Seventy-five percent of students who joined College Bound in 2006, now seniors in college, are on track to graduate in their mid-20s — the same rate as high-income students the same age.

The kids we serve often have parents who are incarcerated or absent, or who work multiple jobs, and the kids are left to fend for themselves,” said Zarin, of St. Louis, who serves as chief executive officer for College Bound. That’s why College Bound provides resources such as tutoring, test preparation and field trips to cultural events, but also social service referrals and workshops that teach life skills like financial literacy and conflict resolution.

On May 17, Zarin will be honored as a Woman of Achievement for her work with College Bound, as well as her efforts with other organizations. She is a founding board member of Meds & Food for Kids, a nonprofit group that addresses malnourishment in Haiti.

A two-time survivor of endometrial cancer, Zarin also serves as a patient advocate for Specialized Program of Research Excellence in Endometrial Cancer (SPORE). In this program, she helps endometrial cancer patients understand their illness by presenting research on this type of cancer in layman’s terms.