



Jessica's Future 5 Story

“My dream is to attend a four-year college and to live with no regrets!”

“ Before **Future 5** my world was very small. I lived at home, went to Stamford High School and church. I didn't know anything else about Stamford! My older sister, Mica, encouraged me to go to **Future 5** and I couldn't wait. I walked in my freshman year and never left.

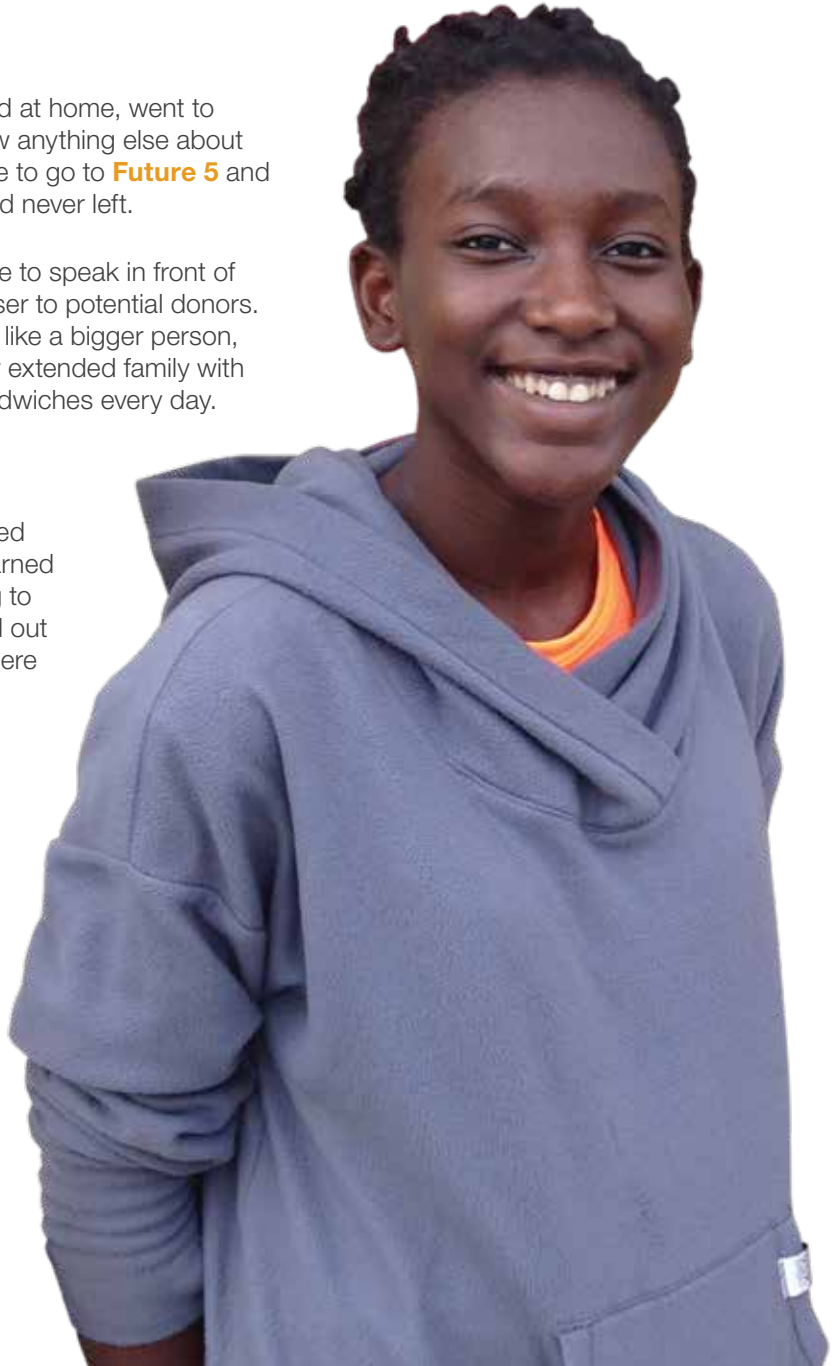
Shortly after joining **Future 5**, it was hard for me to speak in front of a workshop of peers or especially at a fundraiser to potential donors. Not any more! After one year at **Future 5**, I feel like a bigger person, not physically but mentally. **Future 5** is now my extended family with coaches, tutors, friends, and peanut butter sandwiches every day.

The community service aspect of **Future 5** has opened up my world. I have cooked meals at Inspirica—who helped my family when we arrived from Haiti—listened to personal stories, and learned how much less some have than me...like having to wear the same jeans every day. I've also helped out at ARI (Always Reaching for Independence), where I waitressed and danced with a man without any legs. Now I wake up and am thankful for my ability to walk. My community service experiences have opened my eyes and made me even more grateful.

Future 5 is my connection and with it I have also been to my first Yankees game, gone on college tours, and become an advocate of helping others. I have a little brother named Luckson, who is in sixth grade. When it is his turn, I will definitely escort him to **Future 5**.”

Jessica

Stamford High School, Sophomore
Future 5 graduating class of 2018 ▶



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

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