

C24/7 Shooting Star

Meet William

Donor Impact



William learned early how heavy responsibility can feel. From a Christian family, he found C24/7 to be his safe haven. William enrolled in C24/7 After School program when he was in the sixth grade at Acero Charter Schools in Chicago, he then went on to CICS Northtown Charter Academy. Today, he is a member of the C24/7 Job Development program and has been hired as a paid C24/7 Teen Worker, and has been accepted into the Dreams, Visions, Work Entrepreneurial Job Training program. William touts “C24/7 has really helped him work through his relationship with God and be more positive”. Dreams, Vision, Works teaches Young Entrepreneurs high-impact, skills-based training rooted in five essential pillars of entrepreneurial success:

Business Planning – structuring ideas into viable business models; Financial Literacy – understanding cash flow, budgeting, and capital readiness; Target Audience Definition – identifying and reaching ideal customers; Branding – establishing a compelling and credible market presence; and Marketing – building visibility, engagement, and consistent sales.

Under the leadership of C24/7 Board Members, Community Business Mentors, and Corporate leaders, he and his team of four have conceptualized a mission-driven start-up to launch a clothing line — Faith Based Hoodie attire.

C24/7 Dreams, Vision, Work program is designed to teach students how to scale their ideas beyond startup and aim for market expansion and ultimately how to pitch their ideas to (angel) investors for revenue growth. C24/7 young entrepreneurs are able to reflect on their journeys, they uncover valuable lessons about perseverance, adaptability, and innovation. They learn that consistency often trumps quick wins and that building a business is a marathon, not a sprint. These lessons become guiding principles that shape their future plans and aspirations.

Each student’s success stories are not just business milestones—they represent a shift in generational outcomes, wealth ownership, and community leadership. We believe entrepreneurship is more than a business path—it’s a tool for reclaiming legacy, rewriting narratives, and rebuilding communities from the inside out. Every entrepreneurial journey begins with that first courageous step, and for C24/7 young innovators, the path to success often starts with a spark of inspiration. It might be a desire to solve a problem they see every day or a passion for a favorite hobby that they want to turn into something bigger. Whatever the inspiration, these initial ideas form the bedrock of what could become a significant business in the future.

William is blessed to have parents and friends who plays a crucial role during these formative steps. With encouragement from family and C24/7 program staff, this small endeavor can gain momentum, helping the young entrepreneur learn vital business skills. As these young entrepreneurs navigate the beginnings of their business ventures, they gain foundational knowledge that paves the way for overcoming future challenges and achieving their goals. From setting up Faith Based Hoodie attire storefront, to launching an online store, the early experiences teach resilience and foster an entrepreneurial mindset. These skills and lessons shape their journey forward, enabling them to transform small dreams into big realities.

Created by C24/7 Executive Director, Brother James Crockett vision is to not just train young entrepreneurs — he aims to create changemakers! The dreams of these young visionaries continue to evolve as they grow and gain more experience. They aim not only to expand their current projects but also to inspire other kids and teens to explore entrepreneurship. Their stories remain a testament to the power of Christ, youthful ambition and the endless possibilities it holds. With hard work and the right support, young entrepreneurs are set to achieve even greater heights.

Looking ahead past high school, Williams is being mentored by C24/7 Board Chair, David Nyren to pursue post-secondary attainment and is assisting him with exploring his different options to enter College or Technical School.