

# NFL's Chris Chambers and Key coach kids on financial literacy

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Staff Reporter

KeyBank and NFL Star Chris Chambers held a couple of financial education sessions about checking accounts, credit cards and savings for nearly 40 high school athletes from Bedford High School and the Ted Ginn Sr. Academy. The classes were held at the KeyBank Financial Education Center, 11461 Buckeye Road, in Cleveland.

Chambers, who now plays for the San Diego Chargers, has not forgotten all the help he received as a young person and the impact that organized sports had on his development during his childhood.

In 2005, Chambers and his family created the Children Achieving Through Community (C.A.T.C.H.) 84 Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that is committed to helping kids look beyond their current circumstances by promoting self-fulfillment through physical fitness and educational programs.

Chambers was born in Cleveland under the care of his mother, Linda, a single parent. He and his family were able to get through difficult times with love, prayer, family support and the right guidance. Chambers' involvement in organized sports programs allowed him to overcome many obstacles and excel as an athlete and as a person.



Chris Walker, Poppie Parish, Chris Chambers, Everett Heard and Dan Chambers take time out between sessions. (STAFF PHOTOS BY JAMES W. WADE III)

"I made a lot of mistakes with my money growing up," said Chambers.

Instructors for the class included Marlon Walker, Steve Harmon, Woody Allen and Beverly Davis.

KeyBank is committed to working with the community about financial education. KeyBank provided each student with a package that included information about all of KeyBank products. When the classes ended, Chambers came in and talked about some of the trials he went through financially. Chambers also spoke to all of the students about the importance of being fiscally responsible and how easy it is to become bankrupt even if you make a lot

of money if you do not save it and act responsibly. Chambers participated in a Financial Fitness presentation and a Q&A session.

Chambers C.A.T.C.H. 84 Foundation sponsored every child over 18 with a \$10 new savings account. This is a program hosted by Key Bank called Cleveland Saves, which aims to teach young people the importance of maintaining savings accounts and learning how the accounts benefit customers.

"Chris has done some many great things in the community, and KeyBank is proud to work him," said Key Senior Vice President of Economic Inclusion and Client Education Poppie Parish, who oversees all



San Diego Chargers star Chris Chambers talks to Bedford Heights High School and Ted Ginn Academy students about making the right choices with their money.



Students from Ted Ginn Academy and Bedford Heights High School listen to Chris Chambers as he talks about the importance of financial education.

of the financial education programs at KeyBank.

No matter where his NFL career takes him, Chambers will continue to give back to his hometown of Cleveland. He has hosted a youth skills camps and a high school skills camp in Bedford, ever since he entered the NFL and will continue to host the camps on an annual basis with the hopes of making it a bigger camp year in and year out.