



NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Monica Caudillo
Development Manager
Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas
713.337.4771
mcaudillo@jahouston.org

MASSMUTUAL FUTURES MATH CHALLENGE TO EMPOWER MORE THAN 2,000 LOCAL AREA STUDENTS WITH FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE IN COLLABORATION WITH JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AND THE HOUSTON ROCKETS

Hill Harper talks financial education with 2,500 Houston middle school students on April 4

HOUSTON, TX – More middle school students around the U.S. will have a chance to get smart about money as Mutual Life Insurance Company's (MassMutual) FutureSmart Challenge continues with its latest cross-country tour. More than 2,000 students from Houston Independent School District and other surrounding districts will learn the importance of savings, career choices, staying in school and going to college, and how each has a profound impact on their future financial success. The program extends a long-time collaboration with Junior Achievement to provide additional financial education in the classroom and in conjunction with The Houston Rockets.

MassMutual's FutureSmart Challenge is a nationwide initiative that brings critical financial education to middle school students with the goal of empowering and challenging young leaders to take positive steps toward a successful career and financial security for themselves, their families and their communities. The exciting interactive event is held in collaboration with select NBA teams, ~~followed-supplemented~~ by Junior Achievement curriculum ~~in participants' classrooms~~ during the school year.

MassMutual's FutureSmart Challenge is hosted by award-winning actor and New York Times best-selling author Hill Harper. Harper strives to engage participating middle school students and teach them tangible, memorable financial knowledge. At each event, students will learn:

1. What it costs to survive, live and thrive
2. The impact of education and career on income
3. What you spend your money on matters, highlighting the difference between 'needs' and 'wants'
4. How you pay for things matters, highlighting the costs of consumer debt
5. The importance of saving and the power of time, highlighting the concept of compound interest

Students who participated will also in participate in additional Junior Achievement programs on financial literacy and work-readiness with MassMutual and affiliate volunteers.

For more information, please visit <http://www.massmutual.com/futuresmartchallenge>.

About Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas

Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas is the greater Houston area's largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network of nearly 13,500 role models, JA of Southeast Texas provides in-school and after-school programs for students in grades K-12 which focus on entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy. Today, JA of Southeast Texas anticipates reaching 330,000 students in more than 900 schools this school year. For more information, visit www.jahouston.org. Also, follow us on Twitter: @ja_set

About MassMutual

Founded in 1851, MassMutual is a leading mutual life insurance company that is run for the benefit of its members and participating policyowners. The company has a long history of financial strength and strong performance, and although dividends are not guaranteed, MassMutual has paid dividends to eligible participating policyowners consistently since the 1860s. With whole life insurance as its foundation, MassMutual provides products to help meet the financial needs of clients, such as life insurance, disability income insurance, long term care insurance, retirement/401(k) plan services, and annuities. In addition, the company's strong and growing network of financial professionals helps clients make good financial decisions for the long-term.

Houston is the seventh stop on the 2018 multi-city tour of MassMutual Foundation's FutureSmart Challenge, a future leadership program that offers middle school students the opportunity to learn about smart educational and financial choices in an exciting interactive seminar followed by Junior Achievement curriculum in their classrooms during the school year. Since 2014, more than 800,000 students have benefited from the FutureSmart program through the Challenges and digital program. The FutureSmart program aims to impact the financial literacy of two million students by 2020.

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