
FUTURE 5
ONE MISSION
MANY PATHS
PREPARING FOR WHAT'S NEXT
Stamford High School
Stamford High School
2025-2026 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT
FUTURE 5



OUR MISSION

Future 5 connects motivated, under-resourced students in Stamford to the people and resources they need to achieve their educational, career and life goals.

400+ Student Members Served Each Year



CONTENTS

2026: A Year of Progress
A Future of Possibility

Letter From Our Former Executive Director 1
& Our Chairman of the Board

What's Next? 2
Our Plan for the Future

Creating Opportunities 3
What We Do & Why We Do It

The Future 5 Roadmap 4
How We Help Students Move Forward

Our Path to Progress 5–6
2026 Impact & Results

Finding Their Own Paths 7–8
Member Stories & Connections

Funding Our Mission 9
2026 Financial Highlights

The People Guiding Us Forward 10
The Team at Future 5

The Community That Makes It Possible 11–12
Donors, Partners & Volunteers



LETTER FROM OUR FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To Our Future 5 Family,

Every young person has a different vision for what comes next, and Future 5 believes there are many paths to get there. For 17 years, we have helped Stamford students discover their strengths, build confidence, and connect to the people and opportunities that shape their futures.

Having recently stepped away from Future 5 to begin a new chapter, I feel deeply grateful to have been part of this work and I hold a lasting belief in what this community makes possible for young people. I am confident Future 5 is well positioned for its next period of growth.

Over the past year, Future 5 expanded what its programs make possible while bringing a more innovative approach to our work. We introduced an AI program that gives students practical experience with technology shaping their future, while helping them become thoughtful, capable, adaptable leaders. Through coaching, career exploration, college support, and community partners, we continue to help students develop a plan and provide the tools to succeed in life. Our high school membership grew by 13% to 255 students, and we also served 161 college students and 63 active alumni. 100% of our high school members graduated, 97% "landed with a plan," and 70% entered college debt-free.

Looking ahead, Future 5 will support current members with a new engagement model designed to guide them through college and career. Developing data-driven, innovative programs and meaningful connections for our members will remain at the forefront of our mission.

None of this is possible without your commitment and support. Because of you, Future 5 can strengthen youth development and help young people build not only successful futures, but fulfilling lives.

Thank you for believing in our students, investing in their potential, and being part of the community that helps them find their path. **Future 5 will always hold a special place in my heart, and I leave with pride in what we have built together and confidence in all that lies ahead.**

With gratitude,

Amanda Dubois-Mwake, Ph.D.

Former Executive Director



LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear Future 5 Supporters,

On behalf of the board of directors, I'm proud to reflect on Future 5's growth and commitment to the students we serve as we embark on another year.

This has been a year Future 5 can be proud of, and the credit belongs to our staff, coaches, volunteers, and the students themselves, who show up every day ready to learn and grow. Every success story and milestone is a testament to their hard work and resilience. I've had the privilege of watching this organization up close, and what stands out most is the culture of commitment and connection that runs through everything Future 5 does. Our mission empowers students to unlock their potential so they can find their way forward. We build relationships and connections, ensuring every student has a network of resources to succeed not just academically, but personally and professionally too. That is not easy work, and it is not something every organization gets right. Future 5 does.

This work has built a strong foundation, and I am confident in what lies ahead. We have a talented, devoted staff, a clear strategic direction, and a community of donors, partners, and volunteers who continue to show up for our students. I've seen firsthand the dedication and expertise this team brings to their work, and I have every confidence they will carry Future 5 forward with the same integrity and innovation that got us here.

To our donors, corporate and foundation partners, and individual supporters: thank you. Your investment doesn't just fund programs; it tells our students that their community believes in them. Because of you, Future 5 can keep building the connections that turn potential into opportunity and opportunity into a future each of our students can call their own.

With deepest gratitude,

John Welch

Chairman of the Board



WHAT'S NEXT?
OUR PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, we're focused on making the Future 5 experience more connected, personal, and innovative, so every member can reach their full potential.

We'll build on what works, respond to what students need and create even more pathways to success through three key priorities:

Build Deeper Community Connections

We will deepen relationships with the local community to expand the network surrounding our students. By continuing to connect members to meaningful opportunities, mentors and experiences they might not otherwise have access to, we can open more doors, strengthen our community and help students discover new possibilities for their future.

Strengthen the Member Journey

We're evolving how we support our members with a more personalized experience that meets students where they are and grows with them. Staff roles have been realigned to better serve members at every step of their journey, from high school through college and into career, helping them build the skills, confidence, and connections they need for what comes next.

Elevate Programs Through Insight and Innovation

We will use what we learn from our students' engagement, participation, and outcomes to continually strengthen our programs and identify new opportunities to meet emerging needs. From workshops and classes to career and college preparation, our goal is to deliver experiences that are relevant and responsive to today's ever-changing world.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT WE DO

Future 5 helps students connect to educational and career pathways, internships, community service, and coaching, preparing them for their future as the next generation of Connecticut's workforce.



WHY WE DO IT

Too many young people in Connecticut lack the connections, resources, and opportunities they need to find a pathway to a successful future. Without support, many get left behind.

ABOUT

1 in 6



young people in Connecticut, ages 14-26, are either at risk or disconnected from school or work.

Source: Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Data and Policy Analytics Division, and Connecticut State Department of Education, Disconnected and At-Risk Youth 2025 Report

MORE THAN

1 in 4



Connecticut high school students are at risk of not graduating high school.

Source: Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Data and Policy Analytics Division, and Connecticut State Department of Education, Disconnected and At-Risk Youth 2025 Report

$1M



potential cost to society of one young person's disconnection.

Source: RAND Corporation, Understanding Disconnection Among American Youth, 2025

HOW WE BREAK THE CYCLE

Disconnection rarely ends on its own. Future 5 was built on a simple belief: connection changes lives. It starts with five - staff, volunteers, coaches, peers, and donors. Together with our corporate and community partners, we help bridge the education gap and build the support network students need to stay on a path toward a productive future.

$5-5.5 BILLION

Every motivated, under-resourced student who finds their pathway changes their own trajectory-and Connecticut's. Reengaging the state's disconnected young people could add to Connecticut's economy each year.

Source: Dalio Education, Connecticut's Unspoken Crisis, 2023

THE FUTURE 5 ROADMAP

HOW WE HELP STUDENTS MOVE FORWARD

Every member's journey is different. Future 5 stays with students from high school through college and career and into our alumni network, giving them the support and opportunities they need at each stage to succeed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- "Here to There" introductory program
- Academic support/tutoring
- Job preparation
- Community service
- Student wellness & enrichment

COLLEGE PREP

One-on-one college & "Next Track" coaching for trade and military pathways
- Application support & campus tours
- Financial aid & scholarship guidance

COLLEGE SUCCESS

- Academic & financial support
- On-campus peer connections
- Student check-ins
- Career coaching
- On-site campus visits

ALUM 5
PAYING IT FORWARD

- Mentors for younger members
- Career advising
- Connections to internships & jobs
- Financial literacy workshops
- Serve on Future 5 boards

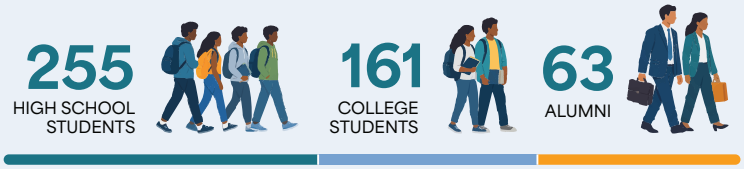




OUR PATH TO PROGRESS

2026 IMPACT & RESULTS

479
TOTAL STUDENT MEMBERS





93%
LOW-INCOME



83%
FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE GOERS



97%
PEOPLE OF COLOR



100%
high school graduation rate



97%
of HS grads "landed with a plan": college, trade school or military



70%
of high school grads entering college with **$0 debt**



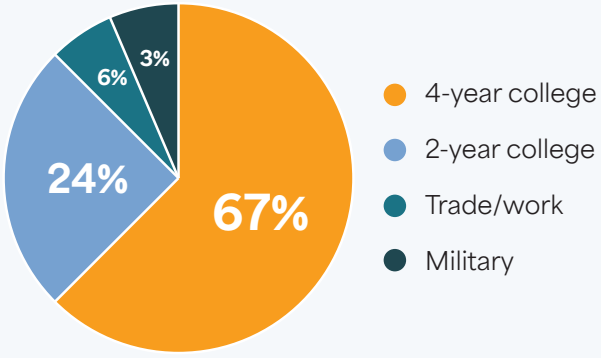
More than
$290K
in scholarships distributed by Future 5

OUR PATH TO PROGRESS (CONT.)

2026 IMPACT & RESULTS

POST-SECONDARY

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026*



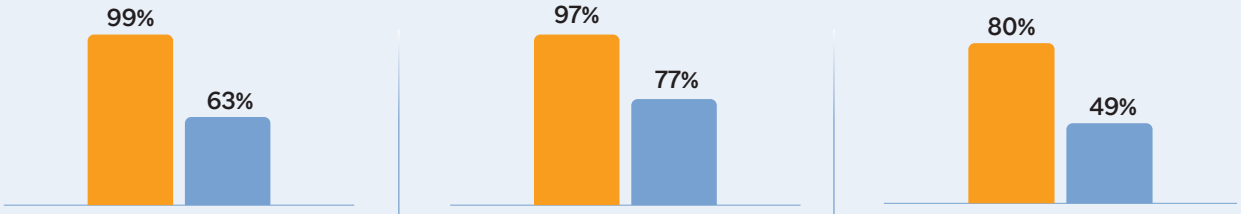
*High school seniors who "landed with a plan"



100% of high school students agreed or strongly agreed that "Future 5 provides the resources I need to succeed."

Source: Future 5 Member Survey, 2025-26 (91% response rate)

COLLEGE SUCCESS



COLLEGE MATRICULATION
HS Class of 2026

YEAR 1 TO YEAR 2 PERSISTENCE
HS Class of 2024

GRADUATED IN 4 YEARS
HS Class of 2022

Future 5 Active Members | National Average*

*Sources: Matriculation, BLS (2024); Persistence, National Student Clearinghouse (fall 2024 entrants); 4-year graduation, NCES (2017 entrants, latest available)

37 STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM 2- AND 4-YEAR COLLEGES IN 2026

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



2,176
hours of community service completed by **194** students



2,860
hours of academic support including SAT prep



586
enrichment events and workshops
Brainwave, College Visits, Career Discovery, Health & Wellness & more



125
active volunteers provided **3,354** hours of student support

FINDING THEIR OWN PATHS

MEMBER STORIES



HIGH SCHOOL

SOLANGE FRONJORK

Solange, a junior at Westhill High School, arrived in the U.S. from Kenya just last year, facing a completely unfamiliar education system. Inspired by her mother and by witnessing healthcare shortages back home, she'd always felt drawn to medicine. But she was unsure that path was possible for her. Then she joined Future 5 and was connected with a coach and mentor who works in the medical field. Through Future 5's Job Prep program, **she learned interview skills, public speaking, and how to advocate for herself.** The accountability and encouragement she found also translated into the classroom, helping her raise her grades and earn a 3.9 GPA. Solange plans to pursue her **B.S. in nursing** and hopes to become a psychiatrist, driven by a mission to make quality healthcare feel like a right, not a privilege. In her words, ***"Future 5 helped me realize that I could be whatever I want and that I am capable of achieving whatever I set my mind to."***



NEXT TRACK

JEAN CARLOS DIAZ MAEDA

When Jean Carlos joined Future 5 while studying HVAC at J.M. Wright Technical High School, he thought his future was already decided. The more he engaged, the more opportunities he found beyond his shop experience. From tutoring and SAT bootcamp that helped raise his score by 80 points, to dual-enrollment courses and mentorship, he began to see he had even more options. With support from Future 5 staff and peers, he improved his academic performance, **earned a spot in the Mayor's Youth Employment Program,** and **gained the confidence to pursue opportunities beyond what he once thought possible.** Most importantly, Jean Carlos discovered he wasn't "stuck" in just one path. Future 5 has opened his eyes to metal fabrication and multiple other trade opportunities as he prepares for life after high school. **Today, as a senior, he has a broader view of what's possible and has the confidence to choose his own path forward.**



COLLEGE

ISABEL PAYARES TENORIO

When Isabel and her family fled political unrest in Venezuela, she arrived in the U.S. at 12 years old, barely speaking English. She spent middle school feeling isolated and unsure whether college would ever be possible for her. That changed when her mother learned about Future 5, and Isabel found not just academic support, but **a community where she never felt judged**–for her accent, her mistakes, or her journey. Through Future 5's connection with the DAE Academy, she discovered a passion for coding, setting her on the path to study computer science. With her mentor's guidance, she navigated the college application process as a first-generation student. Today, **Isabel is entering her third year at UConn studying computer science on a full scholarship**–a milestone she and her family once thought impossible. Now proud of who she's become, Isabel hopes to one day **give back as a Future 5 mentor** herself, so other students can find the same sense of belonging and hope that changed her life.

ALUM 5 SPOTLIGHT

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



SCHEBANIA PHILEMON

"Future 5 gave me another home after a long day of school – a place to decompress, explore, and build financial and professional literacy."

NOW THRIVING: Corporate Media

THEN: Schebania joined Future 5 as a junior at Stamford High School and graduated in 2022. She described having a huge knowledge gap in academic and professional topics at the time. Future 5's mentorship and workshops closed that gap, changing the trajectory of her future.

NOW: A 2026 graduate of UConn Storrs with a degree in Marketing and Digital Media Analytics, Schebania now works as a Media Investment Associate at Icon International.



RAUL ROSARIO MIESES

"I learned to ask for help. At Future 5, I found a place where my coach – Lizzie – was always in my corner."

NOW SERVING: U.S. Navy

THEN: Raul joined Future 5 seeking guidance about what his path should be after high school. With his coach's encouragement and support, he graduated from Stamford High in 2020 with offers from several prestigious colleges, but he decided to enlist in the U.S. Navy.

NOW: After five years stationed in Hawaii aboard a submarine, Raul went to Japan with a focus on sonar, weapons, and computer systems. He's starting college courses online, hoping to study cybersecurity, and will soon decide whether to reenlist or pursue Officer Candidate School.



SABINA LOUIS

"Future 5 gave me the support and confidence to pursue my goals and ultimately become a physician assistant."

NOW HEALING: Physician Assistant

THEN: Sabina joined Future 5 as a junior at Stamford High School and graduated in 2015. She was unsure how to navigate the college and career process and learned that connections are out there if you're willing to find them. Her college coach helped her find the right programs, apply for financial aid, and stay on track.

NOW: In 2021, Sabina graduated from Seton Hall University with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies and is now a Surgical Physician Assistant at Stamford Hospital.

CONNECTION CHANGES LIVES

Every Future 5 student is one introduction away from an opportunity to help find their path.

CITY OF STAMFORD

When college student **Chris Nana** was searching for a computer science internship, Future 5 staff member Diane connected him with Laysha, a Future 5 alum, volunteer tutor, and an employee at the **City of Stamford**.

THE RESULT: A quick coffee eventually landed Chris a summer internship with the City of Stamford.

the Y DARIEN YMCA

When Future 5 coach Dana asked about swim lessons for a student with no pool access, it led to grant funding for the **Darien YMCA** to offer free lessons to Future 5 students like **Emely Sacasari & Darwin Coy**.

THE RESULT: Emely & Darwin went on to become certified lifeguards-and landed lifeguard jobs!

The Country Club of Darien

Rob, a Future 5 board member, connected the **Country Club of Darien** with Future 5 students **Merari Barrios, Chayse Adam-Lawyer, Kaylee Lozin, Hector Reyes, & Evena Borno**, who were looking for summer employment.

THE RESULT: A Future 5 recruitment event led to summer job offers for all five students!

New Canaan Land Trust

Polly, a Future 5 board member, connected Future 5 staff member Oscar with the **New Canaan Land Trust's** summer stewardship program, where high school students **Rubin Garcia, Hazel Padilla, Alexandra Flores, Nahim Cagua & others** helped with land management and preservation.

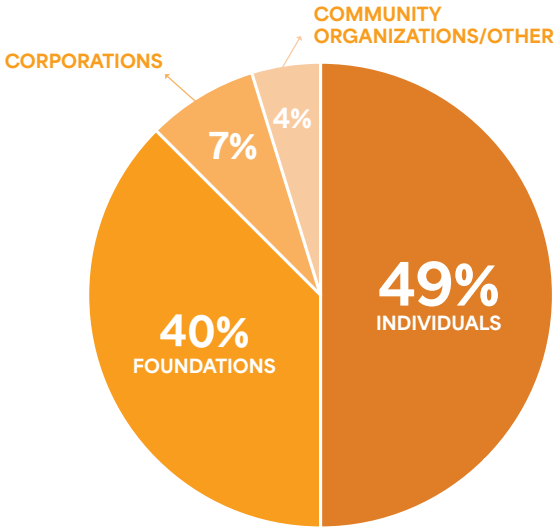
THE RESULT: Since 2022, three to five students have taken part in the land stewardship program every summer.

FUNDING OUR MISSION

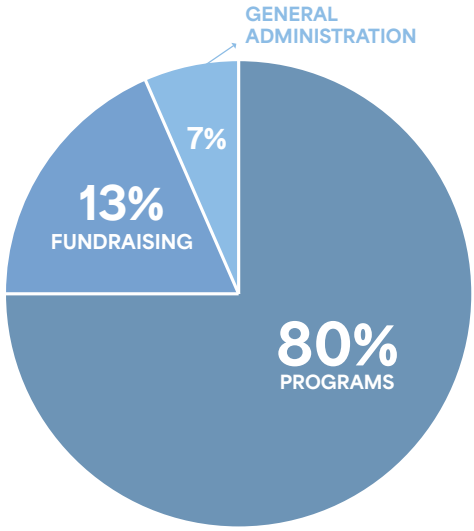
2026 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



REVENUE: $3,124,559**



EXPENSES: $2,544,529



Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	$1,606,388
Contributions receivable	$468,649
Prepaid expenses	$11,710
Marketable securities	$1,019,443
Other assets	$38,870
Property and equipment	$132,818
Long-term lease asset	$1,358,768
Total Assets	**$4,636,646**

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$23,853
Long-term lease liability	$1,514,796
Total Liabilities	$1,538,649

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	$1,377,009
With donor restrictions	$720,988
Board designated	$1,000,000
Total Net Assets	$3,097,997
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$4,636,646**

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026
**unaudited as of 9/15/2026*
*** Includes $360,000 future pledged donations.*

THE PEOPLE GUIDING US FORWARD

OUR FUTURE 5 TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Clif McFeely** — *Founder*
- **John Welch** — *Chairman*
- **Rob Roberto** — *Vice Chairman, Future 5 Volunteer/Coach*
- **Kam Cheung** — *Treasurer, Future 5 Volunteer/Coach*
- **Jim Fox** — *Secretary, Future 5 Volunteer/Coach & Next Track Career Advisor*
- **Polly Perkins Johnson** — *Founding Partner, Future 5 Volunteer/Coach*
- **Nancy Fink Benjamin** — *Future 5 Volunteer/Coach*
- **Susan Bishop** — *Synchrony*
- **John Bonora** — *First County Bank*
- **Jessica Lee** — *PwC*
- **Sue Rich** — *Future 5 Volunteer/Coach*
- **Jessica Saturne** — *OdysseyRe*
- **Rick Swift** — *Future 5 Volunteer/Coach*
- **Christopher D. Wright** — *Pilgrim Capital*

BOARD OF ADVISORS

- **Murat Akgun** — *Future 5 Volunteer/Coach*
- **Wendy Carey** — *Carey Family Foundation*
- **Sam Choi** — *Private Investor*
- **Kim DePra** — *VP, Marketing and Communications, The Ashforth Company*
- **Rachel Dewey** — *Youth Development & College Admissions Specialist*
- **Dawn Dinkins** — *Chief Operating Officer, Reinsurance AXA XL*
- **Richard Freedman** — *President, Garden Homes Management Corp*
- **Quynh Goodhouse** — *Partner and Founder, Goodhouse Law, LLC*
- **John King** — *Future 5 Volunteer/Coach*
- **William Lewis** — *Senior Vice President, Morgan Stanley*
- **Steve Mark** — *Executive Dice President, TENZI*
- **Leann Rappaport** — *Consultant*
- **Caroline Simmons** — *Mayor of Stamford*
- **David Squier** — *Senior Advisor, The Carlyle Group*
- **Tom Teles** — *EVP/Strategy LS Power*
- **Brian Wheelin** — *Partner, Robinson+Cole*
- **Jon Whitcomb** — *Senior Partner, Diserio Martin*
- **Beth Williams** — *Student Experience Specialist, UConn School of Business*
- **Donell Young** — *SVP, Managed Services FactSet*

STAFF

- **Dr. Amanda Dubois-Mwake** — *Executive Director, 2021-2026*
- **Michelle Lappas** — *Managing Director of High School Programs*
- **Marvin Louis** — *Managing Director of College & Career Success*
- **Selin Agurcia** — *Community Service Coordinator*
- **Alex Ambroise** — *Senior Manager of High School Enrichment*
- **Peg Atchue** — *Senior Manager of Grants & Impact*
- **Diane Bailey** — *Workforce Development Manager*
- **Karina Cappellan** — *College Prep Manager*
- **Meg Carey** — *Development Manager*
- **Tatiana Delva** — *Academic Coordinator*
- **Jenny Fuchs** — *Volunteer Manager*
- **Cleidy Gonzalez** — *College Success Manager*
- **Oscar Guzman** — *Senior Manager of Membership & Engagement*
- **Sheri Harrington** — *Office Manager*
- **Paul Hendry** — *Controller*
- **John Mendoza** — *Senior Manager of College Prep*
- **Karlos Mikem** — *Development Associate*
- **Michele Pearle** — *Marketing Manager*
- **Annie Tran** — *Digital Learning & Support Manager*

THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS

Tisha Adair • Lee Cotton • Polly Perkins Johnson • Steve Mark • Deirdre Smith • Andy Ashforth • Mike Duggan • Diana Lenkowsky • Len Miller • Mary Streep • Frank Blod • Debbie Eagan • Jack Loop • Noreen Poulsen • Rick Swift • Peter Calder • Jim Grunberger • Frank Lyon • Nancy Roath • Gene Waggaman • Kelli Wells • Brian West



THE COMMUNITY THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE

DONORS & PARTNERS

Donations
July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026
We are thankful and proud to recognize our donors. Join our growing list of supporters.

$100,000+

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FactSet Charitable Foundation
Odyssey Group Foundation

$50,000-$99,999

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$2,000-$4,999

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$500-$999

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Jody Davis
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Luke & Venetia DeSilva*
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BevMax
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Cosechas Restaurant
Dig Inn
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Whole Foods

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One Community, Many Ways to Make an Impact

COACH / VOLUNTEER

Work with student members as a tutor or a College/Next Track, Job Prep, or Here to There Coach, helping them build action plans for their future. Volunteers also join members on college tours, corporate workshops, and community service events.

PARTNER

Partner with Future 5 for a Job Prep workshop or event sponsorship, or connect Future 5 student members to job or internship opportunities.

GIVE

Help us support our Future 5 student members by donating or making a pledge to ensure that Future 5 continues to make a difference in the lives of Stamford's youth.

To help us make a difference, scan here to donate or go to

www.futurefive.org

4 Landmark Square, Stamford, CT 06901
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Thank you to our **volunteers** for generously sharing your time, guidance, and belief in our students. You are the fuel that powers Future 5 every day.

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