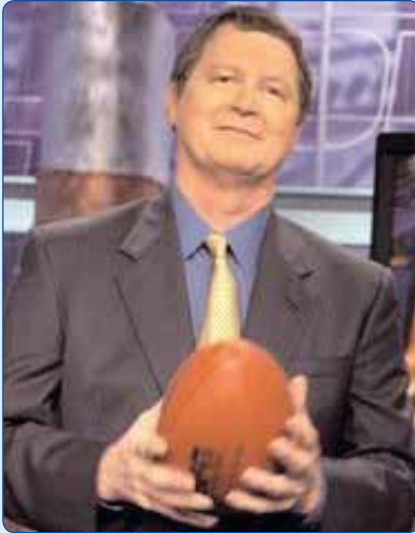




TEAM FOCUS

Jan/Feb/Mar 2015

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.



Mike Gottfried

"Team Focus Offers a Legacy of Leadership to Young Men Without Fathers"

Through Christian values and leadership training, Team Focus members build long-term relationships with young men who lack a strong or present father figure.

The year-round community-centered program focuses on positive influences and role models — including high-profile, nationally-recognized collegiate and professional athletes and coaches - for these young men through individual mentoring, tutoring, monthly social activities, leadership camps and scholarship opportunities.

"The need is great," said Mike Gottfried, about why Team Focus has continued to grow for the past 14 years. "The need is greater as time goes on."

(See related story on Page Ten)

By the time you are reading this newsletter, we will have enjoyed Valentine's Day. What a great day to show your love for your family and friends. We shouldn't just express our love on February 14, but we should do it every day. Tell your mom, grandmother, guardian and family and friends every opportunity you love them...just don't wait until one day in February. Make your own card and those you love will cherish your action for life.

Now we are in March and the college basketball season is winding down to the tournament. We have coaches who have supported Team Focus over the years both speaking and financial support. John Calipari and his wife Ellen are responsible for the chapter in Kentucky. John speaks every year around Fathers Day at the camp in Georgetown and has financially stepped up for five years.



Pictured L to R: TF Alum Jesse Williams, Coach John Calipari and Team Focus Co-Founder Mike Gottfried.



Pictured with Coach Calipari is Team Focus member Todd Blevins at the 2014 Team Focus Kentucky Chapter Summer Leadership Camp.

Mark Gottfried at NC State has helped financially and is exploring the possibility of beginning a chapter in North Carolina. Steve Fisher at San Diego State and David Rice of UNLV have helped in California and Las Vegas.

In Closing, we are preparing for our Team Focus camps in the summer...highlighted by our Team Focus Summit on June 12-17, 2015 (by invitation). It will be a fabulous time.

God bless you and your family!

Mike Gottfried



2015 GoDaddy Bowl



Each year as part of the GoDaddy Bowl activities, a Mayor's Luncheon is held at the Mobile Convention Center. This year's featured speaker was Joe Theismann, an All-American quarterback and Heisman trophy contender at Notre Dame and was the quarterback for 12 seasons with the Washington Redskins (pictured below with Joe Theismann is Mike Gottfried and some Team Focus members/alumni).

Also at the Mayor's Luncheon, the Team Focus Scholarship Recipients are honored. Pictured left speaking on behalf of Team Focus is Christopher Jenkins. The Scholarship recipients are as follows:

John Gottfried Memorial Scholarship Winners

- Tyler Albright - Crestline High School (Ohio)
- Dylan Allison - Colonial Crawford High School (Ohio)
- Thomas Kidd - LeFlore High School (Alabama)

2015 GoDaddy/Team Focus Scholarship Winners

- Christopher Jenkins - Blount High School (Alabama)
- Cody Shropshire - Rowan County HS (Kentucky)
- Blake Smith - Colonial Crawford HS (Ohio)

2015 Champion of Life Honorees:

Mike Beebe, Shawn Cunix, Terry Curtis, Benjamin A. Ferguson, Mark Freeman and Charles A. Sullivan.



Pictured is Shawn Cunix with Joe Theismann.



Pictured is Shawn Cunix with his presenter



Pictured is Ben and Kim Ferguson with Joe Theismann.



Pictured is Joe Gottfried (presenter) with Ben Ferguson.



Pictured (L to R back row): Chris Bittner (Alum and Board Member), Stephen Hennessey (Alum and Semmes Chapter Director), Terry Mohijar (ASU), Dr. Tim Hudson (ASU), Evan St. Clair (Alum and Board Member), Trevor Sanders (Dallas Chapter Member)

Pictured (L to R middle row): Billy Alves (Ohio Chapter Member), Thomas Kidd (Mobile Chapter Member), Joe Theismann, Kevin Ndongo (Alum), Mike Gottfried;

Pictured (front row): Dylon Adams (Mobile Chapter Member).

Since its inception in 1999, the Go Daddy Bowl has given numerous Champion of Life awards. Honorees have achieved great success in their chosen field through dedication and hard work. They have over-come the many obstacles that have stood in the path of success and have given a great deal back to the community and country. It is a great honor for the Go-Daddy Bowl to present Champion of Life awards each year. We commend and congratulate each recipient on all that they have achieved and contributed, and all that they will continue to do.

We are pleased to highlight two of those honorees in this newsletter. Pictured receiving their Champion of Life award is Shawn Cunix (a successful business owner and TF Advisory Council Member from Ohio) and Ben Ferguson (also a successful business owner and TF Advisory Council Member from Ohio and he also serves as a TF National Board Member).

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE!

2015 Fundraising Dinners



2015 NICK SABAN FUNDRAISING DINNER

*Three Time National Championship
Coach Nick Saban Will Speak at the 8th Annual
Team Focus Fundraising Dinner in Mobile on April 16, 2015*



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
AND JOIN US FOR THIS
SPECIAL ANNUAL EVENT
WITH COACH NICK SABAN!**

MOBILE, ALABAMA: The Fundraising Banquet/Dinner for April 16, 2015 will include three time National Championship Coach Nick Saban (keynote speaker), a dinner, meet & greet session with Coach Saban and sponsors, silent auction and a live auction of sports memorabilia and other sports related items.

For more information, tickets and sponsorships, contact the Mobile, Alabama Team Focus office at 251-635-1515 or visit the Team Focus website: teamfocususa.org
All proceeds will go to Team Focus.



2015 URBAN MEYER FUNDRAISING DINNER

*2015 Undisputed National Championship
Coach Urban Meyer Will Speak at the 3rd Annual
Team Focus Fundraising Dinner in Columbus on April 16, 2015*



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US FOR THIS
SPECIAL ANNUAL EVENT WITH COACH MEYER!**

COLUMBUS, OHIO: The 2015 Undisputed National Champions...Ohio State University Football Coach Urban Meyer will speak at the 3rd Annual Ohio Team Focus Fundraising Banquet/Dinner on April 16, 2015. The event will include the following: a dinner, meet & greet session with Urban Meyer and sponsors, a silent auction and a live auction of sports memorabilia and other sports-related items.

For ticket information, contact Rocky Alt at the Ohio Team Focus office at 614-895-2131 or at the following email address: rocky@teamfocususa.org. All proceeds will go to Team Focus Ohio.

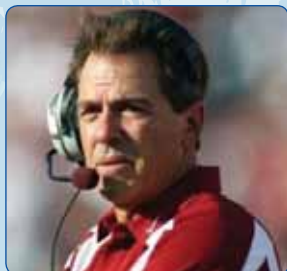




"Strong Ties to Both Sides of the Ball"

Excerpts of the following were taken from an article written by Jon Spencer, Sports Reporter-Mansfield News Journal.

Team Focus Founder Mike Gottfried is a fan of Coach Meyer and Coach Saban.



To most football fans, the Ohio State/Alabama showdown was a national semifinal playoff game wrapped inside the traditional Sugar Bowl from the New Orleans Superdome.

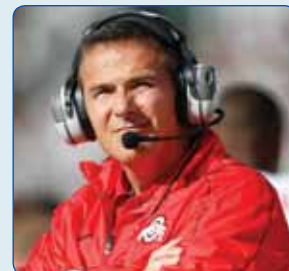
For Mike, a Crestline native, and some 3,000 young men across the country, the game had a distinct Team Focus flavor.

Even though Mike lives in Crimson Tide country, he rooted for both teams during the Sugar Bowl game. He's developed strong ties with Ohio State Coach Urban Meyer and Alabama Coach Nick Saban through their charitable efforts.

Heading into the Sugar Bowl, they not only owned six national championships between them, but they've raised funds approaching \$1 million from their appearances at Team Focus functions.

The Meyer-Gottfried connection goes back to Meyer's high school playing career at Ashtabula St. John. Meyer often pokes fun at himself by noting that Gottfried was the only major college coach to send him a recruiting letter. Gottfried was coaching at Cincinnati.

"I'm impartial because I know what all these (coaches) go through. I've been there, done that," said Gottfried, who turned around programs at Cincinnati, Kansas and Pittsburgh as a head coach. "I expected it to be a good game. Both teams have been great and both teams have great stories at quarterback."



There's no denying the huge emotional investment Mike had in the Sugar Bowl. He watched the game from home with fellow Crestline native Rocky Alt (the Ohio Team Focus Chapter Director), along with some Team Focus members from Alabama, Ohio, Texas and Michigan.

"(Coach Meyer and Coach Saban) are true winners and I knew they were headed toward playing each other," Gottfried said. "And they're going to be going at each other for a long time because they're able to recruit."

"It's two of the best jobs in the country, with two of the best facilities in the country, two of the best locations in the country for recruiting, and they have two of the best coaches."

January 12, 2015 Ohio State Beat Oregon 42-20 to Win the College Football Playoff National Championship Presented by AT&T.

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Ohio State was done when Braxton Miller got hurt in August. Ohio State was done when it lost at home to Virginia Tech in September. Ohio State was done when J.T. Barrett got hurt in November. A funny thing happened: Every time the Buckeyes looked done, they kept getting better. And in the new era of college football, that was enough to earn a chance to win a championship.

"This will go down as one of the great stories in college football history," Coach Urban Meyer said.



CONGRATULATIONS OSU!





"Forgive One Another"



This topic truly affects each one of us no matter our age, our social or financial status or our talents and gifts that God has given us.

The disciples spoke to Jesus and said, "Teach us how to pray." Jesus then taught them what you and I refer to as the "Lord's Prayer". In one of the verses Jesus said, "Forgive those who have trespassed against us." The very next verse following the Lord's Prayer Jesus says, "For if you forgive men of their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. And if you do not forgive men, then your Heavenly Father will not forgive your transgressions."

It's the heart of God for us to love one another, and also not to hold grudges against each other. When we refuse to forgive, we really are hurting ourselves.

So Team Focus young men, ask the Lord to show you who you need to forgive and from whom you should ask forgiveness.

Love all you Team Focus Members!

Rey Dempsey

2015 Team Focus Summer Camp Schedule:

June 7, 8, 9, 10

Jacksonville, FL.....(Jacksonville Univ., Jacksonville, FL)

June 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Team Focus Summit(Springhill College, Mobile, AL)

June 13, 14, 15, 16

Mobile, AL(Springhill College, Mobile, AL)

July 10, 11, 12, 13

Kentucky.....(Georgetown College, Georgetown, KY)

July 19, 20, 21, 22

Ohio(Ashland University, Ashland, OH)

July 31, August 1, 2

Las Vegas(UNLV, Las Vegas, NV)

August 2, 3, 4, 5

Austin, TX(Concordia University, Austin, TX)



Team Focus Chapter - Mobile, AL

TF Mobile Celebrates Valentine's Day by Honoring The Moms

The Mobile Team Focus moms and young men had a nice Valentine's dinner on February 12. Chef Allen Fonde outdid himself with an impressive spread of ribs, chicken, green beans, potato salad and green salad. Ms. Pam Denham delivered a beautiful teaching on love, and several of the young men and mothers won prizes.

The young men presented their mothers with a very special Valentine's gift to show how much they care. It was a wonderful evening and we thank everyone that made it happen. Thank you, Mr. Fonde for the delicious food. Thank you, Ms. Pam for the insightful message, and thank you, Knollwood Church for the use of the facilities. We hope you had a great Valentine's Day, too!



The Mobile, Alabama Moms' Board Members held their recent meeting at Logan's Roadhouse for dinner to discuss plans for 2015.

Pictured left to right:
Veronique (Nicole) Kelley,
Deloris Washington,
Beverly Coleman, Rena McAuthor,
Bobbie Kidd, Therease Price
and Julie Heaton.

2014 Christmas Gathering



Team Focus Ohio held its Christmas gathering at the Ray Kroc Salvation Center and Luray Bowling Lanes where 54 young men attended, along with 14 volunteers/staff, 4 Advisory Council Members and their wives and two pastors (Pastor Tyus Nedd (Columbus) and Pastor Jim Setser (Dayton). Pastor Jim and his wife Kim drove two and half hours to be with us. Thank you again for all you do for Team Focus!

We had a catered lunch, Pastor Tyus Nedd shared an outstanding message, played dodgeball, went bowling and Santa Clause brought the young men gifts.

We would especially like to thank our Advisory Council Members that were in attendance: Mike/Gale Dewalt, Fred/Ruth Martinelli, Shawn/Chris Cunix and Mike/Tracie Zucker. We greatly appreciate Fred and Ruth being in attendance as it was their 65th wedding anniversary! Congratulations...that is quite an accomplishment!!!



Pictured (left to right): Mike and Gale DeWalt, Fred and Ruth Martinelli, Chris and Shawn Cunix. Absent from picture is Mike and Tracie Zucker.



Pictured is Speaker Pastor Tyus Nedd.



Pictured is TF Members Desten and Billy Alves with Volunteer Sgt. Justin Snyder (center).



Pictured is Volunteer Joe Wall with TF Member Kiaz Collins.



Pictured is Team Focus Members Kevon Finch and Jadon Py with Volunteer Mike Dean.



Pictured is TF Ohio Advisory Council Member Fred Martinelli.



Pictured is Volunteer Mike Russell having fun!



Team Focus Chapter - Ohio



Pictured is Team Focus Ohio Director Rocky Alt with Alumni Aaron Culp. Rocky and Sue Alt were blessed to have several different gatherings with Aaron in December while he was home on leave from the United States Marine Corps.

Aaron has been a member/alumni of Team Focus for approximately 10 years. He and his sister were raised by their grandmother. Aaron played football and basketball at Marion Elgin High School in Marion, Ohio.

Aaron has overcome many obstacles in his life...no father, no means of transportation in the household and very little finances available to him. With the support of Team Focus, Aaron persevered and has overcome a lot of controversy and unfortunate circumstances. Upon graduation from high school, he joined the United States Marine Corps and is now a Marine traveling the world serving our country!

Aaron called me from time to time from his ship while serving in the Mediterranean Sea. He has been to Iraq (serving as security at the US Embassy in Bagdad), Spain and Italy. He always keeps in touch with Team Focus. He never forgets the Team Focus Bible verse: "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."

Aaron is currently based in Kaneohe, Hawaii as of January 2015.

Rocky Alt

GOD BLESS YOU AARON AND THANK YOU FOR SERVING OUR COUNTRY!



Marc and Garrett are Team Focus Alumni (both attending college). Marc graduated from Miami University in 2014 and is now attending MIT. Garrett is a junior at Bowling Green State University and is in the Army ROTC program.

Tessa was a part of the Team Focus Girls Program for one year and she is currently a sophomore at Miami University.

**WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE
WADSWORTH FAMILY!**

**Pictured is Marc, Tessa
and Garrett Wadsworth at a
Notre Dame football game.**

**Pictured is Team Focus Volunteer
Rocco Piacentino (center) with
Team Focus Members (L to R):
Calvin Boyer, Raleigh Smith,
Ashton Bigler and Matthew
Hughes (all from Marion)
attending the Columbus Blue
Jackets Hockey Game.**



Team Focus Manners

“Remembering”



Greetings to all of you handsome, mannerly young men of Team Focus!

I pray that you all had a wonderful Christmas and are ready to begin a new year.

As I was thinking about all of you I wondered if you remembered your manners?

Were you clean and dressed appropriately? Did you wait until everyone was served before you started to eat? If you were dining

family style did you remember to pass to the right? Did you join in the conversation but of course not with something in your mouth? I'm sure you did!

Here are a couple basic rules for you to remember around your house and when you are a guest.

Always clean up the sink and shower after you use the bathroom by checking to see if you have left toothpaste in the sink or hair in the drain and always hang up your towel.

It's not too late to write a THANK YOU note for a dinner invitation, a gift, an expression of kindness or maybe just to say THANK YOU to Mom or someone that has helped or encouraged you in any way. It's always nice to get a written THANK YOU note. Remember it doesn't have to be long, just from the heart.



And remember Valentine's Day...don't miss an opportunity to let your friends and family know that you appreciate the gifts you received... tell them thank you by sending a card. Don't forget to tell the special people in your life that you love and appreciate them.



And most of all...remember that I love all of you at Team Focus.

Jody Varga (Ohio)

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers."
---Ephesians 1:16

Team Focus Chapter - Las Vegas

Las Vegas held its annual Christmas celebration on December 13. The members and volunteers enjoyed great food catered by Chef David with Assistant Richard who served our members with great joy. Lawrence Ana was our guest speaker and he delivered a great message full of humor and testimony...and at the end we exchanged gifts...which is always a favorite!



Giovani Chaidez

Dakota Marshall (pictured right) received a computer to continue to excel in academics. Dakota went from being a poor/average student to making very good grades over the last year.

New member Giovani Chaidez (pictured left) received his 1st computer.

Christine from Outlook foundation spoke to the boys at the LV Wisdom Center and donated ten computers to the Team Focus members.

Nerses Kopalyan, Director



Dakota Marshall



In The Spotlight - Mobile, AL



This spotlight is on Sarah Thornton (pictured with her husband Matt and son Tripp).

Sarah is the Team Focus Executive Administrator and works out of the Mobile, Alabama office.

She has been a loyal employee of Team Focus since October 2007. We are very pleased to spotlight her in this newsletter and say

THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

You are loved and appreciated!

"I began working for Team Focus in 2007. In those eight years, I have had the opportunity to meet hundreds of Team Focus young men, visited some awesome places and made life-long friends. But the best part of belonging to the Team Focus family is witnessing countless lives transformed. I have seen so many young boys grow into upstanding, responsible young men and it truly makes me so proud. It is an honor and privilege to be part of such a vital mission."

Sarah Thornton

"Team Focus Offers a Legacy of Leadership to Young Men Without Fathers"

(The following are excerpts taken from an article written by Casandra Butler Andrews, Pamela Denham & Associates, LLC)

Nine years ago, single mother Julie Heaton saw a segment on the evening news about young men without fathers taking part in a year-round mentoring program in Mobile. She leaned in, watching as the fresh-faced teens learned the proper way to put on a neck tie. Heaton quickly jotted down a phone number included in the story. She called the Team Focus offices the next day.

Her son, Jakob Bush, ten at the time, was desperately in need of a father figure in his life. His father left when he was 3. Julie and Jakob have been a part of the Team Focus family for nearly a decade now.

Through Christian values and leadership training, Team Focus members build long-term relationships with young men who lack a strong or present father figure. The year-round community-centered program focuses on positive influences and role models — including high-profile, nationally-recognized

collegiate and professional athletes and coaches - for these young men through individual mentoring, tutoring, monthly social activities, leadership camps and scholarship opportunities.

"The need is great," said Mike Gottfried, about why Team Focus has continued to grow for the past 14 years. "The need is greater as time goes on."

Jakob Bush, now a 19 year old college freshman at Faulkner University in Montgomery, said members of Team Focus stepped in when his grades dropped as a high school freshman. They helped him get a scholarship to attend a private high school his mother would have never been able to afford on her own. Later, Mike and Joe Gottfried took Jakob and other young men to visit college campuses across Alabama and beyond, eventually helping him find a way to attend a Christian college. Jakob has

a scholarship to play baseball at Faulkner University, something he credits to Team Focus.

Julie Heaton says she is grateful to be part of the Team Focus family. "They were there on the bench with me at practices," she said. "They were there when I called. They would sit and talk to Jakob about respect. We quickly found out you don't do anything by yourself. You do it together."



Pictured is Jakob Bush with Mike Gottfried.

Thanks for Giving



"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



**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!



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Mobile, AL 36691

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Questions?.....Need Something?.....Want to Say Hi?

Paul (Rocky) Alt, Director of Programs/Ohio Director rocky@teamfocususa.org
Sue Alt, Dir. Human Resources/Newsletter Editor. sue@teamfocususa.org
Edwige Angono, Accountant. edwige@teamfocususa.org
Bill Baldrige, Director-Lexington, KY. billbaldrige@yahoo.com
Buzz Carruth, Area Rep.-Austin, TX buzz724@gmail.com
Pastor Rey Dempsey, VP Program Services reydempsy@comporium.net
Steve Dickson, Area Rep. Vol.-Jacksonville, FL Steve.Dickson82@gmail.com
Stephen Hennessey, Dir.Semmes, AL & TF Communic.Tech Stephen.Hennessey@gmail.com
Nerses Kopalyan, Director-Las Vegas, NV nerses@teamfocususa.org
Sarah Thornton, Executive Administrator sarah@teamfocususa.org
Deloris Washington, Receptionist delores@teamfocususa.org
Danny White, Director-Mobile, AL. danny@teamfocususa.org

Mike Gottfried, President & Co-Founder • Mickey Gottfried, Co-Founder

(251) 635-1515 [VISIT US ONLINE www.teamfocususa.org](http://www.teamfocususa.org)

(877) 635-0010 (Team Focus Office) [Toll Free](http://www.teamfocususa.org)

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