Creating futures
Nonprofit supports low-income students

By Helen Wolt
Staff writer

Denisha Merriweather is bubbly when she talks about her future. She'll soon complete a master's degree and start a career in social work. It's a remarkable turnaround for a girl who struggled in third grade and said she disliked school.

Merriweather said she owes her success to Step Up For Students, a scholarship program for low-income families. She shared her story at Breakthru Beverage Group in Fort Lauderdale on the occasion of its $65 million contribution to the nonprofit.

Formerly known as Premier Beverage, 2016 marks the fifth year Breakthru has come through for students. Since 2011, it has presented $154 million to Step Up.

"Step Up opened the door for me to receive a quality education. I am the first in my family to graduate from high school," Merriweather said.

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