

Winter 2019

# BREAKTHROUGH **Bulletin**

## TWIN CITIES



Welcome to the  
**Breakthrough  
Bulletin**

*BTC Executive Director,  
Josh Reimnitz with  
former student and  
Teaching Fellow,  
Hajira Wehelie*

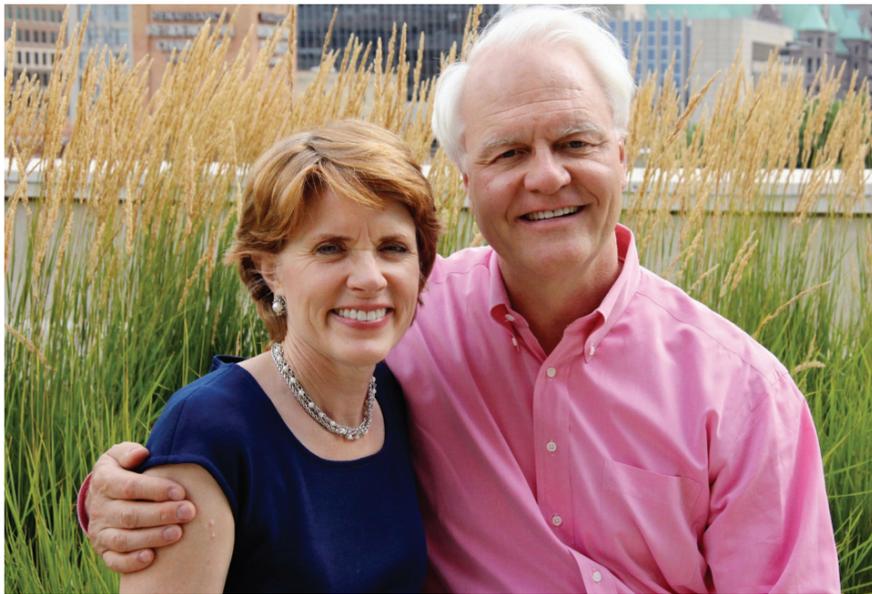
**Thank you for all that you do to support Breakthrough Twin Cities! Because of you, hundreds of young people are finding their way to college success.**

In addition to acknowledging your support, thank you for taking time out of your day to read this, the first edition of the *Breakthrough Bulletin*. We created this newsletter to stay in touch with you and celebrate the success of our students, Teaching Fellows, and you, the ones who make it all possible. Through this publication, we will share profiles of the people who live the Breakthrough mission and share news about the organization.

In this edition of the *Breakthrough Bulletin*, you will read about former Breakthrough student, Darartu Doto. Darartu is a rockstar Breakthrough alumna with an inspiring story I think you will really enjoy. We will also introduce you to Bill Manning and Ruth Mickelsen, committed, generous supporters. Bill and Ruth give so much to ensure Breakthrough students like Darartu have the support and guidance that helps them be successful in life.

I hope that through this newsletter, issued a few times a year, we are able to highlight the significance of your support and the impact you have on so many young lives.

Looking forward to staying in touch,



## Making an Impact

*Make plans to join Bill and Ruth at the Booyah Bash on Friday, May 3, 2019.*

Breakthrough Twin Cities is fortunate to benefit from support from many generous individuals who make our mission a reality. This May, Bill Manning and Ruth Mickelsen are getting even more involved with BTC by serving as Honorary Co-Chairs for our annual gala, the **Booyah Bash**.

Bill and Ruth were introduced to BTC by a friend who happens to be a longtime BTC donor and board member. Since attending a Visitor Day and the Booyah Bash, Bill and Ruth have been tremendous advocates for the students and program.

Ruth recalls observing a science classroom during a Visitor Day. "I was very impressed by the high level of energy of students and staff," she says, "the instructor was teaching in an intuitive way that really connected with the students."

The first time attending the Booyah Bash, Bill was seated next to the student speaker. He had the chance to get to know her and thought her speech made the mission of BTC and the students' journeys come alive. "When you see that level of success due to the intervention of a program it is really moving," said Bill. "So many of the students are so talented and smart, they just need the opportunity to succeed."

For Ruth and Bill, the Booyah Bash is the most inspirational event they attend each year. "It is a great event to be a part of and you walk away getting more than you give," shares Bill.

## Life After Breakthrough: Everything Big, Starts Small

*Darartu Doto,  
BTC Class 2014*



Darartu Doto arrived in Minnesota from Ethiopia in 2006 at the age of 10. Speaking no English, Darartu faced immediate, yet surmountable challenges. Two years later, she was accepted as a student to Breakthrough Twin Cities. "Breakthrough excited me about learning, instilled in me the value of hard work, and inspired me to pursue my passion," shares Darartu.

Darartu excelled in school and was excited to share her enthusiasm for education with other Breakthrough students – this time as a Teaching Fellow. As a rising high school senior, Darartu joined the BTC team as a Math Teaching Fellow instructing middle-school students.

As a (Bill and Melinda) Gates Millennium Scholar, Darartu graduated from Humboldt High School in 2014 and was admitted to Pomona College on a "full-ride". Four amazing years later, Darartu has graduated college with a degree in economics, but not before co-leading the first-ever Black Alternabreak spring break program connecting Pomona students with social justice programs, mentoring students on financial literacy, and fundraising for hurricane relief. Darartu has also shared her knowledge as a low-income, first generation immigrant student by publishing a book on how to survive college "You Don't Have to Have Your Future Figured Out".

Many have recognized Darartu's endless talent. She was awarded a Davis Project for Peace grant to conduct a women's health education program in Ethiopia in summer 2018. Darartu now works at Facebook where she completed two summer internships. Her longer-term goal is to become a social entrepreneur.

Her advice for younger students: "If you have an idea, make it happen yourself. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Everything big starts small."

*Pomona College in Claremont, CA is ranked #6 in national liberal arts colleges. US News and World Report 2018.*



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**Breakthrough Twin Cities**

*prepares under-resourced students for college success  
and cultivates the next generation of educators.*



Join us for the  
**Booyah Bash**

Friday, May 3, 2019  
from 6 - 9:30pm!

The **Booyah Bash** is a fantastic event, filled with a live auction, great food, and inspiration as we express great joy over lives transformed through Breakthrough Twin Cities! The **Booyah Bash** will be held at the Radisson Blu Mall of America, 2100 Killebrew Drive/Bloomington, MN/55425. To learn more, purchase a ticket, become a sponsor, or donate, call 651-748-5543, or visit [www.booyahbash2019.eventbrite.com](http://www.booyahbash2019.eventbrite.com)