

# NorthStar Soccer Ministries

## IMPACT

Our ministry theme for 2018 is Impact. It's a flexible theme with multiple applications. Here are examples-

*Players* are being challenged to examine their impact on the game through the quality of their play. But also their impact on the team through the leadership and encouragement they provide.

*Coaches* - challenged to make a maximum impact on the skill level of the players they coach *and* use the coaching opportunity to build relationships through which they can impact the moral, emotion-

al, spiritual development of their players.

*Program*—to maximize program design to encourage long-term impact of players over years. We want to design programs and equip coaches with the tools to maximize their impact. We want to turn players into youth leaders. We want to reach more kids with a priority on families who lack financial means. We want to provide high school and college volunteers with training and encouragement for a lifetime of giving and building in others.

*You* make an Impact in all three areas when you contribute financially and spend time praying for us. Can you maximize that Impact by helping us connect with others who might join you as contributors? Maybe you follow NorthStar with interest but are not a regular contributor? We need your financial support. Maybe you are ready to put feet to your prayers and contributions? We have lots of easy entry volunteer opportunities (and bringing kids along is welcome).

Contact Paul Neville for details.

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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

Picture day and a parent brings out some goodies for the girls. I am thinking maybe we could wait to open the pink gloves after the picture? Not going to happen. I made them hide them for the 'serious' picture and then let them do this. It's actually my favorite picture of the day.

7 out of the 8 girls in this picture will be on our

new 13U girls competitive team this fall. I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with them and to see what they can do. We have a roster of 14 girls. Lindsey Giglio (BSC student) will do soccer training/bible study with a small group. I am looking for spiritually mature college or high



school girls to step forward to lead more girl groups.

There are so many opportunities. Help me find the resources to stay in the game and do more!

*Paul Neville*

## 2018 PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Like most Soccer Clubs, NorthStar has a ‘recreational soccer’ program which reaches down to the youngest ages and a ‘competitive’ program which is based on players graduating up to higher commitment and skill level at older ages. That basic structure is *similar* to other clubs but we are NorthStar—we are a holistic Christian ministry using soccer as a tool for *Impacting* kids *and* we have as a core component making our program financially and logistically accessible to low income families across the city of Birmingham. So, while we share features with traditional soccer clubs, we are also very different in several ways.

### RECREATIONAL / OUTREACH PROGRAM

Recreational soccer at NorthStar is primarily organized on an intramural basis. 6U, 8U and 10U teams are formed at our different practice locations and come together on Saturdays at Cornerstone Field for games against each other.



Primary recreational team practice locations are:

- East side/Woodlawn—practicing at Cornerstone Elementary School and drawing heavily from Cornerstone students (but very open to youth from the surrounding community)
- West side –practicing next to Legion Field stadium or a field close to that area—drawing primarily from Princeton Elementary School but we also recruit at Tuggle School and get players from the Pratt City/Forestdale area



- East and West are composed mostly of players who are able to come to us. Our fees are low to make it broadly affordable but parents have the means and commitment to bring their players out for evening practices. Our *Outreach component* which we have been developing this year is where we bring practices to the players. In the Spring we added practice at **Hemphill Elementary School** (in the West End community of Birmingham) with practices happening right after school. In the fall we hope to add our second outreach cite at **Smithfield Court** in partnership with the Birmingham Housing Authority. Pray that we can develop the capacity to add additional outreach at schools and other community locations in the spring of 2019 and beyond.



Coaches for the recreational/ outreach program are a mix of parents, college students and even mature high school students. There are a variety of ways to serve. Expert soccer knowledge is not a pre-requisite. Contact us for details!

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



On the left is former NorthStar player Camilla stepping in to referee at a Saturday intramural game this spring. She has been featured here before and if you were at the NorthStar Celebration last November then you remember her as being one of our MC’s. Lots of leadership potential in

this girl. To the right is *current* NorthStar player Antonio (on the 14U competitive team). Pleased to begin opening some leadership possibilities for him this spring. We have a vision for a summer leadership program in which older kids like these could use their soccer knowledge to hold clinics for younger kids. The main obstacle is funding.



Pray that will open up in time for summer 2019.

## ACADEMY / COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

'Academy' is a program of Alabama Soccer Association for players in the 9U/10U/11U age range. NorthStar players/parents have a choice starting at 9U (defined as players turning 9 in 2019) between being a 'recreational level' player on an intramural team and being an 'Academy' player on a team that will play Academy teams from other clubs and also compete in local tournaments.

Academy players get the best coaching we can provide and more training opportunities in addition to the expanded game opportunities. By developing a NorthStar Academy program (instead of sending top players off to other clubs) we are able to provide the opportunity to a lot more players—and do it in the Christ-centered environment we strive for.

A goal of the Academy program is to prepare players for competitive level teams beginning at 12U ('competitive' defined as a team that is selected through a tryout process—generally these teams play in the ASA sponsored

State League rather than the regional Recreational League). Back in 2016 NorthStar launched our first ever such team.

This Fall we are working to expand our competitive team offerings. *Possibly stretching to 3 teams*

- 13U girls team composed of 4 top U13 girls who have played on our recreational level team for the past year plus most of our U11/U12 Academy girls who will be playing up.
- 14U boys team—core of this team is NorthStar players who played on our original competitive level team plus a few additions. This team is actually a coed team playing in the boys division
- 16U team—new Boys Academy Director, Doug Walk, has recruited players he formerly coached plus we are promoting the opportunity to Woodlawn HS players and others in the area. Would love to turn it into an outreach opportunity for Woodlawn soccer players. Pray.



*Carmen—Star Girls Academy player who will anchor the back line for the new NorthStar U13 girls competitive team! Carmen is also a co-host of 'Soccumentary'. First two episodes are currently up on our website. Check her out!*

## MORE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

For the spring season the **Briarwood High School varsity women's soccer team adopted NorthStar**. Officially that meant they donned their grey practice jerseys and took turns serving as referees at Saturday morning intra-



mural games. But sometimes volunteer assignments at NorthStar are a little fluid—depending on the need of them moment. Girl at the left was a trooper stepping in to help coach!

Hopefully we can get this group back. Hopefully a few of them will get excited and come back for more on their own! Maybe more referee time or maybe stepping in as a small group leader/soccer skills trainer with Academy or U13 girls?

Group volunteer experiences/commitments are a great, low-commitment way to get students exposure. Let us know if you have a group looking for an opportunity!



Meet Coach Doug! Doug Walk (pictured above with 8U players) jumped in as a volunteer 8U coach with NorthStar last fall. In addition to coaching experience and knowledge he brought a lot of energy and vision to the program. This fall he will be: coaching our 16U competitive team and the 9/10U boys Academy team - all as a volunteer.



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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!

[www.northstarsoccerministries.org](http://www.northstarsoccerministries.org)

## HELP US REACH OUR GOALS. GET INVOLVED TODAY!

### NorthStar Program Goals

Share the Gospel and provide opportunities for spiritual growth through devotionals and life mentoring from Coaches.

Use the experience of a team sport to bring to light deficiencies in emotional development and then teach those kids who need the help how to better manage their emotions.

Encourage youth participants to master skills in soccer *and* apply that experience to gaining confidence in mastering skills in the classroom and other places.

Encourage mutual accountability toward the team and a sense of community among players, parents and coaches.

Work in partnership with schools and other institutions to pro-

mote the well-being and positive development of the youth we serve regardless of socio-economic status.

Provide an affordable and accessible opportunity for city residents to have a quality youth soccer program without leaving the city.

Provide youth leadership opportunities for teens who have 'graduated' from our program.

Provide volunteers with a manageable opportunity and quality training to prepare them to have a meaningful impact on the lives of youth.

**Take a look inside** to see examples of how we are accomplishing these goals. We need your help to develop the capacity to reach more kids and to increase our IMPACT on those we reach.

How can you be involved?

- Contribute financially
- Volunteer time as a coach—we need knowledgeable coaches for advanced teams but *anyone* can coach 6U!
- Share NorthStar with others who might have an interest to give from their finances or their time (start by pledging to share this newsletter—*don't just throw it away!*)
- Pray

Thank You!



*Waiting to get in the game. With your help we can use the game of soccer to IMPACT so many more young lives!*

Contact Paul Neville at [pneville@northstaryouthministries.org](mailto:pneville@northstaryouthministries.org) or 205-322-9296 to get started!