

Hello! My name is Jillian Haun. I am a hairstylist and the founder of The Beauty Project hair chair and Foundation! Thank you for coming to the FUNKRAISER! It means a lot to me and to the people that have helped put this together!

It feels vulnerable for me to put The Beauty Project out into the world because it is where my whole heart and soul lives and breathes. I have poured myself into this project.

I started The Beauty Project as a research project a few years into my career because it felt like the beauty industry wasn't promoting real and raw beauty. It felt like we were selling something that didn't belong to our truest, most beautiful selves. It seemed we were selling something manufactured and untruthful. I no longer would allow myself to believe that this was beauty.

But I didn't know what real and true beauty was. So I began interviewing people about what beauty was and what it was that made them beautiful. Turns out, I was right. It wasn't what we were sold and told it was our whole lives.

It was walking next to the ocean while the breeze whisked across our nose. It was the moment our baby giggled at a silly face. It was a feeling of awe and inspiration. It was the moments that were tough to capture into words but made the heart feel butterflies and the eyes tear up a bit. Beauty was authenticity.

I was deeply moved. And began to understand that it was time for me to check in with myself about what it meant to me to work inside of the beauty industry.

Alongside this exploration I would volunteer doing haircuts for the unhoused community on my days off. I noticed how on those days I experienced the most beauty. I experienced humanity's vulnerability. It wasn't about vanity nor trends. It was simply about being cared for, feeling valued, and feeling worthy of basic grooming with a little relaxation.

As a devoted hairstylist, I've witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of giving someone a haircut. It's hard to put into words the deep impact that something that is thought to be so superficial has on each of us. I have seen that having your hair match your insides and your insides match your outsides is a larger influence than our culture gives it credit for.

There had to be a way to make beauty services more accessible while ensuring the service provider could pay their own bills. So I began an experiment, collecting my gratuity into a savings account so I could pay myself later for giving haircuts on a sliding scale. It soon became a community funded pay it forward program and then a 501c3 non-profit last year!

In a world that often emphasizes unreasonable external appearances, The Beauty Project Foundation empowers individuals to embrace their unique beauty and fosters inclusivity within an industry that has historically set narrow standards.

Picture a world where everyone, regardless of their background or financial circumstances, has the opportunity to explore their beauty and self expression. The Beauty Project Foundation envisions and actively works towards making this a reality. It's not just about having your hair "perfect"; it's about nurturing self-expression, building confidence, and dismantling barriers that have restricted so many.

The Beauty Project Foundation aims to be a beacon of hope for those who may have been overlooked or underestimated by the salon world. It's about breaking down societal norms that dictate who can participate in the beauty industry.

By supporting The Beauty Project Foundation, we are advocating for a more inclusive world where everyone has the right to pursue their passion and be seen for the unique beauty that they bring. When we enable individuals to deeply explore who they are in the world we invite them to contribute to a much more vibrant and diverse community than what we are sold and told it should be.

Spearheading this grassroots organization has been an astonishing experience because of the community that supports it. We all know how good it feels when we have a fresh haircut. Why should this very human experience be kept from someone that is experiencing financial distress? It might just be the very thing that brings them the most beauty they've had in a long while. We all deserve to have access to our own beauty.

As we come together to support this wild dream of mine, let us recognize the importance of embracing diversity while dismantling systemic barriers. Let us stand united in the belief that beauty knows no boundaries. By contributing to this cause, we are not just supporting a

foundation; but we are also investing in a brighter, more inclusive future for the beauty industry and, ultimately, for society as a whole.

Thank you for choosing to be here today.

Thank you for choosing to support access to beauty services.

Thank you for choosing to support my hopes and dreams.

You have my word, I will give this thing my absolute all!

Thank you for believing in me.