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### **Local New York student receives prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Award**

Breakthrough New York, a nonprofit that excels in preparing high-achieving middle school students in underserved communities for the rigors of college-preparatory high school and higher education, is pleased to announce that one of its students are among the 75 2008 recipients of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Young Scholars Program, which provides financial assistance to academically exceptional incoming eighth graders so that they can continue pursuing their intellectual passions.

Avery Martinez of Breakthrough New York, chosen from approximately 1,000 applicants, will benefit from scholarships that can go toward academic summer programming, distance learning courses, arts instruction, and other scholastic or enrichment classes. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation works closely with the Young Scholars to custom-tailor a program that meets their intellectual needs. For most of the beneficiaries, the funding will last through their college years.

"This is such a huge honor for us and for Avery. As a program, it is truly an affirmation of the work that we do for students. With the right support and opportunities, our students can and will succeed at the highest levels," said Rhea Wong, Executive Director of Breakthrough New York.

Founded in 1999, Breakthrough New York is one affiliate of the Breakthrough Collaborative which annually serves approximately 2,750 middle school students, most of whom are of color and come from low-income families, through a students-teaching students program that matches them with talented high school and college students who serve as their teachers, mentors and role models. Middle school students attend academic summer Breakthrough programs in their respective cities and participate in after-school and weekend programs throughout the year.

For more information about Breakthrough New York call 917-258-3459 or go to [www.breakthroughnewyork.org](http://www.breakthroughnewyork.org). Breakthrough New York is located at 540 E. 76<sup>th</sup> St, New York, NY 10021.