

Stocks In The Future 2015 Class To Graduate On May 20 At The Enoch Pratt Free Library

5/16/15

More than 200 Eighth Grade Students from Eight Schools throughout Baltimore – Primarily in Underserved Areas – will Receive a Certificate for Completing the Three-Level Financial Literacy Program

Stocks in the Future (SIF) —a non-profit organization that teaches at-risk middle school students financial life skills and improves their investment in school and themselves by encouraging and awarding them for good grades and attendance—announced today that its 2015 class will graduate from the three-level program on Wednesday, May 20 at 10 a.m. at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

More than 200 students from eight schools throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area will participate in the ceremony, which serves to celebrate their success and mastery of basic financial literacy concepts, investing and financial life skills. During the ceremony special recognition will be given to the three students who earned the most “SIF Dollars,” which are given to students to encourage good letter grades and discourage absenteeism.

Luke Cooper, co-founder & chief executive officer of Peach, a warranty analytics and comparison platform that summarizes hundreds of insurance options into “Plain English,” will serve as keynote speaker.

“Every year, we are excited to celebrate all that our students have learned while enrolled in the SIF program, and how they are able to apply their financial literacy skills in the classroom, at home and beyond,” commented Rebecca Lange-Thernes, SIF executive director. “Never a day goes by when I don’t get comments from parents about how their children taught them about being financial savvy or have a student make the connection that they can be rewarded just for coming to school. That’s what inspires us and our dedicated teachers and staff to help make an impact in the daily lives, and futures of our students. Today, we celebrate what they’ve accomplished and what they can accomplish moving forward.”

Once SIF alumni graduate from high school, they can “cash in” their SIF Dollars for cash that they can then invest in pre-approved stocks. Students can earn up to \$80 per year. Nearly 1,000 students in 16 area schools are currently enrolled in the program. Over the last three years alone, the number of students enrolled in the program has tripled and number of participating has doubled in size.

Three-year SIF students (those who participated in the program for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades) attend school two weeks more than their peers.

New this year, students were assigned a different publicly traded company and worked as a team to summarize and analyze its stock performance, financial information and recent media coverage. Each group's project will be displayed at the event, and the winning class project will be announced during the ceremony.

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, Stocks in the Future students receive incentives; one being a "SIF Dollar" for each week of perfect attendance. These dollars are used to purchase shares of 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. Approximately 970 students in 16 area schools are currently enrolled. For further information: www.SIFonline.org

- See more at: <http://baltimore.citybizlist.com/article/269288/stocks-in-the-future-2015-class-to-graduate-on-may-20-at-the-enoch-pratt-free-library#sthash.tp9EdMyo.dpuf>