Community partners make a program greater than the sum of its parts.

Bridge to Employment – Madrid, Spain seeks to alleviate the social, educational, and economic inequalities among Spain’s at-risk youth. The program targets students, between the ages of 16 and 22 years old, enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant and Pharmaceutical Aid programs (Middle Vocational Training grades). Five individuals representing different organizations and interests come together to make this program happen:

**Esperanza Breso** is the Johnson & Johnson Bridge to Employment champion. She works with all partners and serves as the internal contact person for all local operating company volunteers.

**Carmen Luis** brings together education partners ranging from Prado de Santo Domingo High school and the Complutense University in Madrid.

**Ivelise Mattos** coordinates and participates in BTE activities ranging from mentor training, project planning, and student English classes. Ivelise works with teachers, volunteers and students to organize timetables, venues, and materials.

**Inés Moradillos** represents Villaverde High School and acted as a facilitator during the design and implementation phases of the project.

**Irene Muñoz de la Nava** is from Fundación Tomillo and serves as the link between the Johnson & Johnson, community partners, students, high schools, and rest of collaborators (University/ education centers/ teachers, volunteers, etc). As one colleague describes, Irene “is the soul of the project and her enthusiasm is the power that moves the BTE machine.”
My BTE Story

Students of Madrid

Bridge to Employment (BTE) challenges students, often transforming adolescents into mature and driven adults ready to enter exciting healthcare fields. Consider just two of the students of BTE-Madrid.

Iris Gómez Adarve
BTE Student and ABTS Ambassador (2012)

Iris learned who she could really be through the BTE-Madrid program. She entered the program unsure of herself and her future. As one mentor and leader described, “Iris’ evolution has been more than amazing, not only for the link created with (BTE), but also for her maturity, self-confidence and personal autonomy acquired during the project. By participating in (BTE) and making it part of herself, Iris gained a sense of confidence and trustworthiness which have pushed her to develop the potential she has.”

Natalia Vilchez Ávila
BTE Alumni

Natalia is a shining example of a young woman who can rise above adversity. During her time in the BTE-Madrid program, Natalia faced one of the most difficult situations any young person can face—the illness and death of her mother. Yet through this challenging time, Natalia remained a dedicated student, devoted to BTE activities, and successfully passed the test to continue higher vocational education. Today, Natalia is gainfully employed in her field of study.

The impact for Madrid students is profound:

- 58 students from three area secondary schools enrolled in the BTE program.
- 218 students indirectly served by the program and its activities.
- 84.2% of BTE students successfully passed degree exams.
- 36 out of 57 students (63%) are employed in the health field—substantially better than the Spanish Youth Unemployment Rate (currently 51%); a total of 52 contracts were offered to BTE students. Additional employment expected following program graduation.