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## **Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation Congratulates Winners of 2023 Student Entrepreneurship Competition**

June 12, 2023 (OAK PARK, Illinois) — The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation wishes to congratulate Breakthrough, winners of the 2023 Business Incubator Showcase at Oak Park and River Forest High School. Breakthrough is a “rage room” concept for teens, where customers can experience a release of frustration and combine it with mindfulness and other coping strategies afterward. Team members Zoe Hendrickson, Mia Lanz Moreyra, Maya Schwartz, Angelina Sunardio and Alison George were awarded \$4,000 from the Entrepreneur Leaders in Philanthropy Fund, which may be used to start their business or as contributions to their college tuition.

In 2017 OPRF High School introduced “incubatoredu,” a globally recognized program that offers students an authentic entrepreneurship experience. Fifty-four students participated in this year’s program across 14 teams, during which they created and developed a business concept, received mentorship and coaching from local business owners, and presented elevator pitches to a board of advisors for a chance to win funding for their project, provided through a grant from the Foundation.

“We are grateful to steward the Entrepreneur Leaders in Philanthropy Fund, and are delighted to support this important educational opportunity for local students,” said Tony Martinez, Jr., president and CEO of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation. “The lessons learned in OPRF’s business incubator program will be useful no matter what field these students ultimately go into, whether it’s business or medicine or the nonprofit sector.”

In addition to Breakthrough, Team Bubbl, composed of Zoey Schulman, Gabriel Wolter, Elijah Mowatt, and Markiiian Skomarovski, won the Huskie's Choice award, based on staff votes as well as live voting from the audience.

“The Foundation has supported the incubatoredu program since its inception at OPRF, through funding materials to conduct concept testing, to providing start-up or scholarship funding to the ‘most investable’ team for the last four years,” said Matt Prebble, business education department chair at OPRF High School. “The financial elements makes the experience more real for the students, and helps us make the program more engaging and fulfilling for them.”

**About the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation**

Founded in 1959, The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation has built lasting, impactful connections among area residents and locally-based service programs. Today as an integral presence in the community, the Foundation's mission is to unite community members and mobilize resources to advance a racially just society and equitable outcomes for residents of Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding neighborhoods in western Cook County. Learn more about the Foundation's programs and services online at [oprfcf.org](http://oprfcf.org).

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