



**For Immediate Release**

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***exalt* Receives \$5 Million Donation from MacKenzie Scott to Support Court-Involved Youth and Advance Juvenile Justice Efforts in NYC**

**NEW YORK** – Today, *exalt* announced a donation of \$5 million by Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The funding will expand the organization’s work with court-involved teenagers.

The following is a statement from *exalt* Executive Director Gisele Castro.

“We are honored to receive this transformational gift. It will allow *exalt* to significantly expand our work with court-involved young people in all five boroughs on their journeys away from the criminal justice system and towards academic progression, and employability.

“It is no secret that there is an over-representation of young people of color in the criminal justice system and now we have an incredible opportunity to keep more of them free of incarceration. This gift will allow *exalt* to empower at-risk young people not just to escape the cycle of poverty, abuse, and trauma, but to be truly liberated.

“I thank Ms. Scott for entrusting me with this investment and acknowledging *exalt’s* commitment to racial justice, equity and eradicating the school-to-prison pipeline”.

**About *exalt***

*exalt* is a nonprofit serving court-involved young people ages 15-19 in New York City to move them away from the criminal justice system and back to engagement with education and meaningful work. The nonprofit provides a 21-week intensive curriculum, paired with court advocacy and placement in a paid internship.

- 95% of *exalt* graduates do not recidivate.
- 98% are re-engaged in high school on track to graduate by age 20.
- 76% achieve sentence reductions to prevent further educational/employment barriers.
- 100% are matched with dynamic paid internships into high-growth sectors.
- Of the youth that *exalt* served in FY21, 97% identify as people of color and 20% identify as women of color.