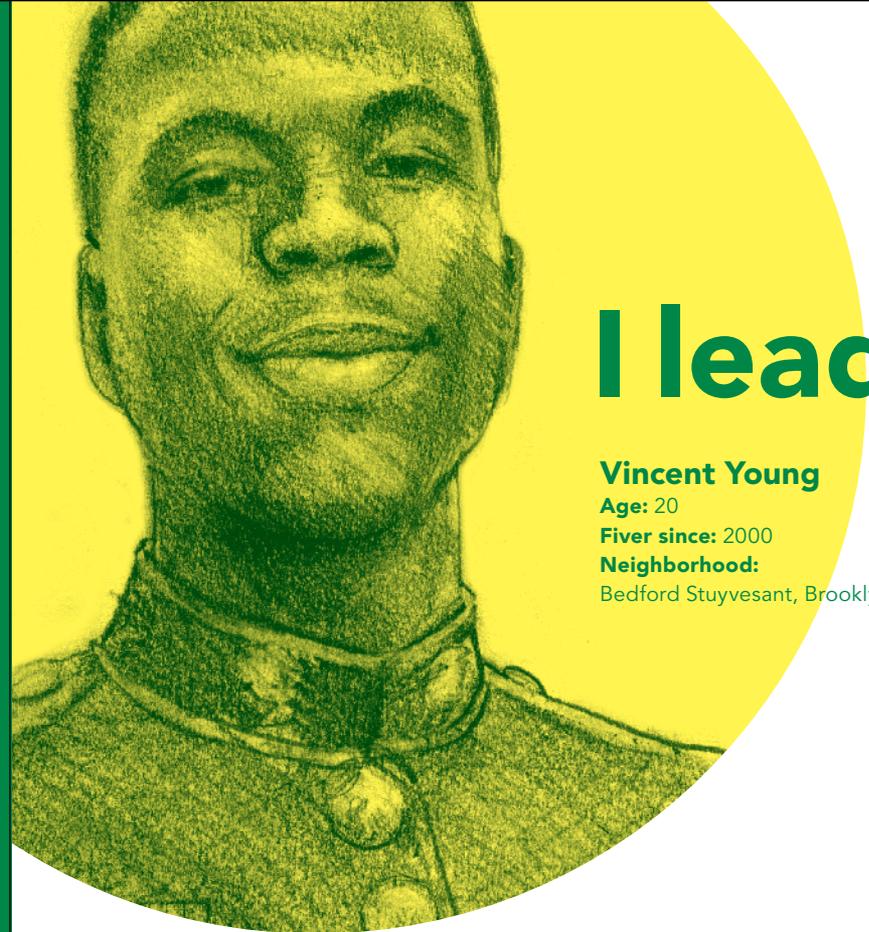




I am a Fiver.

Beyond the ten-year commitment...

The Fiver Children's Foundation is a comprehensive youth development organization that is empowering 550 children to develop life skills and to reach their full potential. Fiver participants come from some of the most marginalized neighborhoods in New York City and upstate New York. They have substantial academic, financial and social service needs. Without Fiver, they would be at risk of not completing high school, becoming involved with gangs, engaging in drug use, or becoming parents before they are ready. At its core, Fiver is a family that will not allow this to happen. Fiver's 10-year commitment supports all participants in becoming happy and productive citizens, enacting change in their communities and eventually beyond. The alumni on the following pages reflect the many successes of our Fiver participants.



I lead.

Vincent Young

Age: 20

Fiver since: 2000

Neighborhood:

Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn

I am a U.S. Marine, Lance Corporal, stationed at Camp Pendleton in California. I have completed one tour in Afghanistan and I am a rifle expert. I love being a Marine because it has exposed me to backgrounds and cultures I had never experienced. I've learned to work with all different types of people, which has increased my team building and leadership skills.

Fiver has given me a strong sense of moral courage. The program has taught me to not be a bystander but an active participant in life. I feel the need to consistently do the right thing – if I see something I don't agree with, I correct it. The dog tags I earned at Fiver still inspire me; I make sure to look at them every time I am home on leave.



Gabriela Berroa

Age: 19

Fiver since: 2003

Neighborhood: Mott Haven, Bronx

I achieve.

I am a student at Colgate University studying international relations and studio art on a full tuition scholarship. I am heavily involved on campus as a cheerleader, a member of the Caribbean Students Association and a mentor to a local elementary school aged Fiver participant.

Fiver offered me a chance to step out of my comfort zone and increase my self-esteem; the values (Friend, Individual, Valuable Team Player, Environmentalist and Risk-taker) I gained at Fiver come into practice every day of my life. Because of Fiver, I have met people from all over the country and the world, along with a group of friends that have become my extended family. Fiver has given me the confidence to push through when I struggle and do everything in my power to accomplish my goals.

Jasmine Mari Fernandez

Age: 22

Fiver since: 2001

Neighborhood: East New York, Brooklyn

I recently graduated from Fairfield University where I majored in political science and international studies and minored in business law and ethics. As a student at Fairfield, I founded and directed a student-run organization that addressed issues of race, body image, sexuality and faith through performing arts. I also studied abroad in both Tanzania and Nicaragua. I am currently embarking on a year-of-service as a Legal Caseworker for the St. Francis Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance with Jesuit Volunteer Corp (JVC) in Houston, TX.

I could have easily fallen into the vicious cycle of so many of my peers. Because of Fiver, I was surrounded with love and respect. The support and resources I was given helped shape me into a woman of confidence, integrity and ambition. I can wholeheartedly say that I credit Fiver for my success thus far and I would not be where I am today without this program.



I serve.

Alessandra Mitchell

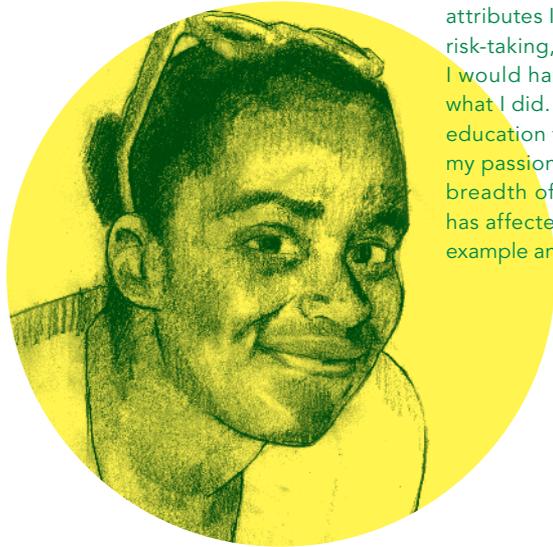
Age: 22

Fiver since: 2000

Neighborhood: East New York, Brooklyn

I recently graduated from Seton Hill College where I majored in political science and minored in history and sociology. I am currently attending Hunter College working towards my master's degree in school counseling.

I began the Fiver program as a shy, insecure and scared eight year-old. I was unwilling to step out of my comfort zone or take risks. That's no longer the case. This past summer, I traveled to Nicaragua to serve one of the poorest communities in the country, set on a garbage dump. While there, I worked at a school, teaching English and building a school library. Without the attributes I learned at Fiver, especially risk-taking, responsibility and courage, I would have never been able to do what I did. My decision to continue my education through graduate school and my passion for service encompass the breadth of how Fiver programming has affected my ability to set a good example and live up to my full potential.



I dream.

Camilo Duque

Age: 19

Fiver since: 2003

Neighborhood: Corona, Queens



I aspire.

I am a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) studying to be a chemical engineer. As a work study student, I earn a percentage of my education through an on campus job. This year, to compliment my materials energy and entropy balances class, I am working under my professor in a lab, enabling me to learn about lab procedures and gain hands on experience. I was also selected to be a teaching assistant in the cellular and molecular biology class. Upon graduation, I would like to enter the pharmaceutical industry.

I was always told I had great academic potential and Fiver was able to give me the direction I needed for this potential to be fully realized. Fiver embraced me and put me on the path to success. Fiver developed my leadership and public speaking skills, while also instilling in me a strong character and commitment to ethical behavior. Fiver helped me reach my goal of attending RPI, a school I would've never even heard of if it wasn't for the college trip we took while I was at camp. Because of Fiver I have the tools I need to build a solid foundation for a lifetime of success.

**Empowering Children to
Make Positive Life Choices**

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