As an offensive lineman in the National Football League (NFL), Tutan Reyes’ primary responsibility was removing any obstacles that stood in the way of the quarterback’s ability to perform. But Tutan is no stranger to eliminating obstacles. For the NFL vet, a scholarship was his gateway to a college education that seemed otherwise unobtainable. Without it, he doesn’t know how he would have overcome the tremendous hurdle of paying for college.

Paving the way for others, Tutan founded Beyond the Boroughs, a national scholarship fund that rewards college-minded students from low-income families that have college acceptance letters, but unmet financial needs. Scholarships can be up to $20,000 over four years. These “last dollars in” can make the difference in fulfilling these students’ dreams of a college education, which is so important for success today.

Beyond the Boroughs also believes that like a college education, charity should not be reserved for the privileged few. Our motto -- “If you have a little, give a little and if you have a lot, give more” -- has inspired many people and groups to fund scholarships, embodying the true meaning of philanthropy. By making a commitment to donate $20,000 over four years, donors can choose specific characteristics of the scholarship recipient, such as gender, race, high school, area of study or geographic area.

Beyond the Boroughs scholars recently participated in a service learning trip to Botswana with The Somarela Fund. Pictured (left to right) are Ray Reyes (Administrator, Beyond the Boroughs), Mariadis Akinci (University of Central Florida), Amy Pruim (St. John’s University), Cathy Williams (Syracuse University) and Tutan Reyes (Founder, Beyond the Boroughs).

Donations can be easily made online at www.beyondtheboroughs.org or by mailing a check to Beyond the Boroughs, 282 Katonah Ave., Suite 122, Katonah, NY 10536. Beyond the Boroughs is a 501c3 public non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.
Beyond the Boroughs Highlights:

- Has awarded a total of 40 scholarships since it was founded

- Students currently attend:
  - The Culinary Institute
  - Johnson & Wales University
  - Mount Holyoke College
  - New York University
  - St. John’s University
  - Syracuse University
  - University of California/Berkeley
  - University of Central Florida
  - Wayne State University

- Selected as a partner organization by:
  - Oscar de la Renta, Inc.
  - The Somarela Fund, which sends students to Botswana to engage in a three-week long community service project
  - Opportunity Network, which offers internships, networking opportunities and college preparation programs
  - HOPE Africa, an organization that seeks to boost young African leaders through education, selected Beyond the Boroughs to administer five named scholarships in 2012 and five more in 2013

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