



Dear **Friend and Supporter of The Butterfly Effect Project,**

Thank you for your unwavering support. One year ago, The Butterfly Effect Project opened the doors to our new home in Jamesport — a dream made a reality by your generosity. From this new headquarters, BEP has continued to spread its wings across Suffolk County, reaching more youth, families and communities. BEP sees each unique personal struggle and triumph as brushstrokes, painting a portrait of community impact. Every child, volunteer, staff member, donor and supporter adds brilliance and vibrancy to the BEP masterpiece. We celebrate both the individual and collective, understanding that the picture we are creating together grows richer and brighter every day.

As I share with you the beauty and depth of BEP's portrait of impact, I invite you to add your brushstroke through a year-end donation—ensuring we can continue painting brighter futures for our youth.



Check out all the cool things that you helped create!

Butterfly Destiny—affectionately known as “Li’l Bit”—first joined the Butterfly Effect Project at just three years old, our youngest ever member and unofficial mascot. When Destiny began to struggle academically and behaviorally, BEP stepped in with compassion and partnership. Executive Director Tia Fulford worked directly with her school’s assistant principal to identify the roots of those challenges, creating positive reinforcement strategies that helped Destiny feel safe seeking help. The results were remarkable—her attendance, participation, and grades improved dramatically. The school requested that BEP implement programming for other students like Li’l Bit, and that’s how BEP’s school chapters were born. Over the past five years, participants in BEP’s school programs at Riverhead’s five elementary schools have increased attendance by 7.2% and GPAs by 8.6%. This year, BEP’s reach continues to expand—adding John Marshall Elementary in East Hampton and Bridgehampton School to their roster. As for Li’l Bit, today at 13, she is on the honor roll, shines as Captain of BEP’s Shooting Starz Dance Team, and recently earned a full scholarship to Mattituck Yacht Club’s sailing camp.



Each of BEP’s 30 Chapters is in need of a sponsor. Multiply Destiny’s story exponentially and add color to our living artwork by sponsoring a chapter today.

BEP began with a mission to serve girls, but boys, formerly known affectionately as Mosquitos and now known officially as Dragonflies, were always a part of our community. As we’ve grown we’ve recognized the need for boys to have their own safe space to tackle the obstacles unique to them, and that’s how our Dragonfly Chapter was initiated. The transformation we have witnessed within this chapter is astounding. Harlem, who is on the autism spectrum, has found a home in the Dragonfly Chapter. Accustomed to being treated differently by classmates and adults, he noticed that wasn’t the case at BEP. His peers and mentors see him for who exactly he is— an individual with immense talent, great determination, and boundless capability. Under his Dragonfly

Ambassador Mr. Troy's mentorship, and with support and guidance from fellow neurodivergent Dragonfly Junior Volunteer Prinse, Harlem is now painting boldly with his own unique, vibrant color. From stepping into the leading role of Scar in BEP's joint production of *The Lion King Jr.* with *Our Fabulous Variety Show*, to diving into the pool to compete in the 50 meter freestyle, Harlem is making his mark on our masterpiece.

BEP's canvas is missing a vital color—school programming for boys. Donate today to jumpstart Dragonfly chapters and boost boys' engagement and academic achievement.



Prinse, Harlem's role model, is truly remarkable, and many are taking notice. Like Harlem, Prinse was often underestimated by others, but then he joined BEP. His fellow Butterflies and Dragonflies encouraged him to step into his power, and let the world see his light. Discovering his passion for social justice, Prinse participates in the Butterfly Action Group, advocating for community change, and is President of BEP's newest chapter, Heritage Hive, which is a youth-led bridge connecting past, present, and future through stories and ancestry. He recently became a Junior Volunteer and now helps to lead the Dragonfly Chapter and never fails to volunteer at a BEP event— giving back to the community he loves and setting an example for others. Prinse has transitioned from Riverhead's Northstar Academy— a cohort for at-risk students— to a graduation track at Riverhead High School, and has already received six college acceptances and one scholarship. His teachers are so impressed with his metamorphosis that they are now requesting a BEP Chapter be implemented at the school, with Prinse at the helm. Prinse doesn't just shine his light, he radiates positivity in vivid color.

Consider donating to jumpstart BEP programming at Riverhead's Northstar Academy, and hand paintbrushes of possibility to at-risk students.



Jamia Greene and Alexandria Fulford grew up within the Butterfly Effect Project. They were among the original eight Butterflies who joined in 2014. At just nine years old, both girls were quiet and hesitant to engage in school or extracurricular activities without a lot of encouragement. But BEP is unlike any other program. It doesn't simply offer opportunities—it listens, adapts, and creates programming that reflects participants' needs, strengths, and passions. Just as importantly, BEP's leaders come from the very communities they serve, mirroring the youth they mentor and fostering authentic trust and connection. As BEP grew into a multifaceted organization and diverse, close-knit community, Lexi and Jamia blossomed into confident, radiant young women. Within BEP, those once-reserved children became youth leaders and role models, running chapter meetings, driving change through the Butterfly Action Group, taking center stage as dancers in the Elite and Butterfly Blitz Squads, and giving back to their community in countless ways. Today, both young women have graduated high school and are pursuing bachelor's degrees—Jamia at Virginia State University and Lexi at Lincoln University.

Jamia's and Lexi's stories are not anomalies, they are just two out of the hundreds of inspiring portraits that make up the BEP mosaic. *In fact, while only 62.8% of high school graduates attend college nationwide, 86% of BEP participants enroll in higher education.*

A year-end donation will ensure youth like Jamia and Lexi continue to color the world brighter, and lead the way for the next generation of change artists.

Each child, mentor, community member, family, supporter, and donor adds color, depth, and meaning to a picture that is greater than any one of us — a portrait of resilience, belonging, and growth. We wish you and yours very happy, healthy and safe holidays. Thank you for making BEP possible, and for giving as generously as you can this season.



How to Create a Ripple Effect:

Your generous donation, no matter the size, creates a ripple effect not just for the child or their community, but for the community at large. We all have the opportunity to make a difference. Thank you for utilizing yours.

Create a Ripple Effect! (\$25 - \$10,000)

Create a Flutter! (\$25,000 - \$49,000)

Create a Frenzy! (\$50,000 - \$100,000)

With love and gratitude,

Tijuana Fulford

Founder & Executive Director

