

On Thursday, March 30th, the NERC Young Professionals Board hosted an intimate "Meet & Mingle" event for current scholarship recipients and alumni at the By Design office in midtown Manhattan. Intentionally marketed as a non-fundraiser, the event focused on awareness and community-building, or as YPB members preferred to describe it: "Bringing people into the KASF family."

The sound of laughter and chatting floated throughout the By Design office as nearly 30 attendees engaged deeply with one another and with the KASF members. Two attendees - former Western Region scholarship recipients - asked to be invited to the next YPB meeting. Attendees, reluctant to leave, helped clean up and pack food - as expected of any good family gathering. One recipient attendee noted: "I went with gratitude for this organization who once supported me ages ago (10 years to be exact) when I really needed it - I was in college holding down four jobs at a time to put myself through school, and felt like I should give back now. But what I wasn't expecting to find and was surprised by was how it felt so familiar and welcoming."

Despite it not being a fundraiser, we were still able to raise net \$160 through donations. We want to especially thank Ms. Jay Lee (former NERC President) for providing the venue, Joju through David Kang (current YPB member) and his partner for the food donation, and Ms. Joann Lee (current NERC President) for donating drinks and fruit platters. We would also like to thank Michelle Cho from KASF National for sending the email blast to the KASF database and for all her support!

