

The Mission of the Karate Five Association



The original inception of the [**Karate Five Dojo**](#) was created by Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson in 1975 when he approached Melbert Lee Sr. with his idea to organize a dojo. Karate Five's (K-5) very first unofficial historical meeting was held on the front porch of Wilson's home. 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). This was over 40 years ago. Today, Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson and the Board are still conscientiously pursuing K-5's original Mission. Karate Five is continuing 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 adult 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)**

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Corporation in the State of Tennessee. Donors can deduct contributions made to our organization's for our students, outreach programs, and scholarships under the IRS Code (IRC) Section 170.

For almost four decades, it 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 youths' self esteem, confidence, strong spiritual and moral values. Karate Five encourages young leadership and educational developments as practiced through its "[Continuing Scholarship Education 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 challenges are--even in martial arts. "It really does take a village to raise a child."

A major partner in our success has been accomplished by working with Foster Chapel Baptist Church's Back -to-School Program and our contribution to their 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.

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Without these partnerships and 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"

