



# TEAM FOCUS

Apr/May/June 2018

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11.*

*"When I was 11 years old, my father died. I know that there are a lot of young men today with the same needs I had because my father was not available to me. Team Focus seeks to come alongside young men to help them to achieve their ultimate goal; to walk in the destiny God has planned for them." --Mike Gottfried*

## Don't Miss This!



With summer approaching, we are really looking forward to our Team Focus Summer Leadership Camps. We are excited about taking our leadership up a few levels this summer. Aaron Dais has interviewed leaders all over the world and he will have videos to share with you this summer.

Make great use of your time this summer. I regret when I was your age several opportunities I didn't take advantage of. I would of read more books on various subjects. If you are reading books you are getting better each day.

Next, I would read and study the Bible more. Every answer you need is in this book. If you call our office we will send you books on different subjects.

Our Team Focus Ohio and Alabama banquets were outstanding. We thank John and Ellen Calipari, Nick and Terry Saban and Urban and Shelley Meyer for giving their time to support Team Focus.

Lastly, remember to treat your mom, grandmother and guardian with much love and respect. You should tell them you love them each day. Believe me I wish I could tell my mom and grandmothers one more time, I love you.

Don't miss this!  
God Bless You and have a great summer.

Mike Gottfried  
Co-Founder/President  
Team Focus

## Congratulations 2018 Graduates

High school graduates of 2018, I am so very proud of you! I know it is such a rewarding feeling to be able to walk across that stage and receive your high school diploma.



Education comes with many different challenges inside and outside of the classroom. I've talked with you all on many occasions about what it means to finish strong and you have defined that very lesson with your actions. Life has only begun for you! You are all capable of so much more and I look forward to seeing where God takes you. Continue to hold tight to our Team Focus Bible verse, Jeremiah 29:11, as you move forward in life. There will be times when you are not sure what to do, but seek God and let him show you the way. Remember that the decisions you make now can effect your future, so let us all continue to make the best daily decisions we can for our lives.

Define Team Focus is to define what it means to be a family and we want you all to know that you are all still very much apart of this program. Many Alumni members have come back as graduate assistants, guest speakers, and traveled different states in the U.S. to help with the development of different Team Focus chapters. We truly look to you to show the current members what it means to be a respectable and hard working young man now. We also have faith in you to show others what it means to be a Team Focus Alumni.

Stay in touch! I can't say that enough. Life will get busy, but do your best to keep in touch with those who have impacted you in a positive way. Continue to develop those relationships God has placed in your life to help push you forward. Healthy relationships with your family, friends, colleagues, and classmates are the best relationships. Take the time and effort to do so, it will make a great difference in your life.

We love you guys and wish nothing but the best for you. As always, if there is a need, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to help you all in whatever way we can.

Aaron Dais  
Team Focus Historian/Videographer/  
Asst. to Founder/Director  
Team Focus Mobile Alum



# Raising Up Champions for Tomorrow

## Thank You Team Focus!



*"Thank you and your team for volunteering at Dumas Wesley Community Center's Third Annual Plane Pull. Team Focus is a vital program for the community and Dumas Wesley was honored and grateful to have you all lending a hand. We'd love to see you all on the "rope" next year!"*

On May 8th, Team Focus Mobile volunteered at the Third Annual Plane Pull hosted by Dumas Wesley Community Center. We were responsible for making sure water was available to everyone attending the event. We gave out ice cream and made sure the kids enjoyed the athletic bounce house activities.

## Team Focus Mobile Mom's Group

The purpose of the Team Focus Mom's/Guardian's Group is to equip the moms/guardians of Team Focus members with the resources they need to raise a family without a father figure in the home.

Monthly meetings cover topics on education, finances, spiritual growth, social issues, etc. This group also serves as a support group where single mothers/guardians can fellowship with one another to share victories, struggles and advice.

Pictured are the Mom's Leadership Council Members: Deloris Washington, Nicole Kelly, Rena McAuthor and Bobbie Kidd.



"I would like to say that Team Focus is a blessing to me and my family. My prayer was for my two sons to have proper male mentorship and guidance. I was beginning to feel like I was at a crossroads due to my oldest son who just turned 13 and was beginning to be a little difficult to handle. One day, I watched a segment on Fox 10 News about Nick Saban supporting a group called Team Focus and I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I listened to Aaron Dais speak highly of a group he was a part of as a young man called Team Focus. He spoke about the group being designed to help young boys that do not have their fathers present in their lives. This was a prayer answered. Once the segment ended, I called Team Focus and spoke with Mrs. Deloris and she did an awesome job guiding me on how to locate and start the application process for my sons. My sons and I are truly excited to be apart of such a dynamic group!" --Jora Lofton, Team Focus Mobile Mom



## Congratulations 2018 Team Focus Mobile Graduates!



**JAMIAH BRADLEY**  
**ROMERIUS CAPLES**  
**TRE HOWARD**

**MARIO LOCKETT**  
**JAKARL MOORER**  
**KOBIE RUFFIN**  
(Moss Point Mississippi)

## Team Focus Mobile Alumni



Pictured is Aaron Dais and Justen Campbell (both Team Focus Mobile Alumni). Aaron Dais joined Team Focus in 2002 and recently joined the Team Focus Mobile staff. He is Historian/Videographer/Assistant to the Founder and Director. Justen joined Team Focus in 2001. Justen is employed at SGS Petroleum Services (located at Chevron Gas Refinery in Pascagoula, MS). Justen sends his greetings and said for all you Team Focus young men to keep up the good work!

## Equipping Team Focus Young Men

It is the heart of Team Focus to meet the day-to-day needs of all the Team Focus members. Equipping them with male mentors is crucial since they don't have a father figure in their lives. ....but it is also important to equip them with certain financial needs. Following are some of the ways you can show your support and assist us in meeting as many of their needs as possible:

1. Volunteering your time
2. Call the young men from time to time to encourage them
3. Make a charitable donation to your chapter
4. Equip the young men with "Back to School" supplies  
\*(drop off any of the suggested list of supplies to the Mobile office or your chapter director)
5. Support through your prayers

### \*LIST OF RECOMMENDED ITEMS FOR "BACK TO SCHOOL":

College Ruled Notebook Paper  
#2 Pencils  
Pens  
Highlighters  
Backpacks  
2-Pocket Folders with Brads

Markers  
Crayons (for 5th graders)  
8 GB Jump Drives  
Scientific Calculator  
2" 3-Ring Binders

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR TEAM FOCUS!

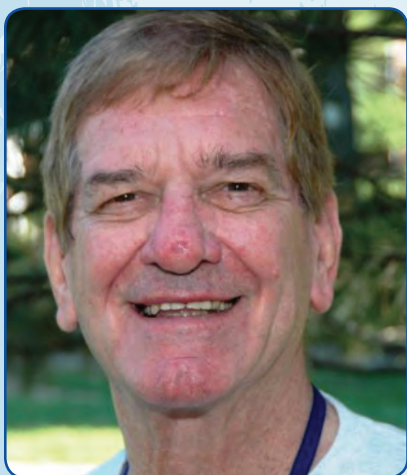
## Team Focus Mobile, Alabama Chapter



# The Strength of Team Focus is the Power of God

## Talking Points with Pastor Rey Dempsey

### Have an Attitude of Gratitude!



One of the things we teach at Team Focus is to be GRATEFUL in all things that affect you. We teach you don't have to wait until you are 30-60 years old and then be thankful. Look around; there are people all around to thank. Make it a daily habit to express gratitude and thankfulness to those around you. Always begin each day thanking God for all he has done for you. He gives you every breath of life! Thank your Mother or Aunt or Grandma or Guardian for all the love and care that has been given you through the years. Practice saying, "I'm thankful for the food, clean clothes, rides to places, and celebrating special occasions." You get the idea. Write down all the ways you are thankful.

Rocky and Mike always thank people who have contributed money, time, prizes, etc. to help Team Focus be an excellent life experience for you. We all thank Kentucky Coach John Calipari, Alabama Coach Nick Saban and Ohio State University Coach Urban Meyer for all they do for Team Focus. There are many people in your life, such as Family, Coaches, Teachers, Pastors, Neighbors, Friends, TF Leaders, etc. that have invested in you. Make a list of who you can thank and then begin practicing your "thank yous."

Love you all,  
**Pastor Rey**

## Team Focus Kentucky Chapter

The Team Focus Kentucky Chapter had an outing where they attended the Morehead State U./Eastern KY U. Basketball game (big rivals) and MSU won! Head Basketball Coach Preston Spradlin spoke with the Team Focus young men after the game. He told them he and some of his team will meet with them during camp this summer (see pictures). Team Focus Kentucky also attended the Georgetown College vs. Life College Men's basketball game. They enjoyed pizza and fellowship prior to the game.

The Kentucky Summer Leadership Camp will be held July 27-30 on the Morehead State University campus. I look forward to seeing you there!

**Bill Baldrige, Director**



**Thank You Coach Calipari for Supporting the Kentucky Chapter!**



# Honor, Respect, Leadership and Legacies



## Team Focus Ohio Pizza Parties

Pictured is a Team Focus Pizza Party held in Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio Chapter held five pizza parties across Ohio: Bucyrus, Marion, Ashland, Lima and Columbus during the months of March and April. Moms/guardians were invited, along with the Team Focus members and volunteers.

I look forward to seeing all of you young men at the Ohio camp July 15 through July 18 at Ashland University.

--Rocky Alt, Director



**The 2018 Summer Leadership Camp dates are all set. We look forward to an exciting time at each camp. We pray you all have a fun, rewarding and life-changing experience.**

**June 8-11 TEXAS @Concordia University, Austin, TX**

**July 9-12 MOBILE @Spring Hill College, Mobile, AL**

**July 15-18 OHIO @Ashland U., Ashland, Ohio**

**July 27-30 KENTUCKY @Morehead State U., Morehead, KY**

**Our sincere Thank you to Coach Urban Meyer, all of the sponsors, individual donors, speakers, volunteers and attendees for your support of Ohio's Sixth Annual Fundraising Banquet.**



Visit us on our Team Focus website: [www.teamfocususa.org](http://www.teamfocususa.org)

**Team Focus Ohio Chapter**



# Mentoring is Making a Difference

## Congratulations 2018 Team Focus Ohio Graduates!

DESTEN ALVES - will be attending school for heating and air-conditioning.

ISAIAH MARSHALL - will be attending Community College in Charlotte, NC then E. Carolina U.

GERARD PHALO - will be attending Capital U. (Columbus, OH) studying Computer Science

BRETT RINE - is undecided on trade schools

CAMERON SMITH - will be attending Graceland U. in Iowa for Nursing

CHRISTIAN WALLAND - will be attending Bowling Green State U. (Bowling Green, OH)



I have been honored to attend some high school graduation parties of the members of Team Focus Ohio (with some of them yet to be held in the near future). Sue and I, along with Co-Founders Mike and Mickey Gottfried and the volunteers, have been blessed to have all of you be a part of Team Focus. You will always be in our heart and we look forward to your continued participation in our program (as a graduate assistant giving back to the younger members, speaking at future camps, etc.). May God Bless You in Your Future Endeavors!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**--Rocky Alt, Director**



Pictured is Isaiah Marshall with Rocky at Isaiah's graduation party.



Pictured is Desten Alves' with Rocky at Desten's graduation party.

## Team Focus Alum Reconnects



Scott Dalgety, a businessman from Mobile, Alabama who knows about Team Focus was recently in Honolulu, Hawaii on a business trip where he and his wife ran into Chris Pascual. Chris lives in Honolulu and attended the 2004 Team Focus National Camp in Mobile. Chris was one of two young men from Hawaii who attended that camp. He attended Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu where he played baseball.

It is great to hear Chris is doing well and that he said Aloha to the TF team! I am especially happy that he has such a great memory of the values instilled and the influence provided during his time in the program.

NOTE: Rocky Alt coached football at the University of Hawaii for five years prior to joining the Team Focus staff; therefore, the connection with Hawaii.





## ***Team Focus Mobile Held its 11th Annual Fundraising Banquet with Keynote Speaker Coach Nick Saban on April 17***

The 11th Annual "Night Honoring Nick Saban" was a great success thanks to our awesome supporters. We enjoyed honoring Coach Nick Saban and his wife Terry for their six national titles and their support of Team Focus over the past 11 years.



Also honored at the banquet was ESPN's Lee Corso who has been a supporter of Team Focus for many years. Erin Billa, the wife of fallen Mobile Police Officer Justin Billa, was honored for their sacrifice for the City of Mobile. It was truly an inspiring night! We appreciate all who attended and made the night possible.

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO THIS YEAR'S SPONSORS!**



## ***Team Focus Ohio Held its 6th Annual Fundraising Banquet with Keynote Speaker Coach Urban Meyer on April 19***

The 6th Annual Team Focus Ohio "An Evening of College Football with Coach Urban Meyer" was a huge success. Thank you Coach Meyer for all you do for Team Focus!

It was clear in his address that Coach Meyer is not only a head football coach at a major university, but a Minister of Culture. He's created an environment to not only help his players maximize their potential on the field, but after they leave, whether they continue with their football career or not. "When you look at an athlete, why is he not performing?" Meyer said. "Dig deep and find out what's going on. At our level, you can't cut them or just say 'Leave. We're going to draft someone else.' You've got to develop them. "That's why I have been a college coach. I love having a staff that understands you have to be a good husband and father because you have to train these guys. One thing you can't say at Ohio State is 'He's not good enough.' Don't ever say that. Your job as a coach is to make him good enough. That's why they call you coach."

"People don't know this," Meyer told the crowd as he turned to Martinelli, "but he recruited me out of high school. I still have letters from you in 1982."

Fred Martinelli, honoree at the banquet, received a standing ovation from the crowd after receiving a plaque.

**Many thanks to the Presenting/Corporate Sponsor: Cunix Enterprises/ Toy Barn; and all our other sponsors for making this a night to remember!**





# Raising Up Champions!

## Congratulations to all the 2018 Team Focus Texas Graduates!



The Team Focus Austin, Texas Chapter has eight high school young men graduating: **DYLAN DEASAI** will attend St. Edwards U., Austin TX; **CAMERON WILKINS** earned a full scholarship to the U. of Missouri to play football; **IMADE "SCALE" IGIEHAN** earned a full scholarship to Boise State U. in Idaho to play football; the following will also attend college: **BRANDON FERGUSON-KENDRICK**, **ALEXIS LOBAINA**, **TYREKE CAUSEY**, **DIJON FISHER** and **JOSEPH PEREZ**.

**COLTON HINSCH** graduated from Texas A&M U. with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resource Development and is now a member of the HEB Corporation, San Antonio HR staff. CONGRATULATIONS!

## Team Focus Texas Alum Danny Randle



I attended my first Team Focus camp at the University of North Texas in 2005. Since that summer my life has been forever changed by the beliefs and mission of Team Focus. Through Team Focus, I was able to travel to other states and attend events that I would never have been able to because of being raised by a single mother.

The values instilled in me by Team Focus at a young age had a lot to do with my matriculation through college. The notetaking competitions, the early morning call times, staying on a college campus and having a roommate, etiquette classes, etc. were all the dynamics of the Team Focus program. They were not in vain. They were extremely helpful in the long run.

My advice to young men in the program is to take it seriously. Do not take the opportunities presented by Team Focus for granted.....capitalize and learn from them. I am forever grateful for the mentors Team Focus has placed in my life and the insight to life that Team Focus has afforded me and other young men around the country. --Danny Randle

NOTE: Danny will soon receive a B.A. in Mass Communications/Public Relations at Clark Atlanta University.

## Austin, Texas Outing

Team Focus Austin Chapter recently attended the HEB Center for NBA D-League game: Austin Spurs and Bay Area Lakers. 24 Team Focus young men, along with four adult mentors/coaches attended and had a very enjoyable time. This was the first event where our new members from Mission Austin Church attended.

The Spurs were very good to Team Focus Austin. We were allowed to sit courtside during warm-ups, then just before tip-off, Team Focus all formed the "High Five" tunnel for the team to pass by when each Spur was announced. The Spurs won 140-128! Great game! --A.L. "Buzz" Carruth, Director



## Team Focus Austin, Texas Chapter



## Team Focus Jacksonville Chapter



Team Focus Jacksonville ended 2017 with two events in December. On Saturday, December 2, we worked the Humble Harvest event, a community out-reach that serves several hundred members of our Jacksonville community in need each December.

The following Saturday, December 9, we finished out our calendar year with our 2017 Team Focus Jacksonville Christmas Party. This event was held at the home of one of our generous volunteers (Drew Story). Since our group was fairly small, we also included our moms and we all had a great time at this very festive event!

We have several events planned and scheduled for 2018. One of them has already taken place which was our annual Valentine's Dinner with moms. May God continue to bless us all in 2018.

**Bob Gerzel**  
Volunteer Director



## SOME JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER MEMORIES







# Team Focus Mentors are Raising Up Champions

## TEAM FOCUS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT TRIP TO ISRAEL June 12-22, 2018



The upcoming Team Focus Leadership Summit Trip to Israel is a Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience. Twelve young men were selected to join members of the Team Focus Leadership Team on a fact-finding mission in the Holy Land. Some of the stops along the way include the Garden of Gethsemane, Garden Tomb, Holocaust Museum, the Knesset, the Western Wall, the Sea of Galilee, Sderot Hospital, Mount of Beatitudes, Abraham's Mountain, Mount of Blessings, Valley of Elah, along with meeting Israeli leaders and much more.

The Jewish State of Israel is the fulfillment of the covenant between the Jewish people and the land itself, inspired by the promise God gave to Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 12:3).

The purpose of the Team Focus 10-day tour to Israel from June 12-22, 2018 is to structure a teaching tour to educate the young men on Israel and its history through firsthand exposure and interaction with Israelis. It is our desire to support the State of Israel and the Jewish people so they can fulfill God's destiny for them. The Team Focus young men are taught about the destiny God has for them through the Jeremiah 29:11 scripture.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND THIS TRIP FOR THE YOUNG MEN. THEY WILL BENEFIT GREATLY BY BEING A PART OF THIS EDUCATIONAL TOUR AS THE BIBLE COMES ALIVE FOR THEM.



**Genesis 12:3 - God tells Abraham and his descendants, "I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."**



# Working Together with a Plan for the Fatherless...



*"God smiles when we praise and thank Him continually. Few things feel better than receiving heartfelt praise and appreciation from someone else. God loves it, too. An amazing thing happens when we offer praise and thanksgiving to God. When we give God enjoyment, our own hearts are filled with joy." --William Law*



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The Sieve Family



Bob and Linda Sebo

**TEAM FOCUS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL DONOR FOR YOUR HEARTFELT GIVING. YOU HAVE TRULY BLESSED THE FATHERLESS!**  
**THANKS FOR GIVING**



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