What Changed?

% of participants preparing 3 meals/day at home for their family
32 → 75

% of participants able to pay all bills without additional support
37 → 80

% of participants with a completed high school education
63 → 85

Collective amount of predatory debt paid off during the pilot
$10,000

Having medicine on hand for a child’s allergies, obtaining all necessary school supplies and uniforms for children, owning a bed, having sufficient funds to pay a monthly energy bill...

These are just a few of the expenses participants in The Magnolia Mother’s Trust reported finally being able to take care of that were not possible with limited voucher programs that provide for some food and housing expenses but little more.

The 2019 pilot of The Magnolia Mother’s Trust provided $1000 of unrestricted, no-strings-attached cash to 20 low-income, African American mothers in Jackson, MS to better understand how a non-punitive, trust based benefit, like guaranteed income, could support families in not only exiting poverty but knowing that they have the freedom, dignity, and agency to be the authors of their own lives.

“[The Magnolia Mother’s Trust] made me realize that I want to do more. This is not it, there is more out there, and I want to push myself to do more... find a better job and think for myself.”

-Tia Cunningham

How did participants report spending the money?

1. Transportation/Travel
2. Purchasing a home
3. Paying bills
4. Education expenses
5. Credit improvement

100% said they have enough money to meet their basic needs
100% reported worrying less because of their met needs
100% saw an increase in positive family engagement
100% feel hopeful about their future in 5 years