



MIMI, AGE 3,
SCREENED BY FOCUSFIRST SPRING 2014

**Join the Movement.
Make an Impact.**



IMPACT
A M E R I C A

Engaging a generation for change.

IMPACTAMERICA.COM





“Many Americans tend to have negative perceptions of people living in poverty, people struggling to get by. Or, worse, they tend not to think much about them at all. As our communities become more homogenous, it is easier to become isolated from many of the challenges facing families and children today. Impact’s initiatives provide an opportunity for college students and recent graduates to engage with individuals unlike themselves in a meaningful way, broadening their perspectives and making a real impact in their communities.”

—Isabel Hagood,
Impact Corps Member, 2016-17

“Few service opportunities provide recent college graduates the depth of responsibility for implementing meaningful, large-scale projects as Impact America. From providing vision care to a roomful of toddlers to managing free tax preparation sites for working-class families, my service year as a Corps Member has truly empowered me to promote change in the place that I call home.”

—Clarence Okoh,
Impact Corps Member, 2014-15



What You'll Do

- Conduct (and lead students as they conduct) **vision screenings for preschoolers** using high-tech digital screening cameras
- Assist in **processing vision-screening results** to ensure high-quality follow-up care is provided to all children failing the screenings
- Obtain certification as an IRS Advanced Tax Preparer
- **Train college students on tax law** and manage their service at community-based sites
- **Implement marketing strategies** to encourage families to utilize free tax preparation
- **Serve as a debate coach and mentor** for middle schoolers (AL only)
- Learn how to use film equipment and editing software
- Conduct an interview and **produce a short film** sketching the unique story of a family living at or near the poverty line



FOCUSFIRST

Imagine trying to learn your letters without your most valuable sense: sight.

For some children, that sense is already failing them. And because preschool-age children can't detect their own vision problems, they can't tell anyone something is wrong. It's vital to find impairments during these early years, when problems can be corrected.

Using high-tech, digital cameras, FocusFirst provides free vision screenings to children, ages six months to five years, in childcare centers. All children failing the screenings (approximately 10%) receive follow-up care through our partner, Sight Savers America.

Every tax season, working families rely on their tax refund to support their children.

SaveFirst offers free, high-quality tax preparation services to low-income families, especially targeting those eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. The EITC is the federal government's largest program aimed at lifting families—especially those with children—above the poverty line.

Unfortunately, many families in low-income neighborhoods rely on costly tax preparers who charge an average of \$400 per return. Because there are no national standards or licensing procedures for commercial preparers, many take advantage of hard-working families by preparing negligent, and sometimes fraudulent, returns.



SAVEFIRST





SPEAKFIRST

SpeakFirst uses academic debate to guide students on a path toward excellence in college.

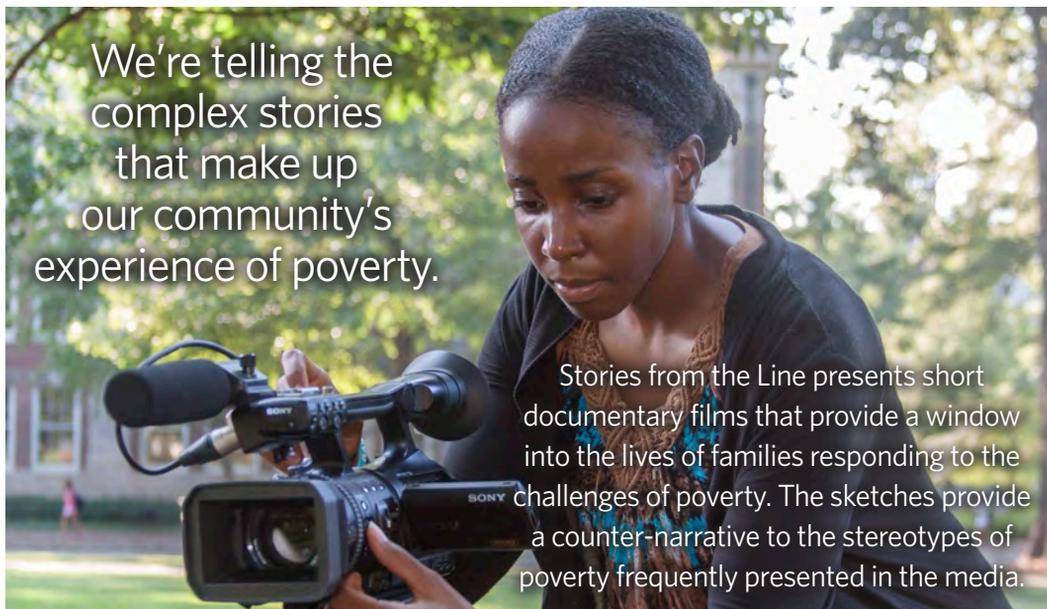
Through after-school debate classes, SpeakFirst enhances the reading, writing, and argument-literacy skills of Birmingham-area middle schoolers who live in communities with limited extracurricular opportunities.



STORIES

FROM THE LINE

We're telling the complex stories that make up our community's experience of poverty.



Stories from the Line presents short documentary films that provide a window into the lives of families responding to the challenges of poverty. The sketches provide a counter-narrative to the stereotypes of poverty frequently presented in the media.

What Do We Look For?

Demonstrated Leadership Ability • **A Belief in the Potential of All to Succeed**
Perseverance & Flexibility • **Ability to Take Initiative & Think Creatively**

Where you can serve:



★ = Headquarter cities where corps members are based
Shaded zones = geographic areas of service



Become a Team Member.

The **Impact America Corps Program** is a yearlong service and leadership program designed to place talented, committed recent college graduates directly into communities of need. Corps members plan and execute **FocusFirst**, a high-tech vision care initiative; **SaveFirst**, a tax-preparation initiative; and **SpeakFirst**, an academic-debate initiative. They also produce and edit a **short film** portraying a family living at or near the poverty line. Corps Members learn about poverty through lenses of education, health, and economics—while making a real difference in the lives of families facing poverty's challenges.

TO APPLY: Submit a resume and transcript at impactamerica.com/corps.

Benefits

- Monthly living stipend
- **\$5,815 education award** (available at year's end)
- Health insurance
- Mileage reimbursement
- Lodging & meals during overnight trips
- Ongoing **professional development and training**



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