The REAM Foundation’s support helps Bright Promises Foundation give kids a better quality of life. After participating in Bright Promise’s series of social emotional learning (SEL) workshops with other parents from their community, J.’s parents grew to understand why he often misbehaved when experiencing “big feelings” like fear, anger, and sadness. J.’s parents learned how to respond to his outbursts by being calm, persistent, caring, and kind with him. They connected with the other parents and learned new ways they could help J. At home, they encouraged J. to use a “feeling wheel” to label his emotions, and sit in the “peace place” until he was ready to re-join the family. J’s dad commented, “Learning praise to increase good behavior was amazing! My child really enjoys being praised.” Another parent in the SEL Outreach program added, “. . . the tools and techniques help me give my kids a better quality of life.” (Photo provided by Bright Promises’ partner Gads Hill Center)

Intonation Music Workshop helps kids into the driver’s seat with The REAM Foundation’s support. After participating in Intonation since he was six year old, Matthew Lewis reached a pinnacle in his artistic career just after high school graduation. Along with his band, “Tiote,” Lewis played in a professional Chicago concert hall. “I never thought I would be on a stage playing in front of so many people,” says Lewis. “At Intonation Music, I got to see kids my age interested in something I didn’t know many kids were interested in. I started playing a bass guitar that was as tall as me . . . The people here helped prepare me to get into ChiArts, and now I’m going to Columbia College to study music performance and sound engineering. Intonation opened a lot of doors for me.” Mike Simons, Intonation’s executive director adds, “We ask students to get in the driver’s seat of their own arts learning experience.”

The REAM Foundation supports Posse Chicago, whose scholar is deploying big data to fight Cancer. Abu Qader is a Posse Scholar at Cornell University majoring in computer science. The son of Afghan immigrants, Abu grew up in Chicago equipped with a curious mind. When a family trip to Afghanistan brought him face-to-face with inequities in the country’s health care services, Abu became focused on revolutionizing healthcare for people in the world who need it most. He wound up building a program that uses machine learning to teach computers to recognize patterns in confirmed breast cancer diagnoses. The system has emerged as an incredibly promising new resource for radiologists to be more accurate in diagnoses, proving more accessible and affordable for poorer communities than other available options. His algorithms have achieved 91% accuracy, in comparison to the 87% accuracy of traditional mammograms.
Thanks to REAM Foundation support, *Friends of the Children provides comfort*. Brian is an awesome kid, full of curiosity and exuberance, who is living a very challenging life. His father died when he was in kindergarten, and his mom faces many of her own challenges. In the past few years, 7-year-old Brian has been abused, moved multiple times, attended five schools, and removed from his mother’s custody twice. Brian also struggles with his anger. His “Friend” Felix regularly spends quality time with Brian and shares, “I took him to the park where we just had fun playing and running.” He recently got Brian into therapy, and mom has attended several sessions too. “He is able to sleep for more than 7 hours now. He used to sleep for only 4-5 hours. . . He is doing so well!” In a life full of chaos and disruption, the one and only constant in Brian’s life this last year and a half has been Felix.

The REAM Foundation has an **impact across generations** by supporting the work of *Youth Outreach Services (YOS)*. Jessica grew up with an absent mother, bouts of gang involvement, domestic violence, and truancy. She landed at YOS, and her counselor there, Xavier, made a lasting impact on her life. The outreach program offered skill-building activities, fun, and connection. Jessica ended up naming her first child after Xavier. Soon after “Julian Xavier” was born, Jessica began struggling with homelessness, physical abuse from her gang-involved boyfriend, and single parenthood. Fourteen years later, Julian Xavier faced similar challenges as his parents. His grades were failing and he was suspended for a school fight. Jessica brought Julian in to YOS, and amazingly, Xavier was still there! Julian has now been attending the outreach program for over a year. Jessica shares, "YOS’s approach doesn't make kids feel like they are forced to do something. It is their own choice to be there. That was exactly what kept me coming back to the program as a kid, and I was happy I could now give that to my son." The results have been wildly positive. Julian is now in all honors and AP classes in high school. Jessica continues to advocate for at-risk youth and help out with Youth Outreach Services, saying “If we hadn't gone to YOS, I think we both would've been in jail or dead.”

*OneGoal* scholars are **finishing college debt-free**, with support from The REAM Foundation. It was never about the money. It was about two things: finishing college debt-free and having variety in choice. Patrick Ben is a recent graduate from a Chicago Public High School. Throughout the course of his senior year in OneGoal, he amassed more than $4.5 million in scholarship and financial aid offers from 68 different schools. Patrick says, “I didn’t want to limit myself. I wanted to have all the information in front of me before I narrowed it down. . . I know that college is going to be challenging at first. It’s going to be a different environment with new teachers and new opportunities. In high school, more people hold your hand each step of the way, and your parents wake you up to make sure you’re on time. Now it’s really on you to wake up and go to class. . . But I already feel like I’m doing something good by going to college and planning for my future. I’m standing for something positive in my community and as an example to other young Black men that they can do this, too.”