



MIMI, AGE 3, SCREENED BY FOCUSFIRST

Celebrating Our Expansion

2014-15 ANNUAL UPDATE

In August 2014, following ten successful years of growth in Alabama, **Impact America** launched with the mission to engage students and recent college graduates to **address community needs** in multiple states. During 2014-15, we operated a record year in Alabama; completed a successful pilot in **Memphis, Tennessee**, resulting in the establishment of a full staff for 2015-16; and launched pilots in **South Carolina** and **North Florida** as of July 2015.



IMPACT
A M E R I C A

Engaging a generation for change.

IMPACTAMERICA.COM

Impact America Initiatives



FOCUSFIRST

Imagine trying to learn your letters without your most valuable sense: sight. For some children, that sense is already failing them—and no one has noticed. FocusFirst ensures that children in urban and rural communities receive comprehensive vision care during their crucial formative years.



% of preschool-aged children in America who receive adequate vision care:

21%

Vision screenings are most effective during the preschool years, when early treatment of many conditions can prevent irreversible vision damage or loss.

of children screened by FocusFirst since 2004:

283,172

Our Corps Members travel to urban and rural areas to serve preschool-aged children.

of children who failed the screenings since 2004:

30,461

This represents 10.8% of children screened. All of these children receive free or subsidized follow-up care.

of student volunteers since 2004:

3,065

Most student volunteers provide service as a part of a course or as a volunteer project with a club.

Vision Research



Sight Savers AMERICA

Free tax returns prepared for families since 2007:

40,947

Without SaveFirst, most families in low-income neighborhoods would pay an average of \$300 to have their returns prepared.

Tax refunds claimed by SaveFirst families since 2007:

\$73.9M

Our IRS-certified student volunteers ensure families receive all benefits to which they are entitled.

Fees saved by families using SaveFirst since 2007:

\$11.9M

These extra savings make a tremendous difference in helping hard-working families secure health insurance, pay down debts, and even put food on the table.

of SaveFirst volunteers since 2007:

3,927

Many student volunteers are surprised to learn how hard-working low-income families are. Through SaveFirst, they gain a whole new perspective.



SAVEFIRST

Every tax season, many of America's hardest-working families face exorbitant, negligent, and sometimes fraudulent preparers who cost our communities millions in fees. SaveFirst trains college, graduate, and law students to provide free tax preparation services and opportunities for savings to low-income, working families.



2014-15 Alabama Update

Impact Alabama celebrated its 10-year anniversary in October 2014 and experienced a record year in 2014-15 with 53 recent college graduates, including 42 AmeriCorps members, leading its efforts.

1,257 screenings at Head Start and daycare centers in all 67 counties
38,023 preschoolers screened
3,935 children failed the screening and received subsidized follow-up care
21 tax sites across Alabama
8,615 low-income, working families served
\$15 million in tax refunds claimed
\$2.6 million in commercial preparation fees saved
881 student volunteers for FocusFirst and SaveFirst

2014-15 Tennessee Update

Impact America - Tennessee launched a yearlong pilot program in Memphis in August 2014 to establish FocusFirst and SaveFirst in low-income neighborhoods. In August 2015, a fully staffed program led by a state director and ten recent graduates serving as AmeriCorps members began working to develop and expand our initiatives.

89 screenings at Head Start and daycare centers in Shelby County
3,562 preschoolers screened
360 children failed the screening and received subsidized follow-up care
404 low-income, working families served at Binghampton Development Corp. tax site
\$550,000 in tax refunds claimed
\$120,000 in commercial preparation fees saved
91 student volunteers for FocusFirst and SaveFirst

2015-16 South Carolina and Florida Pilot Announcements

As of July 2015, Impact America is pleased to announce the launch of pilot programs in South Carolina and North Florida. We expect to serve 3,000 children through our FocusFirst high-tech vision care initiative and 300 low-income, working families through our SaveFirst tax preparation initiative in each of these states. In future years, we plan to establish fully staffed programs to expand the capacity of our initiatives.



Engaging a generation for change.



"It's very hard to say to your child, 'I'm sorry I can't be there for you because I have to work; I have to pay the bills. I'll have to call you back when I have a break.' And you put them second. I hope one day, she will understand that I didn't run away, that I was there all along supporting her."
ANTOINETTE, SAVEFIRST CLIENT

"The doctor told us that if FocusFirst hadn't caught Bella's vision problem by age six, she would have gone blind in one eye. My first reaction was devastation. How could I not have known? But if it weren't for FocusFirst, I would have never known she had a problem."
SUMMER, FOCUSFIRST PARENT



Impact America Participating Campuses

Alabama: The University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Birmingham-Southern College, Samford University, Cumberland School of Law, Auburn University, University of South Alabama, Spring Hill College, University of North Alabama, Huntingdon College, Auburn University at Montgomery, Alabama State University, Troy University - Montgomery & Dothan campuses, Wallace Community College - Dothan, Jacksonville State University, Wallace Community College - Greenville, Lurleen B. Wallace Community College - Selma, Athens State University

Tennessee: Rhodes College, Christian Brothers University, University of Memphis

South Carolina: Wofford College

Florida: Florida State University

Impact America, an AmeriCorps Program, is housed and supported by the Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility at The University of Alabama. Headquarters: 1901 6th Ave N, Suite 2400, Birmingham, AL 35203
205-934-0664 | impact@impactamerica.com | impactamerica.com

