

NorthStar Soccer Ministries

LEGACY

On November 16 over a hundred people gathered to celebrate the past year of ministry with NorthStar.

Our theme for the year was *LEGACY*. For those of you who missed it—the legacy we are concerned with is *spiritual legacy*. The issue is not really about a legacy for NorthStar the organization but each of us actively building a legacy in the lives of others, particularly youth, through investing time, energy and *yes* financial resource into their development.

NorthStar Soccer Ministries is a tool for *you* to pick up and use in building

a spiritual legacy. Former staff, volunteers and financial contributors invested time, energy and financial resource for many years into Lauren & Camilla (pictured at right). Both of them got their start with NorthStar playing soccer when they were students at Princeton Elementary School. Today they are both high school soccer players (this spring Lauren will return as a starting midfielder for the Altamont High School soccer team and Camilla will be on the JV at Oak Mountain HS.

Of greater significance by



Lauren & Camilla serving as co-emcees at the 2017 NorthStar Celebration!

far is that both girls have stayed involved and have given time volunteering at NorthStar. They are already picking up the tool you make available through NorthStar to build their own spiritual legacy.

These girls are the legacy of (former staff) Val Peterson, other staff and volun-

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PERSPECTIVE, BY PAUL NEVILLE

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

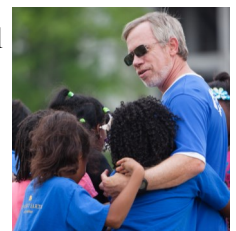
At the NorthStar Celebration we reviewed together LEGACY as an acronym for the ingredients we use to build *spiritual* legacy. The 'L' is LEGACY is for Leadership.

I am passionately committed to youth leadership development. Preparing for and reflecting on the *LEGACY* that is growing

at NorthStar helped me to focus in on seeing some of the results of youth leadership development. That reflection is an energizer for me and adds to my eagerness to try new things and go further in 2018. I love my front row seat observing the growth our youth show as you and I together invest in them.

Please review the response card and prayerfully consider a new or renewed financial and/or volunteer commitment. When you do you take an active role in building tomorrow's leaders and establishing your own spiritual legacy!

*Paul
Neville*



LEGACY (CONTINUED)

teers, and a legacy to all of you who contributed financially over the years to make the ministry possible.

Wait! It gets even better. Both Lauren & Camilla have included in their volunteer time training time with the Girls Academy (currently developing U10/U11 players) program—through which they have connected with current NorthStar Academy player Carmen. Paul Neville has coached Carmen for a couple of years. Former staff member Tina Roberts mentored her as part of

a Princeton Elementary girls bible study group. Samford students Madison Lockrem and Lauren Brock are currently coaching Girls Academy with Paul Neville. Volunteer Coach Greg Evans coached Carmen's recreational team before she joined Academy. A lot of people claim her as legacy—but Lauren & Camilla—through their help with skills sessions and near-peer example are definitely included in that.

And there's more. The very day the action photo to the left was taken was the first game of the season for the Academy girls. Coach Paul stepped back to see what would happen if he left the girls to themselves for pre-game. What happened was that Carmen stepped up to lead and the whole team completed their stretches and warm-up game and prayed together without Paul saying a word. Coach Paul elevated her to team co-captain as a result and she continued to provide strong, positive leadership to the team for the rest of the season. **How's that for a chain of legacy to get excited about?**



Left: Carmen delivering her speech at the NorthStar Celebration in November. Right: Carmen making an IMPACT on the soccer field in August.



SAVE THE DATE! NorthStar Celebration 2018 will be held on **Thursday, November 15**. Our theme that evening *and for the whole year of ministry* will be IMPACT. We look forward to highlighting the IMPACT of *your NorthStar legacy* throughout the year—culminating with the Celebration!



Coach Victor with the U8 'Lions' this fall.

2017 IN REVIEW

Approximately 200 kids participated in soccer with NorthStar in both the spring and fall seasons. In the fall we adjusted the program for younger ages. We eliminated travel for the U8 players and launched our own intramural U7/U8 league to go along with the existing U6 league.

We continued to field U9 through U12 teams in the regional recreational soccer league. We also continued developing our U10 Academy program in line with Alabama Soccer Association guidelines for

that program.

The NorthStar Ambassadors made the move in the fall to U13—full 11v11 competition (first ever NorthStar competitive level team—developed in partnership with the Briarwood Soccer Club {who are known as 'Ambassadors'}).

In the summer, with help from our partners A4One, we provided skill sessions in support of our 'graduates' as well as girls Academy players and we brought the two together with 'graduates' taking what they learned from A4One and teaching it to Academy players.

In the spring season staff members Tina Roberts and Sims Bowen led disciple-

ship/mentoring with players and also lead school outreach activities (tutoring and book club at Princeton, for example). With Tina and Sims both leaving at the end of the spring we had to temporarily suspend them for the fall but—see next page for how we are re-introducing those efforts in Spring 2018!

VISION FOR 2018!

Increase the Intramural Program

Developing the U7/U8 intramural league in fall of 2017 with only one program staff was not easy. We had quite a few bumps in the road. But, it worked and is definitely the right direction for us!

For Spring 2018 we are continuing on the path of developing the intramural program by pulling most of our recreational teams out of the regional league and developing our own intramural U10 league as well. WHY?

- Intramural U10 will dramatically cut down on travel for parents who are new or who have a low commitment/just wanting some fun soccer.
- By the same logic, intramural U10 will provide us opportunities to expand and reach more kids.

We are exploring adding a third prac-



tice location in partnership with a school and making those practices right after school rather than our typical evening sessions. This will open us to a lot more kids and more teams, *but* we are needing a lot more volunteers plus equipment/uniform help to make it happen. Stay tuned! (Or, don't stay tuned but jump in and volunteer!)

Expand Academy & Competitive team Programs

Wait a minute, you say. NorthStar is about providing top quality for kids who might not otherwise have the opportunity. Isn't going intramural counter to that vision?

Glad you asked. It would be if it was all we are doing. Expanding intramural is about making the entry level program more accessible to more players and families. **U9/U10 players with experience will have a choice to stay intramural or make the commitment for Academy.** We will continue to grow our NorthStar Academy program which will provide top quality soccer training and competitive experiences for youth, regardless of parental ability to pay and we will do it in a way that is logistically manageable for as many families as possible.



Off the Field

Interns will partially take the place of full staff in the spring and allow us to reintroduce tutoring and book club at Princeton Elementary and to have a weekly school day presence at Cornerstone Elementary. Praying for permanent staffing and more volunteers to allow for new bible study and mentoring groups.

Leadership Development is always a priority. 'Graduates' serving as skill trainers and referees will pick up in January and again in the summer months. We hope to rebuild a full-fledged summer outreach staffed by former NorthStar players now in high school by summer of 2019 with a pilot of the program tested in 2018.

Building the NorthStar Intramural League

One of the goals of NorthStar is to make soccer accessible to Birmingham youth regardless of family economic status. Fees are one barrier. Logistics are another. For the Spring 2018 season we will keep our East and West field sights and add *one* school site with practice right after school.

If this experiment is successful then we can add more schools season by sea-

son.

Through participating in an intramural team players will spiritual input through team devotionals and mentoring relationships, and character development through the team experience, and confidence building through skill development.

Some of those players will move on to the Academy program and be-

come skilled players *and* develop leadership skills and become *Legacy* builders themselves!

Help make it happen. Volunteer. Encourage others—including teen soccer players—to get involved as volunteers.

Can't volunteer (or want to do even more)? Contribute financially to help make it possible for others to volunteer at NorthStar.



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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/mentor**—great off-the-field opportunity for high school./college age or older—weekly tutoring and/or bible study sessions with group of 1-3 students.
- ♦ **Intramural team Soccer Coach or Assistant** (U6, U8, U10 divisions) - No experience needed at U6 level. U8 and U10 need experienced head coach and willing to learn assistant coaches. Practice plans provided. All games on Saturdays at Cornerstone Elementary School in Woodlawn (Spring & Fall seasons)
- ♦ **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. Spring & Fall seasons. These teams travel.
- ♦ **Skill Trainers**—Expert volunteers to provide weekly or occasional sessions for Academy & Competitive level players
- ♦ **Staff/Interns**—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 & Sustaining Contributors**—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.

Help us Reach our Year-End Giving Goal!

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