

The original inception of the **Karate Five Dojo** was created by Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson after being at YWCA in 1974 and YMCA from 1975 to 1980. Sensei Melbert Lee, Sr., approached Sensei Willie Garfield Wilson when he was wanting ideas how to organize the dojo on the carport of Wilson's home; which came the first unofficial historical meeting of the Karate Five (K-5). After brainstorming about the name and how the dojo would function; their first official meeting and election of officers was held on March 30, 1980 at Lee's residence.

Their next meeting which set out their Mission statement and also elected officers was held at the YMCA on May 1, 1980. During this meeting, the "Karate Five" name was voted on and approved by the original five founders (Willie Garfield Wilson; Melbert Lee, Sr.; Linda P. Wilson; Fredrick E. Brabson, Sr.; and William Faulkner). Today, Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson and the Board are still conscientiously pursuing K-5's original Mission to continue the legacy and vision of the late Grandmaster Harold Long's determination to bring a martial arts training program to Knoxville's inner city youth.

Karate Five's founders and its **Board of Directors** believe in the Mission started by Master Long. More importantly, Karate Five chose to focus and streamline its organization's energies and professional martial arts masters and instructors' talents with this city's youth and young adults through its own community outreach non-profit programs and educational scholarships since the organization's inception.

Since Karate Five's inception and mission as a non-for-profit martial arts organization, Karate Five has never been a "for profit" organization and **is now a public charity registered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) (3) Corporation** in the State of Tennessee.

Donors can deduct contributions made to our organization to sponsor our students, outreach programs, and scholarships under the IRS Code (IRC) Section 170.

For almost four decades, this organization has succeeded through the sustaining generosity and commitment by our individual, corporate and organizational sponsors who have made this program a success. Our goal is to bring the best martial arts training we can to our students, workshops and tournament participation.

Karate Five focuses on developing its youths' self esteem, confidence, strong spiritual and moral values and disciplines. The training encourages young leadership skills and promotes educational development practices as also exemplified through the organization's **"Continuing Education Scholarship Program"** in scholarship partnership efforts with Foster Chapel Baptist Church.

Grandmaster Wilson believes our youth are the backbone of the future. They have to be cultivated and motivated toward these goals no matter what their personal family or community background or challenges are--even in martial arts. He is strongly committed to and believes, *"It really does take a village to raise a child."*

A major partner in Karate Five's success has been accomplished by partnering with Foster Chapel Baptist Church's Back-to-School Program which distributes new school supplies and backpacks to its martial arts students and Foster Chapel's church members. We work in partnership with Foster Chapel's Annual Scholarship Awards Program. Another long-standing partnership has been with the City of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department through our organization's use of the Oakland Community Center and the longstanding support of the Oakland and inner city communities.

Without these partnerships and our sponsors, we would not have a facility for our dojo or the long-standing success with Knoxville's inner city youth. All of this success has been accomplished through K-5's outreach and educational programs, workshops, seminars, conferences, training demonstrations and tournament participations.

*"Grandmaster Wilson and the Karate Five Board of Directors adamantly proclaim and reiterate our **Mission** to help inner city youth to spiritually, physically and morally develop sound and disciplined personal standards of living. We teach them to honor and exemplify a deep respect for family values and their community through the martial arts."*

"Let My Spirit be Protected by the Knowledge of the Martial Arts"

