



KATHY, SCREENED BY FOCUSFIRST IN 2016

Celebrating a Record Year of Service

2016-17 ANNUAL UPDATE

In 2016-17, Impact Alabama engaged 822 college students and 45 recent graduates to serve more than 57,000 families across Alabama as part of the most successful, state-based service-learning initiative in the nation.



IMPACT

ALABAMA

Engaging a generation for change.

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Impact Alabama Initiatives



FOCUSFIRST

Young children can't detect their own vision problems. FocusFirst provides free vision screenings to children, ages six months to five years, in childcare centers across Alabama using high-tech, digital screening cameras. All children failing the screenings receive free follow-up care through Sight Savers America.



SAVEFIRST

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



SPEAKFIRST

SpeakFirst uses academic debate as a platform to support some of Birmingham's most talented students and guide them on a path toward excellence in college. SpeakFirst has operated a program for high school students since 2004, and in 2013, we launched a Birmingham middle school debate league.



COLLEGEFIRST

Even the brightest students need guidance when preparing for college-level academics. CollegeFirst pairs talented college student mentors with high school students in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa to strengthen foundational concepts in preparation for the rigor of AP coursework in math, science, computer science, and English.

2016-17 Initiative Results

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

21%

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

of children screened by FocusFirst in 2016-17:

48,565

Our Corps Members have provided vision care to 357,740 preschoolers in all 67 Alabama counties since 2004.

of children who failed the screenings in 2016-17:

4,128

This represents 8.5% of children screened. All of these children receive free follow-up care.

of student volunteers in 2016-17:

180

Since 2004, 3,363 students have participated in FocusFirst.

Free tax returns prepared for families in 2017:

9,081

Without SaveFirst, families pay an average of \$400 each year simply to file their returns.

Tax refunds claimed by SaveFirst families in 2017:

\$15.6M

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

Fees saved by families using SaveFirst in 2017:

\$3.6M

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 in 2017:

591

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

% of students from U.S. families in the bottom income quarter earning a college degree:

9%

Every element of SpeakFirst addresses the deficits in low-income communities that impede students from being prepared for and succeeding in college.

Amount of college scholarships earned by three SpeakFirst graduates in 2017:

\$331K

UA, UAB, and UAHuntsville provide full-tuition scholarships to our seniors, and our students earn additional scholarships to nationally ranked schools.

Number of debate practices held in 2016-17:

110

Our students practice three hours per day, three days per week to prepare for debate tournaments. Academic debate is one of the most valuable extracurricular activities to prepare kids for success in college.

% of rounds won by our upperclassmen during 2016-17:

56%

Our students compete and hold their own against the best schools in the Southeast.

% of Alabama's high school students who passed an AP exam in 2015:

13%

Advanced Placement courses allow motivated students to take college-level classes taught by talented and dedicated AP teachers in their local high schools.

of CollegeFirst high school participants in 2017:

162

Students from Birmingham and Tuscaloosa attended the three-week Advanced Placement Institute.

of CollegeFirst mentors in 2017:

51

Mentors from five college campuses spent the month of June teaching our high school students.

of hours spent in program by CollegeFirst high school students in 2017:

6,948

Students who successfully complete Advanced Placement courses are internationally competitive.



2017 SPEAKFIRST MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT WINNERS: BREUNNA CARTER, KATHERINE ANDERSON, AND SHANIYA PLUMP

"To solve systemic issues or affect policy requires patience and persistence. I think we as a society should recognize ways we can participate in this process. We can foster and actively facilitate a progressive dialogue by forming relationships, educating, advocating, and providing support."

RACHEL PUCKETT, CORPS MEMBER, 2013-17



Engaging a generation for change.



"I'm teaching my kids a lot about wants and needs because that's a big part of budgeting. I'm trying to balance school, trying to balance a home, and I'm trying to balance going to work - but I make it happen."

LATOYA MOORE, SAVEFIRST CLIENT

"You want to make sure that your child is fed. You want to make sure that they have the clothes they need. Anything you can do to make sure that they have a fair chance, and it's so unfair because she didn't know that she couldn't see out of her left eye."

GENNIFER BAKER, FOCUSFIRST PARENT



IMPACT ALABAMA STAFF AND CORPS MEMBERS 2016-2017

