MISSION

THE BATTIER TAKE CHARGE FOUNDATION IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF UNDERSERVED YOUTH AND TEENS. THE BATTIERS’ CHARGE IS TO ENCOURAGE AND INSPIRE A NEW GENERATION OF POTENTIAL LEADERS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND THE CULTIVATION OF EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP SKILLS.

ETHOS

DO WELL. DO GOOD.
Dear friends,

Despite the uncertainties of our world, I am continuously inspired and encouraged by our Scholars’ perseverance and accomplishments. Our students — as well as our team — have continued to raise the bar with each new group of ‘firsts’ in the 12 years of Take Charge, and this year is no exception.

I hope you enjoy reading about many of the inaugural opportunities we are commemorating this year: new schools, new journeys, and new experiences for our talented students.

Simultaneously, we celebrate the next chapter of The Battier Take Charge Foundation and our GUIDE program as we expand into another Miami area high school, Booker T. Washington High School.

And our growth does not stop in Florida. We are delighted to announce the establishment of our first satellite adaptation of the GUIDE program in Camden, New Jersey for the fall of 2022.

We’re thrilled to be working with new Board Member Ellen Morey and her husband Daryl to support some outstanding students in the Philadelphia area and help them achieve their dreams of attending college.

We are grateful for all of our friends’ support as well as the accomplishments of the kids in our programs, which have motivated us to do more, help more, and raise the bar even higher.

We are proud of our achievements, but we recognize that there is still much more to be done.

So, please enjoy our annual report, which will showcase the success, growth, and dedication of our Battier Take Charge family while also previewing the exciting opportunities in the coming year.

Thank you very much for all of your support,

Shane
2021: A Year of Firsts

FIRST ENROLLING AT ICONIC INSTITUTIONS

In 2021, both the number of scholarship applications and the caliber of student applicants proved an all-time high for the foundation. The result was awarding seven $20,000 scholarships to seniors graduating in the spring of 2021, which included our first students to enroll in Morehouse College and Spelman College (four students in total). This year’s cohort also includes our first-ever Scholar to matriculate to the University of Virginia and our first GUIDE Scholar to attend Stanford University. These students are well on their way to making their mark on the world and we are thrilled to support them in the pursuit of their undergraduate degrees at such iconic institutions.

FIND AN ENROLLING AT ICONIC INSTITUTIONS

FIRST MATRICULATING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL

Chelsey, who hails from Detroit, Michigan and came to Battier Take Charge Foundation through her involvement with Horizons-Upward Bound in Detroit, received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan in 2019. With a lifelong dream of becoming a doctor, and a determination to differentiate herself from other medical school applicants, Chelsey has completed countless volunteer hours as a certified doula. In 2021, Chelsey earned her Masters degree in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University and enrolled at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. In doing so, she became the first Battier scholar to attend medical school — advancing her passion for reproductive health, anti-racism work in medicine, and the social determinants of health in vulnerable populations.

As part of Art Basel and Miami Art Week, Battier Scholar Christina showcased her artwork as a student and a creative problem solver. Her eight-foot origami heart sculpture, created in collaboration with artist Virmani Garcia, incorporates interchanging colors and the concepts of exotification, aspiration, isolation, and connection. For Christina, this exhibition and collaboration proved quite meaningful. “It was exciting working and collaborating with another artist who shares the same vision and thoughts,” notes Christina. “From creating this piece, I learned to communicate with others and to problem solve with materials. Overall, it expanded my exploration of creative possibilities.”

A B O V E : Battier Scholar Christina and collaborating artist pose in front of artwork during Art Basel

B E L O W : Christina’s artwork references calmness and awareness through its display of interchanging colors
THE BATTIER TAKE CHARGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM AWARDS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO DESERVING YOUNG LEADERS FROM WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES THAT MATTER MOST TO SHANE AND HEIDI.

While financial scholarships serve as the entry point for the program, the full investment in the Battier Scholars is the creation of unique experiences, the allocation of academic grants, the presentation of leadership opportunities, the provision of resources, and the formation of life-changing relationships.

In 2021, five inspiring young leaders completed their undergraduate degrees, demonstrating the collective success and diverse pathways of the Battier Scholars. We celebrate each new graduate and ask what the Take Charge Foundation has meant to their journey to date.

BATTIER SCHOLAR

JULIO

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY,
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS,
MINOR IN STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

“I am so appreciative for the foundation team and my fellow Scholars — these amazing people doing amazing things — and that they understand the value in what I am doing.”

BATTIER SCHOLAR

SAIKA

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN,
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

“Take Charge to me is not only academic support, it is a family. Throughout these past few years, they have taught me how to take care of my mental well-being and provided me with the tools needed to grow.”
BATTIER SCHOLAR

NANCY

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN,
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND ARTS IN BIOLOGY

“I have learned to always push myself past my comfort zone and become the best person that I can be. Take Charge has taught me to be fearless and be patient with myself through this journey. If [high school] senior me could look at me now and how much I’ve grown, she’d be proud!”

BATTIER SCHOLAR

YAXENI

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY,
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GLOBAL HEALTH

“Take Charge has been a huge part of my journey. They reminded me that I do belong, every time I felt that I didn’t.”

BATTIER SCHOLAR

MIGUEL

MCMURRY UNIVERSITY,
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

“There are so many amazing people in this world who truly believe in impacting lives and changing them, and I was fortunate enough to experience it first hand with Take Charge.”
GRADUATING THE CLASS OF 2021

In June, the second class of GUIDE Scholars graduated from Miami Central High School, with all earning their high school diplomas. Upon graduation, each of the 17 Scholars was awarded a full, four-year Florida Prepaid Scholarship. They are currently working toward their Bachelor degrees on college campuses across Florida and beyond. The foundation is particularly proud of the resilience and determination demonstrated by this class, completing their final two years of high school during a pandemic, and still meeting all BTCF and graduation requirements. This marks our second class of Scholars to graduate, and our second class to achieve a 100% graduation rate.

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

Since starting GUIDE at Miami Central High School in 2017, the foundation team has envisioned expanding and working with outstanding young Scholars from additional schools. In December, we brought this vision to life through the selection of our first GUIDE Scholars from Booker T. Washington High School. Sophomores from Booker T. Washington joined with students from Miami Central to form our newest GUIDE class. These 16 future leaders receive mentorship and college access resources through their graduation in 2024, alongside scholarships and academic programming totaling over $475,000.

BELOW: Heidi (far left) and Newell (second from right) celebrate the GUIDE Class of 2021 at graduation
PROFILE

KALID
CLASS OF 2019 GUIDE PROGRAM

BATTIER TAKE CHARGE FOUNDATION: The GUIDE program begins for students in their second year of high school – what was it like joining this program as a sophomore at Miami Central High School?

KALID: It was a group that met up a lot, and it was a group that helped a lot. Right away, I could tell they really cared and it felt good to have someone looking out for you. It was a positive experience.

BTCF: Your scholarship is structured as a 2 + 2: two years at a community college and two years at a university. After finishing at Miami Dade College, you are now attending the University of Miami. How is your experience?

KALID: It’s good! I am in the honors program and pre-law, so my plan is to graduate and then head to law school. I have two programs in mind — University of Miami Law or Harvard.

BTCF: How did you decide on law?

KALID: My GUIDE mentor helped, for sure. Fernando is a lawyer and as soon as we met and I learned more about his career, I thought to myself I can do this. I want to help other people who can’t help themselves and law allows for that.

Beyond law, Fernando helped me grow as a person and truly changed my life. We are still in touch and actually just had lunch on campus. We meet up, we talk, we discuss life and how it’s going, we stay in contact … and I never would have met him if it weren’t for Take Charge.

BTCF: Are you still close to your peers from the GUIDE program, as well?

KALID: Oh, definitely. We really bonded and have been close since — like a little family. We want to help each other in any way we can. We stay connected through the Take Charge platforms and events to talk and see each other.

BTCF: How would you describe Take Charge to those not as familiar with the foundation or its programs?

KALID: Take Charge helps you find what you want to do and the path to follow…and then they help you get there.
NEWELL FLEMING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Newell Fleming has been with the foundation since the beginning. Her first introduction to both Heidi and Shane, as well as their mission to elevate others through education, occurred in Memphis. Newell helped in the application review of prospective students for the scholarships the Battiers gave — at the time — through a community foundation. Reading the applications piqued her interest in the mission and, when the Battiers relocated to Houston and formally launched the Battier Take Charge Foundation, Newell proved the perfect choice to fill the role of Executive Director. She saw it as an exciting challenge, a way to support others, and an avenue to genuinely bring to life the ethos of Do Well. Do Good.

With the foundation kicked off and its work underway, Newell relocated once again to Miami and helped to lead the foundation to where it is today. Along the way, she has successfully developed, managed, and expanded, the defining elements of both the Battier Scholars and GUIDE Scholars programs. Yet Newell describes her role with the foundation as one well beyond daily operations and programmatic excellence. “It may seem like my job is to ‘run the show’ but it is really to be here for the GUIDE and Battier Scholars, and to encourage them not only to think bigger, but to GO FOR bigger for themselves at every point” says Newell. “The relationships I’ve built with them are the most special part of my job. I know where they are, I know where they are going, I even know which recipes are their favorites if they are coming for dinner!”

PROGRAM MANAGER
HANNAH HAYS

With the foundation’s expansion into Camden, New Jersey (see page 10), came the need for a Program Manager to lead the way. Enter Hannah Hays, who coordinated the Miami-based GUIDE Program for 18 months while a law student at the University of Miami. Hannah made a planned move to Philadelphia after graduation, and with vast knowledge and experience in the development and administration of college access programs for high school students, proved a natural choice to join the foundation full time. We look forward to Hannah’s management of our Camden programming and additional contributions to the foundation as we expand our efforts to Do Well. Do Good, as a team and as a community.
TAKE CHARGE’S FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS DEMONSTRATE A DEDICATION TO THE EDUCATION AND GROWTH OF OUR BATTIER AND GUIDE SCHOLARS. The foundation also pairs strong stewardship of philanthropic revenue — earned through individual contributions, grants, and fundraising events — with strategic resource and cost management. This allows the foundation to fulfill our mission and to fully invest in our Battier Scholars, GUIDE, and Go Beyond programs in meaningful ways.
PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

The incredible impact of the Battier Take Charge Foundation is due in large part to the unwavering support of those who comprise the greater Take Charge community — our family.

Since its initial partnering with KIPP Academy in Houston, the foundation has forged additional partnerships with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami and Horizons-Upward Bound in the Detroit metro area. Each of these remarkable nonprofit organizations assists in the identification of future leaders selected as Battier Scholars.

Additionally, since 2016, the foundation has greatly benefited from its strong partnership with Take Stock in Children, joining our efforts to help deserving students in Florida escape the cycle of poverty through education.

LAUNCHING A NEW PROGRAM: CAMDEN

In fall of 2021, Ellen and Daryl Morey contacted Heidi and Shane about becoming involved in Take Charge. Having known the Battiers for years and participated in Battioke fundraisers in Houston, their admiration for Take Charge was two-fold: they admired both the work and impact on students, and the hands-on investment and engagement. With two college-aged students of their own, the Moreys knew they wanted to do more with educational philanthropy and were advised that the best way to do so was to partner with an organization already doing good work. A natural partnership was born between the Morey family and Take Charge and together, we are launching a new college access program in the locale of Camden, New Jersey, just outside the Morey’s new hometown of Philadelphia.
LEADERS

An exceptional 2021 for the Battier Take Charge Foundation would not have been possible without the leaders who commit resources and share expertise for the betterment of educational programming.

Mentors, success coaches, tutors, professionals in their field, programmatic volunteers, and countless others play a pivotal role as the Battier and GUIDE Scholars transition to unprecedented leaders of tomorrow.

DONORS

The generosity of community partners, individuals, corporations, and friends who continually step forward with donations of both in-kind and philanthropic gifts is transformational. This incredible commitment ensures that the outreach and programs of the foundation not only continue, but grow and amplify as we empower deserving youth from all walks of life.

COMING FULL CIRCLE

In a full-circle moment for the foundation, Jewly — Battier Scholar and Miami native — has joined the GUIDE Scholars program as a mentor. Jewly brings to the mentorship role her own unique experiences, resources, and insights, which are especially beneficial given her active participation as a Battier Scholar. As such, Jewly adds a new layer, a new perspective, and a familiar face to the GUIDE program.
“WITH TAKE CHARGE, IT’S NOT ABOUT A CHECK AND WISH OF GOOD LUCK. IT’S ABOUT BEING VALUED. IT’S ABOUT A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP. IT’S ABOUT BEING A PART OF THIS INCREDIBLE FAMILY.”

— DAVID
Battier Scholar

“I’M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT THE FUTURE IS. BUT I KNOW IT’S BRIGHT!”

— MAURICE
Battier Scholar
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF THE BATTIER TAKE CHARGE FOUNDATION.

WE INVITE YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WAYS TO VOLUNTEER, GIVE, AND ADVANCE OUR MISSION OF PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF UNDERSERVED YOUTH AND TEENS.

IN THE MEANTIME, DO WELL, DO GOOD.

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