

Stocks in the Future (SIF) teaches middle school students financial life skills while providing them incentives to improve their school performance



SIF Welcomes Jessica McKearin as our New Development Associate!!

Jessica McKearin joined Stocks in the Future in mid-November as its new Development Associate. She will be assisting the SIF Executive Director, Fundraising Committee and others on the SIF Board with developing an organizational fundraising strategy and identifying new donor prospects.

In her previous position as Director of Special Events at the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA,) Jessica spent four years coaching volunteers on creating and executing successful fundraising events on behalf of the rare disease organization. In addition, she also acted as an executive assistant at PHA for two years, where she aided in board development and corporate relations.

Jessica is a licensed graduate social worker and has a Master of Social Work with a concentration in management and community organization from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. She graduated cum laude from the University of Maryland College Park with a BS in Psychology and a minor in Women's Studies. Jessica enjoys spending time with her family: husband Jonathan and 11-month-old son, Nate.

Stocks in the Future has much to be thankful for...

Lynn Saul, SIF Instructional Facilitator: “ I am thankful for the SIF program and our amazing teachers who continually develop relationships and inspire our future leaders. I am also thankful for all SIF Principals for making SIF possible in their schools. I am also inspired by board members, staff, students, teachers and principals. The dedication and vision of all parties to build the SIF community and bring financial literacy to all is extraordinary.”



Cherise Hursey, SIF Administrative Coordinator: “I am thankful for our new staff and board members that bring a fresh perspective to SIF. SIF has grown in more than the numbers of student that we teach. From Board participation to committee involvement, SIF continues to build on the solid foundation it was created upon. I am thankful to be a member of such a positive and rewarding program!”

Jessica McKearin, SIF Development Associate: “I am thankful for all of SIF’s sponsors and supporters who make it possible for us to help our students along the path to high school graduation and lay the foundation for financial literacy. I am also thankful for our motivated and committed Board of Directors, who oversee this great organization. We couldn’t do it without each of these amazing groups!”

Stephanie Marando-Blanck, SIF Office Assistant: “I am thankful that I get to work in such a friendly environment. I am thankful that I can learn about different stocks and various news events associated with them, which I would probably overlook otherwise. I am thankful that I can help out such an important cause to help children learn the values of education and hard work, not to mention money-saving skills that most adults have yet to acquire.” *Stephanie works part time for SIF and is a Johns Hopkins University Psychology Undergrad from New Jersey.*

Rebecca Lange- Thernes, SIF Executive Director: “I’m very thankful for all the various experiences I have at Stocks in the Future. I work with an amazing group of

people! A typical day includes interaction with the best & brightest of Johns Hopkins University, rambunctious middle schoolers who are proud of being investors and community activists impressed with the benefits in our program. I'm lucky to talk with principals and parents who only want the best for their children; people in finance and business who want everyone of have secure economic future. I've been inspired by our founder, Pat Bernstein who has relentless energy that has pushed this program forward and our staff who put their "all" into tasks both great and small. Everyone associated with SIF inspires me to do the best I can and dive into the challenges. I'm grateful for humor and snacks, long hours and short tasks and mostly all of YOU dedicated to our cause!

Last Minute Shopping... The philanthropic "Black Friday"



In order to claim a tax deductible donation for income tax filing, donors should follow a few guidelines as suggested by the Internal Revenue Service. Most important of all the requirements is to donate to the charity of your choice by December 31. Donating to tax exempt charities is not only a rewarding way to help give back to communities at large, it also comes with the added bonus of reaping tax credit benefits! Read more at [IRS End of Year Giving Tax Tips](#).

SIF Wishes a Festive and Safe Holiday Season to All!