

Mica's Future 5 Story

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

— Mahatma Gandhi Mica's favorite quote

I would not be at St, Joseph's University today – majoring in Biology and minoring in Public Health – if it wasn't for Future 5 and Nancy Roath, my college coach. She drove me to Hartford to tour the campus of her alma mater and we got the opportunity to meet the President! If I had not connected with the volunteers at Future 5, who expanded my horizons and taught me how to write a great personal essay, I would not be at a four-year college.

Being the oldest of four from a Haitian born family, my parents came to this country in 2003 and became U.S. citizens in 2008. They worked very hard and learned to speak English by taking ESL classes. They have sacrificed everything for their dream of having us go to college. My parents have no practical knowledge about colleges, how to apply, where to go or how to pay.

This is why the **Future 5** experience altered my life. **Future 5** connected me with the entire college process and made me realize that these powerful connections were instrumental for me. I had to pass **Future 5** along to my siblings, Sam and Jessica. The summer before Sam's freshman year, I dragged him to **Future 5** in hopes of separating him from his video games and to give him new role models. Four years later he is a senior at AITE and participating in **Future 5's** College Prep program while my sister, Jessica is a sophomore at Stamford High School. She too spends almost every afternoon at **Future 5** taking advantage of their opportunities; connecting with coaches and participating in community service.

I live feeling grateful for what I have been given by my family, from **Future 5** and St. Joseph's University and I have a strong need to give back. With a recent recommendation from **Future 5** and Clif McFeely, I have just been accepted to the Hartford Jewish Coalition for Literacy to be a volunteer at the Thirman L. Milner School. I've made another powerful connection and I can't wait to get started.

University of St. Joseph, Senior Biology Major, Public Health Minor Future 5 graduating class of 2012

Future 5 helps motivated, low-income high school students in Stamford connect to their full potential.

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