

Stocks in the Future Hosts Inaugural March Market Madness Benefit

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Proceeds support the organization's Financial Literacy Program for at-risk middle school students; Baltimore native and best-selling author Joe Mechlinski served as keynote speaker

On March 26, **Stocks in the Future (SIF)**, a nonprofit organization, hosted its inaugural *March Market Madness* benefit to support the organization's Financial Literacy Program. During the event, keynote speaker Joe Mechlinski, co-founder of entreQuest and author of *New York Times* bestseller *Grow Regardless*, shared his experiences as a graduate of the Baltimore City Public School system and his path to success in young adulthood. The event also featured a panel of SIF principals, teachers, and student alumni, a stock market forecasting contest, and a silent auction.

SIF provides financial literacy skills with a focus on investing to middle school students in underserved areas. While learning financial skills, SIF students receive incentives, such as a "SIF Dollar" for each week of perfect attendance and performance. These dollars are used to purchase and invest in pre-approved publicly traded companies that they can claim a year after high school graduation and turning 18 years old.

About Stocks in the Future (SIF)

Stocks in the Future is a nonprofit dedicated to improving the attendance and performance of middle school students in underserved areas who have high absentee rates. Through a partnership with Johns Hopkins University, SIF has developed a curriculum that teaches students financial literacy skills with a focus on investing. While learning these skills each week, SIF students receive incentives; one being a "SIF Dollar" for each week of perfect attendance. These dollars are used to purchase shares in publicly traded companies that become theirs when claimed a year after high school graduation and turning 18. Students have the opportunity to learn real life skills while receiving encouragement to stay in school. 972 students in 16 area schools are currently enrolled. For more information, visit [www.SIFonline.org \(http://www.sifonline.org/\)](http://www.sifonline.org).