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Breaktime Named to Forbes 30 Under 30 for Mission to End Young Adult Homelessness

The national recognition comes less than three years after Breaktime’s inception, during which the Boston nonprofit has empowered young adults experiencing homelessness through purposeful employment.

Boston, April 14, 2021 — Breaktime, a youth-led nonprofit working to end young adult homelessness in Boston, was named to the 2021 Forbes 30 Under 30 Social Impact list and featured by the magazine in a March article. Co-founders Connor Schoen, 22, and Tony Shu, 21, were recognized for Breaktime’s mission that tackles both youth homelessness and community health issues through one initiative.

In 2020, Breaktime launched its Double Impact Initiative — a transitional employment and job training program — which, to date, has employed 40 young adults experiencing homelessness who prepared and served over 700,000 nutritious meals to food-insecure individuals while earning a living wage. Through purposeful, skill-building transitional employment, Breaktime empowers young adults experiencing homelessness to build stability in their lives while also promoting community health throughout Boston.

Backed by the City of Boston, Liberty Mutual, BlackRock, as well as hundreds of other partners, Breaktime has expanded the Double Impact Initiative’s adaptive model since last year to fill the pressing labor needs of community health organizations across Boston, whose work has only become more vital during the pandemic. To serve those urgent staffing needs in 2021, Breaktime has established job placements for young adults experiencing homelessness at nonprofit partners including food pantries, soup kitchens, and community health centers throughout Boston.

Schoen and Shu, who met while volunteering at a youth-run homeless shelter as Harvard undergraduates, founded Breaktime in 2018. They are among the youngest Forbes 30 Under 30 honorees this year.

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