



A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Rebecca Lange-Thernes,
SIF Executive Director

We are proud to say that Stocks in the Future students go way beyond the surface when it comes to learning financial literacy. Our students learn the importance of saving, budgeting and investing in week by week, year by year sessions that take a three-year commitment with an average of 60 sessions, led by professional teachers who have been trained by dedicated volunteers in the finance industry. Not many financial literacy programs can say this. Our impact has data (proven results) showing SIF students possess a high level of financial vocabulary, higher math skills and better attitudes towards handling money.

We say this with a lot of pride and gratitude as our success is due to valuable connections we hold within the community. These connections begin with a dedicated staff who are well organized and focused. This year, we have the strongest board yet who put limitless hours into the program, connecting us to the financial community and also work tirelessly on fund-raisers including our charity team for the Baltimore Running Festival and our annual March Market Madness benefit. They also remain devoted to our students as class presenters and by recruiting committee members. Their work is beyond impressive. We can never say enough about the dedicated teachers and principals who support our program. We would literally be nothing without their gifts and talents.

With all this "connectivity," we've been able to reach new heights at Stocks in the Future this past year including a new video produced by Constellation Energy, an external study conducted by the Baltimore Education Research Consortium (BERC) and a successful "after school" pilot thanks to the generosity of The Family League, The Charles Crane Family Foundation and The Drescher Foundation.

Please enjoy reading more about SIF's successes in our Annual Newsletter. You'll see that our commitment to our students is unstoppable as we continue to grow our connection to the community.

HEAR FROM STUDENTS

My favorite part about Stocks in the Future is that you can make money for getting good grades. I've learned that the stocks you invested in will be with you when you are done with school. With the money I earn from Stocks in the Future, I would keep investing in stocks because if there's no risk, there's no reward.

- RUSSELL, 8TH GRADE

Stocks in the Future is fun. It guides us to learn things we never thought we would learn. I never knew you could buy a bond in the government. We learned that bonds happen over a long time. I talked to my dad about opening a savings account for myself. A savings account is the safest way to keep your money.

- MICHAEL, 8TH GRADE

**STAY CONNECTED
TO STOCKS IN THE FUTURE!**

 SIFONLINE.ORG

 [FACEBOOK.COM/STOCKSINTHEFUTURE](https://www.facebook.com/STOCKSINTHEFUTURE)

 [WATCH OUR VIDEO ON YOUTUBE *STOCKS IN THE FUTURE: AN OVERVIEW*](#)

My favorite part about Stocks in the Future is that we get the opportunity to learn about investing, and not everyone gets that chance.

– MEHWISH, 8TH GRADE

When I get older, I plan to invest in stock with half of the money I earn from Stocks in the Future, and with the other half I would invest in mutual funds.

– TYRONE, 8TH GRADE

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE PROGRAM CURRICULUM UPDATE

SIF is committed to making a positive impact on student financial literacy and overall classroom participation. To accomplish this goal, SIF formed a dedicated task force during year one of its strategic planning cycle to build on our current curriculum. This team included SIF representative teachers, external educators, top local financial professionals, and community leaders including Maryland State Senator Bill Ferguson. The task force decided to enhance two areas of the curriculum: the addition of more basic financial literacy skills and mutual fund analysis. After all, in order to be successful investors, students need to know the importance saving money early in life, the mechanics of savings functions offered by banks and other investment vehicles, and saving money in a diversified way by owning shares in mutual funds which own shares in many different businesses.

Now that SIF is in the 3rd and final year of its strategic planning cycle, further units have been added to the curriculum and we now

facilitate a year-end project in which our 8th grade students work in teams to research a Maryland-based company and build an investment case for each. The students' in-depth work includes an analysis of business financial figures, business strategy, and key recent developments. As a celebration of their hard work this year, students showcased their display boards on each company at our annual 8th Grade Rally. In addition, SIF is encouraging our students to go home and teach their parents and guardians the financial lessons they learned in class through fun interactive exercises. This allows SIF to expand our impact and touch multiple generations in the broader Baltimore community.

The end of this school year marks the conclusion of our current strategic planning cycle. In order to foster our goal of continual improvement, we will persist in evaluating the program and strive to magnify our positive impact on our learners as well as the community as a whole!

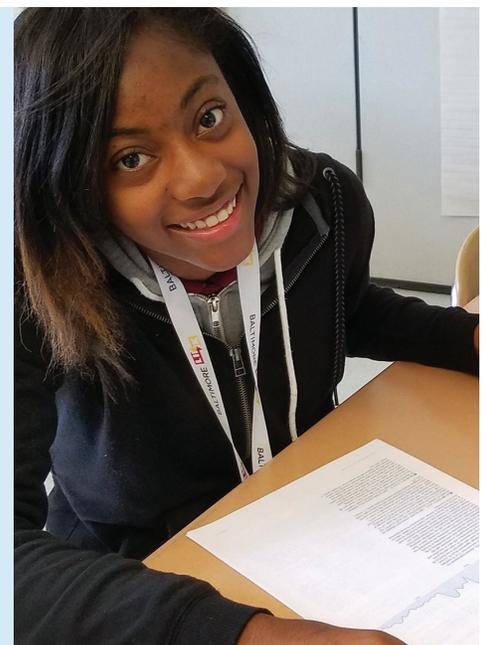


STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LOGAN SAMUEL

Logan Samuel, an 8th grade student at Hamilton EMS and 3rd year SIF student has a bright future ahead of her! She owns Sirius XM Radio (SIRI) in her SIF stock portfolio and feels the company is well rounded, appreciating the stock has performed well over the past 12 months. Logan regularly follows the price trends of SIF stocks. Beyond SIRI, she likes owning companies that she knows well, such as Coke (KO) and Disney (DIS). How many middle schoolers do you know follow price trends on the stock market, or for that matter, know what a price trend is?

Logan plans to save her earnings for something purposeful like a good cause or use it for extra college payments.

She aspires to study engineering at an Ivy League institution and could use her SIF moneys to pay for her necessary lab equipment. Thus far, SIF taught Logan the basics of managing her money: separating wants from needs, budgeting, and spending less than she earns. Later this year, Logan will learn to go way beyond watching stock charts by following a company's sales growth, profit margin, debt-to-equity ratio and dividends. She is confident that these good habits combined with a balanced, diversified investment portfolio will set her up for success in the future. Thanks Logan, for inspiring us all!



BERC STUDY

Baltimore Education Research Consortium

Making Progress: SIF Program Evaluation Study Results

In a recent formal evaluation conducted by Baltimore Education Research Consortium (BERC), it was found that SIF students were significantly more likely **TO GAIN** in these areas...

- Reading Comprehension; 8th graders scores grew 10%
- Financial Vocabulary; 7th grade scores grew by 15%
- Math Concepts and Calculations; 7th grade scores grew by 7% and 8th by 15%

Data used in this study was drawn from the HSAT (Hopkins Short Achievement Test,) a direct assessment used to evaluate financial literacy. The HSAT also gave evidence that 6th graders form a solid base of knowledge in financial literacy, giving them opportunity to achieve during subsequent years in the program. (See Efficacy section)



PARTICIPATION



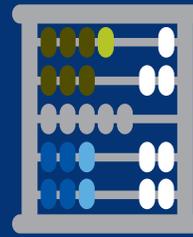
Out of 972 students enrolled in the program during the evaluation

700+

students engaged

in this statistical study by BERC. Students chosen for the study were enrolled in SIF Baltimore City Schools.

EFFICACY



efficacy improved by **3.2%** to **72.3%** following the SIF curriculum.

6th grade students increased by

6.7% from a base of **64.7%**

We are having a strong impact on students who have not yet been exposed to the financial literacy concepts that SIF is teaching.

DEMOGRAPHIC

90% of students involved

were eligible for free and reduced-price meals. And almost



90% were African American or Hispanic.

CLASSROOM DYNAMICS



85.9% of SIF classrooms were overwhelmingly orderly allowing students to get the most out of our curriculum.

84% of classroom visits, teachers made a point to connect SIF concepts to students' everyday lives.

A complete version of this study can be accessed at: baltimore-berc.org/category/publications.

SIF OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

Stocks in the Future has now extended beyond the classroom! Last academic year SIF enthusiastically launched our first out-of-school time programs to give more middle school students the opportunity to learn the financial literacy skills we are dedicated to teaching during the school day. SIF leveraged relationships with existing out-of-school time programs and forged a new middle school partnership to introduce 25 students to the concepts taught in the traditional SIF format, these include savings, compound interest, investing in stocks and mutual funds, and how to analyze businesses. Both last year and this current academic year, our after-school sites are Hampstead Hill Academy in East Baltimore and the Village

Learning Place located in Charles Village. SIF began the out-of-school program working with two cohorts of 6th graders, the first year students participate in the traditional SIF format. This year 7th graders, many whom are returning after school students, are included in the financial fun. SIF would like to say a special thank the Family League of Baltimore, Charles Crane Family Foundation, and Dresher Foundation for making it possible to launch these wonderful programs. They have been a great success in getting students engaged in financial literacy outside of the classroom and SIF is looking for new opportunities to expand the out-of-school time programs across the city!

“My students see it as fun and a chance to escape from the rigorous school day routine.”

– Dayana Donisca,
SIF After-school Instructor, 2015-16

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RUNNING FOR THEIR MONEY

October 15th was a beautiful day in Baltimore and a great day for Team Stocks in the Future at the Baltimore Running Festival. Team SIF joined over 25,000 runners to participate in the city's premier running event, which includes marathon, half marathon, marathon team relay and 5K distances. 2016 marked the second year Team SIF participated, but its first year as an official Running Festival charity partner. Our team set ambitious goals to top the participation and fundraising from 2015 and we were able to exceed them. Team SIF boasted 54 runners representing 6 corporate teams from Brown Advisory, Constellation, T. Rowe Price, PNC Bank and the Johns Hopkins School of Education. Runners raised nearly \$17,000, a 28% increase over 2015! In addition, 10 SIF volunteers assisted Corrigan Sports on race day.

Prior to race day, the team held a benefit happy hour at 8 Ball Meatball where the runners could meet each other, learn more about Stocks in the Future and pick up their race packets – including their snazzy Team SIF t-shirts.

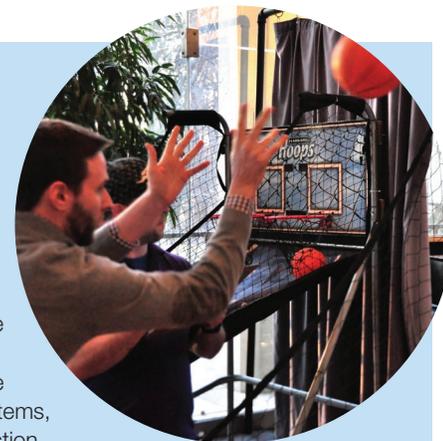
A very special thank you goes to JJ Baylin, SIF Board member from Brown Advisory, who served as the chairperson for Team SIF's Running Festival planning committee. JJ's leadership was invaluable in helping to secure runners, corporate sponsors and a location for our happy hour event. Speaking of corporate sponsors, we would also like to offer a heartfelt thanks to our title sponsor, Brown Advisory, our bronze sponsors 8 Ball Meatball and Vytex Windows, and our community sponsor Miles & Stockbridge.

MARCH MARKET MADNESS 2016 ANOTHER SLAM DUNK!

ANOTHER SLAM DUNK! SIF hosted its second annual March Market Madness benefit on March 15 at Johns Hopkins University's Glass Pavilion. The event was a resounding success, raising more than \$32,000 to support the organization's financial literacy and incentive program for middle school students. We nearly doubled proceeds from 2015, driven by an inaugural Frantic Free Throw Frenzy contest and a silent auction featuring 30 items, including themed baskets and a sports memorabilia section.

An audience of 150 was moved by powerful speeches from principal Katrina Foster, after-school program instructor Dayana Donisca, teacher Renard Lewis, and program alumna Ashley Moon. Ashley, currently a Salisbury University undergraduate, left a lasting impression on attendees as she advised other SIF students to continue to invest even after their time in the program as middle school students.

Special thanks to our generous sponsors: Venable LLP, 19/19 Investment Counsel, Brown Advisory, Charles Schwab, Constellation, Continental Realty Corporation, Court Place Advisors, Deutsche Bank, Gross Mendelsohn & Associates, Mid-Atlantic Security Traders Association, Miles & Stockbridge, Oak Contracting, Protiviti, and T. Rowe Price. Additionally, thank you to our planning committee and to the 25 volunteers who ensured that the event ran smoothly.



SAVE THE DATE!
MARCH 30 2017

3rd Annual March Market Madness
Johns Hopkins University Glass Pavilion

Tickets on sale beginning January 2017.
Visit SIFONLINE.ORG for more information.