



Mission and Vision: The Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation is dedicated to helping inner city youth reach their full potential in life. Built off Mark's belief that "it's our turn to help," the Foundation funds the same types of programs that helped Mark Wahlberg overcome challenges during his youth. Despite overall progress when it comes to improving teen graduation rates in the United States, the sobering fact remains that three out of every 10 students in U.S. public schools still fail to finish high school with a diploma according to a 2009 EPE Research Center Study. The Foundation aspires to reach those children whose dreams and passions are limited due to financial circumstances and provide them with opportunities that allow them to see the value in their education and planning for their future.

History: Growing up in the working class neighborhood of Dorchester, Mass., Mark Wahlberg and his nine brothers spent most afterschool hours at their local Boys & Girls Club. Mark learned from challenges as a teenager and, with the support of community programs and mentors, was able to rise above these, take responsibility for his actions, and achieve his goals.

In 2001, one of Mark's childhood mentors sought his help to build a new youth center gymnasium for children in the community. Wahlberg not only raised the funds for the facility, but he also made a long-term commitment to help these teens and others across the nation through his Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation. Since then, the Foundation has donated millions of dollars and thousands of hours to support youth programs and raise awareness about the growing high school dropout crisis affecting today's teens.

MWYF Programs:

- **Youth Summer Camp:** Since 2004, MWYF has hosted "Camp Northbound," a one-week, recreational, summer camp in Bridgestone, ME. The camp serves 150 youth each year from Boston's inner city communities. The camp also engages alumni campers by hiring them as junior counselors for the week.
- **Afterschool Programs:** MWYF provides grants to Boys & Girls Clubs and other after school programs across the country. Annually, MWYF hosts a holiday party and gift giveaway for more than 250 underserved youth. Other partners include Reach Back L.A., an educational program in South Central L.A. that was recently awarded an MWYF grant toward a new youth center.
- **School Support:** MWYF is committed to giving inner city kids equal access to education and provides grants to support school computer labs and educational scholarships. One of its recent partners include the Dorchester Alternative Youth Academy, which serves teens who are discharged from traditional school settings and need help functioning successfully in school.
- **Graduate to Go Campaign:** MWYF has joined the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens to support Graduate to Go, a long-term initiative raising awareness and funds to combat America's high school dropout crisis. This year, more than \$4 million will be distributed to nearly 350 organizations to fund real world experiences that inspire teens to stay in school. The partnership also includes the launch of Graduate to Go Studios, state-of-the-art music and film studios built in Boys & Girls Clubs across the country.