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West Side Scholarship Recipients Feel Supported and Encouraged Four Months in to School

At-risk youth find personal and professional confidence with the Wahl Fade It Forward program.

A few months in to the Wahl Fade It Forward program, the chosen students have found that the support from UCAN, a Chicago social service organization, has given them a leg up at His & Hers Barber School.

“The four-week mentorship program prior to starting class gave me a head start on cutting because I learned about everything in the first five chapters of our textbook prior to classes starting. It helped out a lot,” said Andre Whittington.



Now in their fifth month of the 13-month program, Mikayla Harper, Andre Whittington, Quentin Crump, and Sebastian Moore, are able to fully understand the benefits of the Fade It Forward program. Wahl’s Fade It Forward Mentorship Program presented each mentee with a full scholarship to His & Hers Barber School, a mentor and the continued support of UCAN. The Wahl Fade It Forward Program was created when Wahl Education & Artistic Team (W.E.A.T.) member Garland “G-Whiz” Fox and a few others began to think about how they could give back to the community. They decided to find some at-risk youth that need a chance and give them an opportunity.

“Wahl really wanted to truly affect people’s lives with this venture,” said Lance Wahl, Global Vice President – Professional Products, Wahl Clipper Corporation. “We know that to really succeed in this industry, you need to have a strong foundation. The mentors that Garland and UCAN found for these students are really helping them grow as professionals and people. When you combine the mentorship with the strong school system that His & Hers provides, it gives us high hopes for their future in this awesome industry.”

Initially, the promise of a scholarship to attend His & Hers Barber School gave the students the most excitement. As they’ve gotten more into the ins and outs of barbering, having a professional mentor on call has been a great help.

“I have reached out to my mentor for a lot of customer service questions. I had a client that wanted me to do something different than what they had described to me, so they got mad at me. I went back to my mentor and asked them what to do to handle those situations,” said Sebastian Moore.

The partnership with UCAN provides the students with transportation and community assistance. The students know if they need anything, they can reach out to UCAN and get

support. His & Hers has also given the students an opportunity to give back to their community by arranging back-to-school cuts for kids in need.

The students are on track to graduate in August 2019. With the confidence from the Fade It Forward program, the students look forward to graduating, getting into the work force and eventually becoming mentors themselves.

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About Wahl Professional

Since 1919, with the invention of the first practical electric hair clipper, Wahl Clipper Corporation has been the leader in the professional and home grooming category. Today, with over 2,500 employees worldwide, Wahl is proud to carry forward the tradition of innovation and superior customer service that was created by Leo J. Wahl. Headquartered in Sterling, Illinois, Wahl distributes to 176 countries and has eight global manufacturing facilities as well as 25 sales offices. At Wahl, we are proud of our heritage of excellence as well as our remarkable list of groundbreaking innovations for the present and future for the global market. Visit www.wahlpro.com for more details.

About UCAN

UCAN is one of Chicago's oldest, yet most innovative, social services organization that helps build strong youth and families through compassionate healing, education and empowerment. For more than 149 years, UCAN has been a sanctuary for youth who have suffered trauma and neglect through a clinical approach to healing that is united, culturally relevant and consistent. Our vision is youth who have suffered trauma can become our future leaders. UCAN serves over 13,000 youth and families annually through an integrated continuum of services. UCAN meets the changing needs of Chicagoland's at-risk youth by transitioning them to programs as their needs change. As a culturally proficient organization, UCAN integrates diversity and inclusion into our operations to engage staff, partners, peers and supporters. Our progressive way of doing business embraces cultural differences, which helps UCAN act as a change agent and challenge the status quo.

About His & Hers Barber School

His & Hers Barber School currently offers a 1,500-hour program that prepares students for their licensing examination and entry-level careers in the barbering industry. Their goal is to graduate productive members of the barbering industry, who are invaluable assets to employees in the workforce. The barbering program at His & Hers Barber School offers hands-on interactive classes and teaches the "lost art of shaving" through demonstrations, live models, audio visual aids and basic classroom instruction: combining practical applications with barbering theory. His & Hers Barber School employs highly skilled and experienced instructors who combine the latest teaching techniques with a wealth of knowledge and state-of-the-art technology.