



clifford  
beers

MOVING FORWARD

## IMPACT

In one area high school, we increased course credits earned by students in our care by 67%.\* Learn more about our school-based impact [INSIDE!](#)

*\*Systems of Care '16-'17 school year*



# Making A Difference Through Collaboration: Barbara Dalio



Barbara Dalio

Since 2015, Barbara Dalio and the Dalio Foundation have provided more than \$2 million in grant funding to Clifford Beers to provide mental health clinicians and community

care coordinators for New Haven's public schools. Barbara leads her family foundation's work to strengthen public education, and she recently spoke with us about her immersive approach to philanthropy and its impact on New Haven's children, families, and schools.

Barbara, why are you passionate about supporting Clifford Beers and New Haven Public Schools?

Clifford Beers has a unique understanding of students' developmental needs, especially when children are experiencing trauma,

and how to support them. There is nothing more fundamental to a child's well-being and education than mental health.

You seem most interested in finding collaborative ways to engage and help youth who are most at risk. Why?

I appreciate those who work closely with children. I want to help enable these noble people to make profound and positive changes that they believe are required.

You spend a lot of time visiting public schools and hearing from teachers. What are you learning? What surprises you?

I am struck by the absence of resources to meet the important needs of students, and I am humbled by the teachers who work hard for their students under these conditions.

You have been immersed in public education philanthropy for nearly a decade. How has your philanthropy evolved over time, and what advice do you have for individuals seeking to support public education?

I have learned an enormous amount and have refined my approach to have much greater impact by working closely with public school leaders and educators, listening to their needs and suggestions. Together, we have achieved things despite the challenges we faced -- things like improved grades and

reduced truancy! These results will help children succeed. My recommendation to others is to go after your impossible dreams through an evolutionary process in partnership with great people and organizations like Clifford Beers who share your dreams.

**"Go after your impossible dreams through an evolutionary process in partnership with great people and organizations."**

- Barbara Dalio



**"I haven't told anyone this, but I'm going to tell the group because I trust you guys."**

- Martin, 14, speaking to his school-based group therapy peers

LOOK WHAT YOU'RE DOING! Martin is much better today, and he is included in the **46% of students whose attendance improved** following their second year in our care.

Read Martin's story at [www.cliffordbeers.org/martin](http://www.cliffordbeers.org/martin)

# A Very Special Moment: Your Support, Nicole, and a High School Diploma

Even under ideal circumstances, being 15 can be hard.

But if you're 15 and helping to care for two younger sisters while also lacking enough to eat and living in circumstances where either the heat bill or the electric bill gets paid, it's a lot harder. At times, it's nearly impossible.

"I wanted to give up," says Nicole, now 17. "There were a lot of nice people who were trying to help me and my family, but nothing stuck. So I just wanted to give up. There was no way I was going to do school work either."

At about that time, you turned it around for Nicole by supporting school-based clinical and community-based care! For Nicole, it all started when she and her grandmother met **Bryan Marks**, our school-based care coordinator.

"Nicole and her grandmother were really suspicious," recalls Bryan. "Other services hadn't worked, and they were just tired and not interested." It turns out that Bryan's first visit started just as night was falling, and when he turned on the light it didn't work. "No wonder she wasn't doing school work," Bryan says. "She couldn't see after 5:30!"

Bryan set right to work getting the family connected with utility assistance, and once the power went on the family believed there might be something to Bryan and care coordination.

"It wasn't that hard to do," he says,

of working with the power company, "but it had to be done. From then on we worked together as a team to straighten a lot of things out."

Yes, your support made possible even more connections between the family and community-based providers -- all in an effort to move the family forward toward their vision for wellness. As that happened and Nicole began to feel stable and supported, she resumed her school work. From there, fast forward to

Nicole's high school graduation where her guests included Bryan!

As the ceremony neared its end, the graduates were all given a white carnation and asked to give it to someone who was deserving . . . someone who played a significant role in getting them to commencement. Without hesitation, Nicole stood up,

walked straight to Bryan, and handed him both the flower and a great, big hug.

"We do tough work," he says, "and most of us get lots of thanks from the families. Every family has been special, but every once in a while a moment really gets you. Nicole and her graduation and her flower, now that was my moment."

It is also your moment. THANK YOU for each and every flower, real or not, that every child gives to Clifford Beers. It only happens because of YOU.



Bryan and Nicole  
Commencement 2017

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## Create Your Legacy Today!

A simple, life-affirming gift through your will or estate will set a lifetime course of health and wellness for a child and their family.

Your decisions now can change a life.

Contact: Jennifer Cretella  
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Hello, Friends --

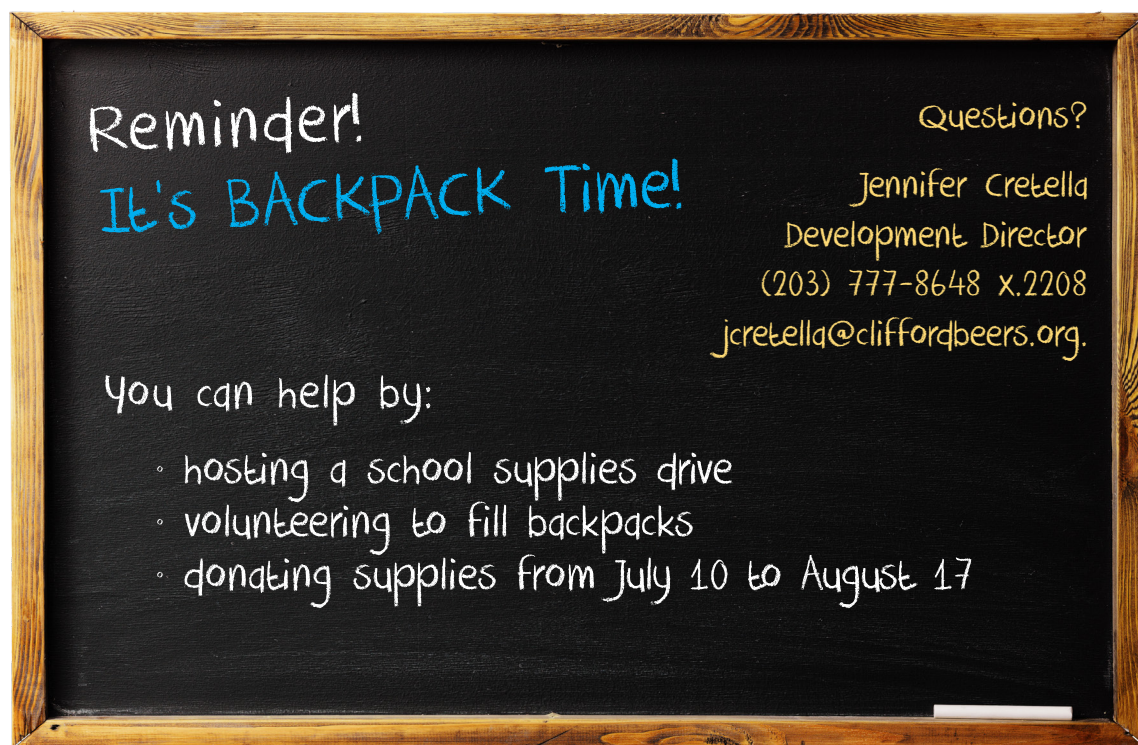
We hope you like the new look of this newsletter -- as well as the successes reported within!

Among other things, this school-based edition highlights the journey of one teen who might not have made it through school without your support! This newsletter also introduces you to Martin, a teenage boy with a riveting tale.

When you read these stories, please remember the many others who still need your kindness. For example, we know that nearly 50% of students we screen in schools face family mental health issues, nearly 33% have experienced life-changing stressful events, and nearly 33% have lost a family member to sudden death. These same students face housing instability and food insecurity and, on average, report experiencing 3+ stressful life events.

So, the need remains, yet it stands alongside the hope and compassion you bring to these families. Please know I am forever grateful for that. Thank you so much for caring.

Warmly,



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