



CHAngemakers

Education, especially a college degree, is a proven pathway out of poverty. For CHA resident and three-time scholarship recipient Ahriel Fuller, education is a game changer. Growing up with five younger brothers in a single-parent household, Ahriel worked hard in school and knew she wanted to go to college, but the question was how?

CHA's non-profit affiliate, Springboard to Success, was her answer. Thanks to the scholarship support Ahriel received, her dream of earning a college degree became a reality. She graduated in 2017 cum laude from Dominican University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. Next year, she will attend law school at either Georgetown or Howard University, with the ultimate goal of becoming a civil rights attorney.



CHAngemaker Ahriel Fuller graduated with honors from Dominican University and is headed to law school with the goal of becoming a civil rights lawyer

While Ahriel received federal aid for her college tuition, her CHA scholarship helped her pay for living expenses, like meal plans and textbooks. "I just kept reapplying," Ahriel said of the CHA scholarship, "and I received the scholarship each time I applied. Support from CHA made my college experience much easier - without those scholarships, I would have struggled to focus on my studies while also facing significant financial barriers."

Ahriel isn't the only student who has benefited from CHA's scholarships - since 2014, CHA's scholarship program has distributed \$250,000 in annual scholarships to 220 residents, and 86% of the recipients have graduated or are currently enrolled in college.

In fact, Ahriel was so grateful for CHA's support that she wrote the agency a letter: "I wanted to take the time to thank CHA and its team for providing me with the scholarship that allowed me to pursue my dreams. I don't know if I would have successfully graduated without financial help from CHA, and for that I am truly forever grateful."

With her dreams well within reach, Ahriel encourages other CHA residents to follow their ambitions. "Don't compare yourself to others because everyone's definition of success is different," she said. "Measure your success by your own standards. And no matter how many barriers may be in your way, know that you have to keep pushing, while also taking time to care for yourself."

If you'd like to support other CHA residents, like Ahriel, in their pursuit of a college education, please consider donating to Springboard. For further information, contact Springboard at S2S@thecha.org.