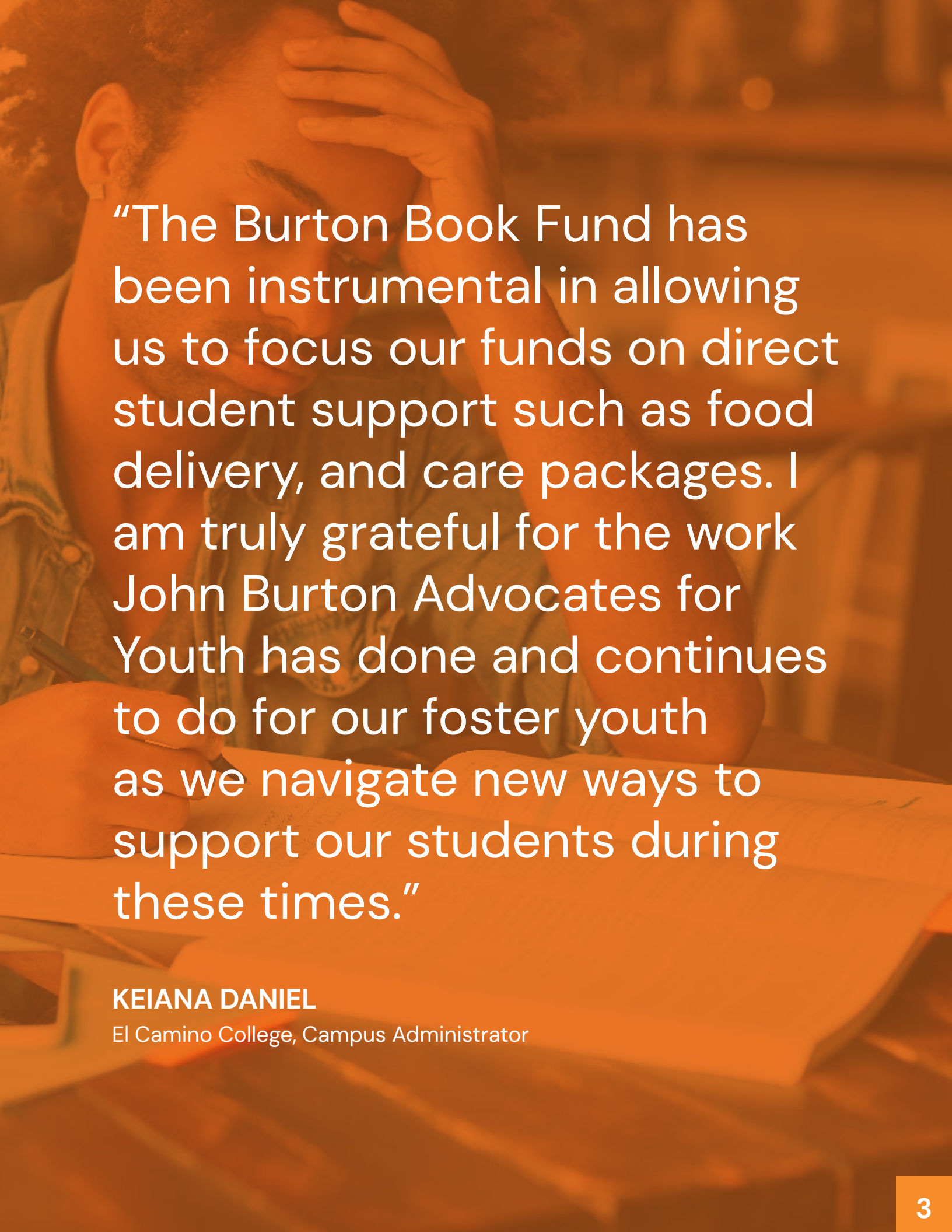
OUR VISION:

JBAY helps youth who have been in foster care or experienced homelessness in California. The needs of this population are considerable. Youth enter foster care due to abuse or neglect and their challenges are often compounded while in foster care due to placement instability, school changes and lack of access to mental health services

Homeless youth also struggle considerably and share many of the attributes of youth in foster care. Research has consistently shown that most youth become homeless after experiencing maltreatment, including abuse or neglect in the home. Unfortunately, the suffering of these young people is often missed by the child welfare system, leaving them without an equivalent system of care.

OUR IMPACT:

JBAY has successfully advocated for the passage of 35 legislative reforms that have resulted in over \$3.3 billion in new state investment for youth who have been in foster care or experienced homelessness. Key victories have included the expansion of foster care from age 18 to 21, the expansion of state investment in housing for former foster youth, the creation of campus support programs at 45 community college campuses, and key financial aid reforms that have resulted in higher rates of college attendance among foster youth.



"The Burton Book Fund has been instrumental in allowing us to focus our funds on direct student support such as food delivery, and care packages. I am truly grateful for the work John Burton Advocates for Youth has done and continues to do for our foster youth as we navigate new ways to support our students during these times."

KEIANA DANIEL

El Camino College, Campus Administrator

THE BURTON BOOK FUND

was founded in 2013 to promote college success among current and former foster youth by helping offset the high cost of textbooks and by encouraging engagement with campus support professionals.

Foster youth want to attend college: when asked, 88% state a desire to earn a post-secondary degree. Unfortunately, most foster youth don't have the opportunity to achieve that dream:

by age 23, just 11% of former foster youth have earned a four-year degree as compared with 38% of the general population. A key reason for this is a lack of financial support, both for tuition and fees and for the ever-increasing cost of textbooks, which average \$1,200 per year according to the College Board.

Since 2013, the Burton Book Fund has worked to increase access to higher education for over 9,100 current and former foster youth by providing over \$2.25 million to purchase textbooks.

The 2020–21 academic year was our most challenging one yet. College campuses quickly went to remote learning, and many foster youth lacked the assistance to remain enrolled in higher education. Foster youth reported losing jobs, experiencing hunger, becoming homeless and suffering mental health challenges. The Burton Book Fund was there to help, providing a critical source of support to 879 foster youth on 91 college campuses.



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM 20-21 ACADEMIC YEAR

"The Burton Book fund is a perfect model to support youth. They do not need to worry about the process to redeem their award, but simply work with the college program. This makes it effective and simple for our youth."

JEZE LOPEZ

Mt. San Antonio
College, Campus
Administrator

The Burton Book Fund
provided textbooks to
879 foster youth.

6

University
of California
campuses

15

California
State
University
campuses

6

Private
Colleges or
Universities
campuses

\$175,800
provided to
students to
purchase
textbooks

91

campuses
participated
in the Burton
Book Fund

64

Community
Colleges
campuses

4.7

average rating
of the Burton
Book Fund on
a five point of
helpfulness
scale

"The Burton Book Fund is an essential
program to reduce financial gaps for
foster youth."

JENNIFER ACHAN

Bakersfield College, Campus Administrator

The Burton Book Fund helps young people across California.

STUDENTS SERVED

"The Burton Book Fund takes a burden off you. If you can't afford your books you have a lot of anxiety."

ELIZABETH QUIROZ

Student at Sonoma State University

Far North
28

Sacramento
Area
54

Bay Area
149

Central
Coast
72

San
Joaquin
Valley
72

Southern
CA
136

LA
County
279

San Diego
+ Imperial
County
89

The Burton Book Fund was there to help foster youth, when help was needed most.

In 2021, JBAY surveyed 598 current and former foster youth to understand the impact of the pandemic. The findings were unequivocal: youth were disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

KEY FINDINGS:

68%

reported that the pandemic has had a direct impact on their employment.

100%

of foster youth enrolled in school reported that the pandemic had at least one negative impact on their education.

50%

reported feeling “down, depressed or hopeless” every day or more than half of the days as a result of the pandemic.

22%

experienced homelessness since the start of the pandemic. This rate was 43% higher among Black youth.

45%

of foster youth enrolled in school received a low or failing grade.

“Due to the pandemic, our scholars have experienced additional financial burden and the book fund helped to alleviate this! This money goes a long way. Thank you so much for all that you do.”

EDITH RAMIREZ

UC Merced, Campus Administrator

JBAY asked campus administrators to provide information about who received the Burton Book Fund and to explain how the pandemic impacted them during the 2020–21 academic year. Their reports confirmed how difficult it has been for foster youth during the pandemic.

OF BURTON BOOK FUND RECIPIENTS:

60%

experienced depression, anxiety or another mental health condition.

51%

expressed a need for education support.

44%

indicated they had less money available and are in a financial crisis.

35%

reported being hungry and not having enough food.

25%

were laid off work with half of all students indicating they were in a financial crisis.

24%

stopped attending classes.

18%

disenrolled from school.

“The main challenge our students faced through this pandemic was that many of them were laid off or had their work hours reduced severely. Many students expressed to us not having the money to purchase their books due to these reasons. The book grant was a great support to them.”

MARTHA CONTRERAS

CSU Los Angeles, Campus Administrator

LUIS ALCARAZ

Irvine Valley College

Luis Alcaraz is a second year computer science major at Irvine Valley College. Growing up in foster care, Luis describes that he was treated differently by educators. That made him nervous about attending college. Since growing older that stress has gone away and Luis now sees a bright future ahead of him as a software engineer, working for a tech company in software development.

According to Luis, the Burton Book Fund has had an impact on his education and provided support that other students may be able to access from extended family. "Foster youth have very weird family dynamics and relationships. And we don't always feel like we have somebody to rely on when it comes to financial education expenses," said Luis. "So thank you for helping us feel like college is something attainable and achievable."

At the start of the pandemic Luis wasn't working. The Burton Book Fund alleviated the stress of having to buy hundreds of dollars in textbooks out of pocket. He appreciates being able to buy the books he needs and being able to keep them to review material. This has especially helped him with STEM courses.



"Being a student isn't easy and having to pay for expensive textbooks when you don't even have more than a minimum wage paying job can really be a burden. I really do appreciate everything the Burton Book Fund has done to help out."

GABRIELA ARANA

Loyola Marymount University

Gabriela Arana is the Assistant Director for student success at Loyola Marymount University and oversees the Guardian Scholars Program. When describing her students she called them resilient and resourceful. According to Arana, this year has been a tough time for foster youth on campus. Students lost their jobs, leaving them without the money to buy essentials, including textbooks. The Burton Book Fund has helped her students alleviate that stress.



According to Arana, foster youth at Loyola Marymount appreciate the Burton Book Fund. In addition to providing books, it has helped Arana build trust with her students and helped students develop better relationships with one another. “Students are extremely appreciative and very vocal about receiving the Burton Book Fund. I think that builds a lot of trust.”

Gabriela has also noticed that students’ confidence has increased since receiving the Burton Book Fund. “The Burton Book Fund increases foster youths’ confidence. I don’t think that they realize that. It comes from being able to communicate their needs, reaching out for help and knowing that the services and the support is there.”

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE BURTON BOOK FUND...

"Mental health concerns have been one of the top challenges faced by our former foster youth at SBCC. Remote learning has been hard for them. Offering a book grant has been one way to help remind them that there are folks that will continue to support and care for them."

CHRISTINA LOMELI
Santa Barbara City College,
Campus Administrator

"Having their books at the beginning of the semester means they will have the tools they need to be successful in class. This support removes one additional barrier and stressor for many students and allows them to focus more on their academics."

LINDA RAMOS
Cerritos College,
Campus Administrator

"This year was difficult for all of our youth. The Burton book Fund was extremely helpful in alleviating the financial stress that comes with purchasing books and supplies. The students are always extremely grateful for these resources."

ASHLEY CANO
CSU Northridge,
Campus Administrator

"This year was a particularly challenging year for our foster youth students. Most of them had a great deal of trouble staying employed or finding employment this year. Having the John Burton Book fund to alleviate this extra expense was very helpful. They were able to save their funds to use on other essential needs."

GABRIELA ARANA
Loyola Marymount,
Campus Administrator

"The Burton Book Fund is very valuable to our Guardian Scholars program. With the high costs of textbooks, it is good to know that we have a resource available for our students who have experienced foster care. One of the helpful things about this program is that there isn't an age limit and we are therefore able to assist students who may not have received funds for their textbooks."

SHARAF WILLIAMS
San Bernardino Valley College,
Campus Administrator

THANK YOU

to Our Supporters

A special thank you goes to JBAY funders, who make our work possible, namely...

Annie E. Casey Foundation	Jewish Foundation of Los Angeles	San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798
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Cassie Consulting	Morrison & Foerster Foundation	Tina DeBoer Long Charitable Trust
Chip Conley Foundation	National Union of Healthcare Workers	Tipping Point Community
Connie & Bob Lurie Foundation	Northern California Regional Carpenters Union	Townsend Raimundo Besler & Usher
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation	OK Investments	UA Local 38 Cope Fund
Cortopassi Family Foundation	Paulson Family Fund	United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy	Peter and Mary Muth Foundation	Vismara Family Foundation
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Human Rights Project Inc		
IBEW Local 6		
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 12		

THANK YOU

TO OUR CAMPUS PARTNERS

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College

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University

Bakersfield College

Cabrillo College

Canada College

Cerritos College

Chabot College

Citrus College

City College of San
Francisco

Coastline Community
College

College of the
Canyons

College of the Desert

College of the
Sequoias

College of the
Siskiyou

Copper Mountain
College

Cosumnes River
College

Crafton Hill College

CSU Channel Islands

CSU Chico

CSU Fresno

CSU Fullerton

CSU Humboldt

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CSU Los Angeles

CSU Monterey Bay

CSU Northridge

CSU Sacramento

CSU San Bernardino

CSU San Diego

CSU San Francisco

CSU San Marcos

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Cuesta College

Cuyamaca College

De Anza College

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El Camino College

Evergreen Valley
College

Foothill College

Gavilan College

Glendale College

Golden West College

Grossmont College

Hartnell College

Irvine Valley College

Long Beach City
College—Liberal Arts

Los Angeles City
College

Los Angeles Harbor
College

Los Angeles Mission
College

Loyola Marymount

Merced College

Miracosta College

Modesto Junior
College

Moorpark College

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College

Mt. San Jacinto
College

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College

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College

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College

Shasta College

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UC Davis

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Diego

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California

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Pacific

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