

Extra Mile Award → The Rainbow Project

The Rainbow Project's 2021 Extra Mile Award

Shaya Schreiber

The Rainbow Project is honored to present Shaya Schreiber with an Extra Mile Award this year. Since receiving her Master's Degree in social work, Shaya Schreiber has spent the past 10 years working and advocating in local elementary schools. Last year, Shaya lead COVID-19 relief efforts that provided families in our neighborhoods with emergency bill and rent assistance, grocery delivery and household necessities. Through this, she was able to help an average of 300 families survive a very difficult year. One of Shaya's co-workers notes that Shaya started at Midvale Elementary one month after the pandemic started and that "she's never beaten down by barriers and actively seeks and puts forward solutions to ensure families & students are getting what they need." Shaya has also been involved in securing funding for trauma-informed and social-emotional resources for children in area schools. These programs provide emotional support and teach skills for children to overcome their traumas and achieve academic success. Shaya works closely with children and their families who have social and behavioral needs in the classroom. She is a case manager and support team coordinator for children who are in need of an IEP or 504 plan. Shaya teams up with special education teachers to ensure that students' needs are being met.

In addition to all of this, Shaya has collaborated with various organizations in our community. She currently participates in the MMSD Title VI Indian Education Committee, which supports the education and cultural needs of Native American students. In the past, Shaya has collaborated with organizations such as Early Childhood Zones, Joining Forces for Families and Building Bridges. Her colleague notes, "Shaya is truly a transformational leader that puts students and families at the center of everything she does. She is a fierce advocate that thinks holistically about the health and well-being of students. Beyond her work in the schools, she is constantly in the community, making partnerships and building relationships that benefit more than just those that have the means and access to get what they need."

During the 2020-21 school year, Shaya went above and beyond the call of duty for school staff. She, along with colleague Paola Otten-Romero, was instrumental in maintaining connections between team members, coordinating sessions for clients, and facilitating communication between the Rainbow Project and a family. They were able to work with the Rainbow Project so that a team of therapists were able to meet with members of a family in a safe and consistent space. Without them, a team of therapists would have struggled to deliver therapeutic services in unprecedented times. We thank them for their passion and dedication to the families we all serve and to working collaboratively with others in the mental health fields.

Please join us in thanking Shaya Schreiber for her dedication to children and families in our community and congratulating her on receiving this year's Extra Mile Award!

