

NorthStar Soccer Ministries

IMPACT STORY , BY SIMS BOWEN, EAST SIDE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

August 17, 2015 was my first day on the job at NorthStar, having returned from my honeymoon just days before. I had one week before soccer practices started at the new East Side location for NorthStar Soccer. A week later we were holding our first night of practices with the older girls team still needing a coach. On to the field – in full soccer attire – steps Henry Bargaye and he immediately, without any prompting or official title, begins leading the girls who have arrived

throughout footwork activities with the soccer ball. “Jackpot!” I thought to myself. I have a coach.

And, that coach’s granddaughter, Tymeera, had a new opportunity to move beyond the stories to share a soccer experience with her grandfather. Tymeera knew all about her “Papa’s” stories of growing up in rural Liberia and playing soccer with a tennis ball or a rolled up piece of rubber and later, playing competitively on a team in high school. When



Henry Bargaye with granddaughter Tymeera

NorthStar Soccer came to Cornerstone School and the east side of Birmingham in 2015, Tymeera

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**NORTHSTAR SOCCER
MINISTRIES
promotes opportunities for
investment in the lives of
urban youth in
Birmingham by providing a
high quality Soccer Club
within a holistic, Christian
environment**

PERSPECTIVE, BY PAUL NEVILLE

To the left is our ministry Mission Statement. It sounds good to me. It captures well what it is that we do. But does it inspire? Does it truly capture why I stay with this effort in spite of the ups *and* downs (some pretty rough, scary down moments over the years)? Does it capture why Tina Roberts has spent the past 7 years connected with this ministry? Not really.

It gets confusing because I do feel passionately that our kids should have the

best that we can possibly deliver in terms of soccer training. But, *why*?

The reason why I feel passionately that NorthStar must provide top level soccer training to our kids is not because of soccer—but because of our kids.

It’s all about the ‘opportunity gap’ and it’s all about saying to our kids—you matter—you don’t somehow deserve less opportunity than other kids who get more—you matter just as much.

I am very thankful for staff members Tina & Sims and how they have used soccer as a tool to encourage kids and build relationships—through which they have shared the love of Christ with our kids. I hope **you** too will be excited about *why* Tina & Sims have given so much of themselves to this ministry. Please join me in praying for this ministry and giving as you are able and led.

Paul Neville

TRIBUTE TO TINA & SIMS *BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAUL NEVILLE*

There is no way that I could have brought this ministry to its present state on my own. I am deeply grateful for the faithful, hard work of both Tina Roberts and Sims Bowen.

Tina Roberts. NorthStar without Tina? It is definitely a strange new chapter in the history of this ministry. Tina was a volunteer and sometimes intern with NorthStar throughout her four years at Montevallo starting in—2010. Upon graduation in 2014 she immediately rolled into a staff position and took charge of our ‘After School’ programs and became our U6 program specialist.



It has been a delight to witness and support Tina’s ministry to children over the years. Her caring nature and her steadfast support will be sorely missed. Tina will be getting married in June and moving with her husband Justin to the Mobile Bay area. She’s got five months to get ready before I bring the NorthStar U11 Girls Academy Team (which will include two of her bible study members!) down to a soccer Festival in Orange Beach! You can bet we will be invading!



Sims (left) and Tina (right) sharing a moment on a game Saturday this Spring!

Sims Bowen. Elizabeth (Sims) Bowen started her NorthStar journey in 2015. That Spring she accepted the assignment to raise support and come on staff to launch the brand new East side program of NorthStar Soccer Ministries. That summer she wrapped up her current position in Memphis, got married, moved to Birmingham and got right to work. She has connected with kids in school at Cornerstone (and others), solidified our partnership with Cornerstone, recruited volunteer coaches (see lead story!), managed teams and guided the development of the East side program while also contributing in a variety of ways to the overall management of the ministry these past two years. This summer she is entering a one year master of education program at Samford and will become a teacher! NorthStar, and all the east side families in particular, has been blessed to have her. Here’s hoping that she can squeeze out a little time to hang out with Tymeera and her teammates in the coming year!



SPRING ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

For the Spring 2017 season NorthStar had approximately 200 kids playing soccer. Player divisions included:

- U6-U8 intramural teams
- U9-U12 recreational league teams (4 teams)
- 17 girls and 10 boys in the U9/U10 Academy program
- U12 boys competitive level

(State League) team (included 2 girls on the team)

To make all this work for the kids we had 50 volunteer coaches involved one or two nights per week plus a lot of weekends.

Staff and volunteers spent time with teams in devotionals most practice nights and, through relationships, shared with kids to encourage them spiritually & emotionally. Staff also led small group

bible studies and volunteers led tutoring programs in schools and after school.

Mission – NorthStar Soccer Ministries promotes opportunities for investment in the lives of urban youth in Birmingham by providing a high quality Soccer Club within a holistic, Christian environment.

IMPACT STORY (CONTINUED) BY SIMS BOWEN, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

gained the opportunity to play soccer on an organized youth soccer team.

Coach Bargaye says one of the most enjoyable parts of coaching for him is seeing the girls actually implement things he taught them in practice during an actual game. Sometimes “I don’t think they are really listening during practice, but then I see them try something new in a game and I know they are taking in more than I realize.”

Through NorthStar Soccer, Tymeera is learning about the hard work and discipline it takes to achieve the goals you set out for yourself. One of her favorite things

about playing soccer for NorthStar is, “getting to know friends from school in a different way and having the time to ask people about their day. Being the Team Captain last season encouraged me to not be a follower, but a leader, and challenged me to encourage the other girls on the team to do their best. When you are a leader you learn more because you have the responsibility of paying close attention so that you can teach others.” the devotionals at the end of practice have helped reiterate what Tymeera is being taught at school, at home and at church about Jesus. “I like that NorthStar gives some children the opportunity to learn

about God who do not go to church.”

For the Spring 2017 season west side and east side girls were combined on to form one NorthStar U12 girl’s team. For Fall 2017 we think we have just enough girls to make the jump to U13 (full 11v11 for the first time). The team had a successful spring season. As they move up to U13 they are wanting to work harder and see if they can gain the skills they need to enter a competitive level State League team by the spring season. Coach Bargaye will continue to lead them with help from Assistant Coach (and BSC freshman), Lindsay Giglio.

MEET MR. & MRS. NORTHSTAR! BY TINA ROBERTS & PAUL NEVILLE

We can’t promise these results for all our volunteers but . . .

Jared Miller started coaching with NorthStar in 2012. During his college years he was known as our ‘U8 specialist’ coach. Spring of his junior year NorthStar Director, Paul Neville approached him about serving on staff with our summer learning program, Camp NorthStar.

That’s where he got to know fellow Samford student Haley Shaw (Haley was only supposed to be volunteering for two weeks that summer but at the end of week 1 approached Paul about staying the whole summer *if we could use her.*

Hmm.) Confirmation that something was up came on the final week of Camp when Paul made a last minute emergency call to Haley to see if she could help put together the closing slide show for Camp. Turns out Jared & Haley were on their first date when that call was made—second half of the date was creating that slide show together!

In 2015 Jared graduated from Samford and began law school at Alabama. In 2016 Haley graduated Samford and rolled right into the Masters of Accounting program at Samford.

This past year some of their dating time has been coaching a NorthStar soccer team together!

“NorthStar has helped us to grow both individually and together,” says Haley, “and it has been a really special part of our relationship to serve together.” Jared and Haley enjoy continuing to “invest in kids and see some of them grow up and



Jared & Haley at Camp NorthStar—summer 2014

mature,” having an outlet to share the gospel with others together, mentoring youth.

Staff have been calling them Mr. & Mrs. NorthStar for awhile but come July it will be the real thing as they are getting married! Jared has another year of Law School and Haley has an accounting job in Birmingham. Here’s hoping NorthStar can remain in their future a little while longer!





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Michelle Chambers, Scott Sutton

Executive Director: Paul Neville

Program Coordinators:

Sims Bowen, Tina Roberts

NORTHSTAR INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

- ◆ **In School tutoring coordinator**—fall & spring semesters, weekly commitment—opportunity to lead college student volunteers in providing tutoring program in a school-based after school program—1 to 2 afternoons per week plus minimal administrative duties
- ◆ **Soccer team tutor**—great off-the-field opportunity for high school./ college age or older—weekly tutoring sessions with group of 1-3 students.
- ◆ U6 age soccer coach or assistant—U6 is 'PE with a soccer ball'. We provide the plan. Anyone can do it. Great ministry opportunity for a family to take on together!
- ◆ U8 soccer coach or assistant—soccer knowledge and willingness to pursue training needed for head coaches but, we provide the practice plans. Assistant Coaches can be anyone who loves kids.
- ◆ U9 and older recreational team coaches—soccer knowledge plus very basic coaching training.
- ◆ U9-U11 Soccer Academy—experienced former players or experienced coaches all with basic level coaching training (which we will provide). Volunteers at this level must possess a love of the game and a love for the opportunity to impact youth through the game.
- ◆ Interns—we have multiple opportunities for college students or others interested in exploring how God might use them in sports ministry to impact lives.
- ◆ Staff—NorthStar is looking for new program staff who have a passion for kids and the opportunity to invest in their lives through Christ-centered sports ministry
- ◆ Team Sponsors—NorthStar depends on the generous donations of people like you to make this work possible. Consider making a contribution today! You can use the return envelope inside this newsletter or give through our website.

Contact Paul Neville at pneville@northstaryouthministries.org or 205-322-9296 with questions or for a volunteer application to get started!