



IMPACT AMERICA

Join the Movement. Make an Impact.

SUMMER 2020 UPDATE | impactamerica.com

SPEAKFIRST



Supporting students on their path to excellence in college and beyond.

Since 2004, SpeakFirst has provided high school students with the opportunity to engage in co-curricular competitive debate. Our students spend three days a week at practice and debate against high schoolers from across the country. Our 53 graduates have earned a combined \$6.9 million in scholarships.



Choosing an Impact Year

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 learn about poverty through lenses of education, health and economics - while making a real difference in the lives of families facing poverty's challenges.

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-aged 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 or mitigated.

Using high-tech cameras, FocusFirst provides free vision screenings to children, ages six months to five years, in childcare centers. Since 2004, over 3,900 college students at more than twenty colleges and universities throughout the South have participated with FocusFirst. These students and our staff have screened more than 715,000 children in our service area, with approximately 10% of the children failing the screenings. All children who fail the screenings receive subsidized follow-up care through our partner nonprofit, Sight Savers America.



During the 2019-20 program year, FocusFirst screened 67,768 children across seven Southeastern states, with more than 10% of children failing the screening. Those children are now receiving the follow-up care they need.

SAVEFIRST

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

SaveFirst offers free tax preparation services and savings opportunities to low-income families, especially targeting those eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Many families in low-income neighborhoods rely on costly tax preparers who charge an average of \$300 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.



During the 2020 tax season, SaveFirst prepared tax returns for more than 10,000 families, helping them to claim an estimated \$16.3 million in refunds and save \$3.5 million in commercial tax preparation fees. Our team and student volunteers prepared returns at twenty-three tax sites across Alabama, Tennessee, and South Carolina until mid-March and then continued to serve families virtually through the end of the extended filing season during the COVID-19 pandemic.



For more information, please contact:
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