

OCTOBER 2021

Team Jam is a 501 c-3, non-profit organization .

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:

West Hill Baptist – Akron
Medina 1st Baptist
Hope Community – Hudson
Joyce Saucier
Steve Sorenson
John Wells

FOUNDER / DIRECTOR

John S. Saucier
johnsaucier@teamjam.org

DIRECTORS

Shawn Lazarus
Michigan alum, NFL- ret. (Det.)
President, Lazarus on the Rise

Dante Booker
Auburn U alum, CFL - ret.
Akron Fireman and Paramedic

BOARD

Matt Futch – Akron, Oh.
Head Bball coach CVCA HS

Tim Loney - Columbus,O

Jerome Moss – Akron, Oh.
Akron Public Schools.

Jeff Schofield- Hudson, Oh.
Pastor. Hope Community

Kevin Sunde – Medina, Oh.
Owner, MGM Landscaping

Aaron Varner - Akron, Oh
Pastor. West Hill Baptist

John Wells – Aurora, O.
CEO/Pres. ABA Ins. Services

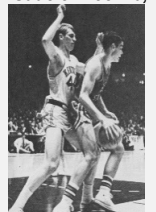
IN MEMORIAM



John R. Saucier Oct 27, 2020



John E. Saucier Dec. 10, 2009



Dave Sorenson (vs. Dan Issel).
July 9,2002

TEAM JAM... Jesus' Athletic Ministry

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COUNTING THE COST

Enjoy the stories of young adults who are now replicating their "Team Jam" experience locally and throughout the country - some internationally. Keep in mind the following stories resulted from passion from God and encouragement to freely pursue helping others in their area of interests and strengths in spite of this pandemic restricted season.

This past year has included cancer, the death of Johnny, near death and ICU hospitalization of John Sr , daughter Hannah's hospitalization and other emotional news. The spiritual attack is not isolated though. Another former football player and long time Team Jam friend suffered the sudden loss of his 21 yr old son. Ministry partners **Tony and Brittany Stockman** (Columbia International U., SC) tragically lost their own 16 year old son in April 2021 and **Lt. Col (and Chaplain) Mike DeRienzo (Japan)** experienced his younger brother tragically passing in early 2021. Still God continues to desire our faithfulness and service, and each have done that – but the test has been painful. Be prepared. **We are all tested where we are vulnerable.**

AKRON AREA MINISTRY

SHAWN AND MOLLY LAZARUS (Former Michigan U and Detroit Lions)

- Facilitator of communication between leaders and with John.
- Hosting youth & families at their home. This includes a pool, softball field, lake, gardens, some goats & chickens, acres of woods, a basketball hoop and even overnight guests. Molly is the ever-hospitable hostess.
- Sunday morning home church services in Canal Fulton. and evening. Bible studies.
- Molly has led Bible studies w/local school teachers and coached youth. travel softball and basketball teams.
- Those. already mentored are teaching, coaching, or ministering as well !
- Counseling to young married couples.
- Shawn. uses his construction business as outreach for employees.and customers.
- Shawn provides daily devotionals and inspiration for the Northwest HS football team, provides weekly Bible studies, and speaks at outreach events..

JEROME MOSS

(Akron Firestone. Geneva & Malone U.)



Jerome is a qualified behavioral health specialist for Family First Health Services and helps Akron Public schools thru this agency. Jerome attended Christian colleges Geneva and Malone and also earned his Masters degree. He is an Adjunct Instructor for Akron U; a Certified Life coach; leads his non-profit "Guys and Gals" each summer; and has an additional non-profit called Hoop for Coop. Hoop for Coop is an annual minority health screening event, youth basketball clinic and adult alumni basketball games. The program resulted from close friend Cooper dying while playing basketball at the Barberton YMCA - unaware of his bad blood pressure. This Health Fair has been a stage for several area ministries to impact Akron area families.

This year became a milestone when Jerome took Coop's son and others he mentors to **Joe Gibb's Game Plan for Life** where Hall of Famers share their testimony to kick off Hall of Fame week. Long ago, Jerome was a guest at Team Jam's at such an event. Jerome is pictured here with **Officer Lamar Sharpe** from "Be a Better Me" in Canton and who was honored at the event. .



ADVISORY BOARD

George Barna
Dan Cagwin
Rev. Dave Cunningham
Rob Eggers
Josh Holden
Rev. Scott Kennedy
Mike Kuykendall
Steve Sorenson
Jason Wallace

AKRON AREA



MATT FUTCH

(Former Akron U player, chapel organizer, Coach. Ohio Christian U coach and Buchtel HS final four coach) has been the head boys basketball coach at CVCA (Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy) since 2020. This new roll is helping Matt use the Christian community to increase the spiritual growth of the athletes that desire to be coached.

MINISTRY PROJECT

Long time ministry partners Dan and Stacey Cagwin needed help with a move to Florida in July so we used it as a service project.

- 2 Full Size Trucks
- \$250 in food donated.
- Almost 2500 miles driven
- 14 moving helpers
- Helpers from 4 states
- 4 days
- 18 face with smiles!



AKRON AREA

ANDY SHEPPERD – PROJECT OTRUN

Project Outrun inspires children with pediatric cancer with custom made running shoes to “outrun” cancer!

www.projectoutrun.org

Hundreds of children have already received shoes and run across their “finish line” to celebrate their remission.

Andy (Revere HS grad), was one of Team Jam’s greatest AAU basketball players, and has an incredible testimony of his outreach led him into surrendering his life to Christ this past year.

Pictured below is Carson Stewart (son of former TJam AAU Player and Medina First Baptist grad Scott Stewart). While visiting Carson in Akron Children’s Hospital in 2017 as he battled stage 4 cancer, Scott, Carson, Andy and John all “coincidentally” met and realized what God had just done in reuniting them. Shortly afterward, Chaplain Mike Millet (from John’s church youth group in the 1980’s) also found himself serving as transport for Carson to treatment and exams. What a miraculous blessing to see all these former athletes TEAMING up for one of our own as a result of God’s direction.



AKRON AREA MARSHALL JENNINGS

Marshall Jennings started driving for the ride share company “LYFT” providing literally thousands of experiences with riders who have a large variety of needs. Over 30 have been led to Christ and numerous others have had quality counsel provided. Practical acts of kindness have enabled them to survive difficult challenges. “LYFT” driving has given us all an awareness of the tremendous potential to connect with our community and shares how Christ cares about their needs. Many join Marshall and his wife at church !!

CANTON, OHIO OFFICER LAMAR SHARPE



The picture says it all. One of the first basketball players to play for TEAM JAM went on to play Officer Sharpe is an officer liaison between the department and his Canton community. This former U. of Kansas defensive end founded “Be a Better Me Foundation” that trains and inspires young men each week. His work has been honored by the U. of Kansas, the Ohio Senate, the city of Canton, National Media, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. On social media he is followed by over 100,000 people, further spreading his inspirational example.

HUDSON HS FOOTBALL REUNION 25th anniversary of 1st State Playoff team

Coach Jeff Hildebrand (long time friend of the ministry) coordinated the reunion of the 1996 football team that upset #1 in the nation Lakewood St. Ed’s in the state playoffs. An extra blessing was seeing the 1996 head coach Tom Narducci honored



when he was told that the locker room is now named after him!! Coach provided the pre-game speech and the 1996 team was honored at midfield before the game. Coach Hildebrand was also thoughtful in having the public address announcer and program recognize John’s roll as team chaplain.

FLORIDA
Trinity Baptist College
Jacksonville



Head Basketball Coach John Jones has recruited Team Jam athletes (Jerome Moss, Chad Mraz) at Geneva College (Pa) and when he was head coach and Nyack (NJ) he recruited several others (Ryan Martin, Rick Fletcher). When he moved to Florida we were again able to refer athletes to him and watch the Christian college experience impact these young men.

Now with John Saucier living within an hour of the college, Coach Jones has extended invitations to meet, see games and practices, and even speak at his summer basketball camp. Not only were these campers treated to stories of athlete testimonies but also SPX athletic trainers, Bibles, Team Jam shirts, and a variety of sports accessories.

FLORIDA
Corey Fuller

Corey hosted weekly Bible Studies for us for 3 years when he was playing with the Cleveland Browns from 1999-2002. Now, almost 20 years later, many of those who visited Corey, are doing similar things: people like Matt Futch, Jerome Moss, Brandon Wallace, Jason Wallace and Brandon Sweeney. Corey and John still stay in contact as he is an accomplished HS FB coach in Florida and trains his gifted son and his baseball teammates.

HUDSON HS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Each fall, Hudson HS hosts a Leadership Conference Retreat at Camp Asbury in Hiram. Dave Spohn is president of the teacher union, (Middle person in picture above) a teacher, coach and has helped direct this conference for over 25 years. Due to his faith in Christ, Dave has had a Biblical mindset in instilling Godly leadership principles and inviting speakers with the same convictions. This 48 hr retreat hosted during the school year (November) has impacted over 120 of Hudson's top student leaders who were chosen from applications they submitted. For the past 15 years John has been a chaperone, extra hand, special speaker, break out session leader and assisted in providing extra guest speakers.

OUTSIDE OF OHIO

SOUTH CAROLINA



Tony Stockman (Medina HS, Clemson U, Ohio State U and European pro) continues to lead camps, arrange for Christian speakers and increase the team success of the men's team he coaches at Columbia International University (S.C.) CIU is a Christian university and Tony has been named Coach of the Year in his conference, regionally, and nationally for what he does on and off the court with the college students he helps.

NATIONALLY

Zoom Bible Studies

John Wells provided the initial challenge to host Bible studies for men in NE Ohio area. Since then it has united over 100 Team Jam viewers from all over the country.

Attendees are from:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Arizona | California |
| Colorado | Connecticut |
| Florida | Indiana |
| Illinois | Louisiana |
| Maryland | New Jersey |
| North Carolina | Ohio |
| Pennsylvania | S.Carolina |
| Tennessee | Texas |

SUNDAY NIGHTS

Chad Mraz. Mike Hurley. More than a year ago, Chad and Mike initiated a Zoom call on Sunday nights to inspire their closest friends to follow Christ. More than 30 different men have participated. Chad and Mike have been friends since our Bible Studies at Akron SVSM lunches, and are very active examples. Chad lives in Colorado and Mike is in Green, Ohio but technology has helped us gain strength from each other's pursuit of God as if we're neighbors. It also resulted in two college aged men becoming a Christian!

MINNESOTA



John's first sports outreach was on a 9th grade FB field with Irv Smith Sr. in NJ back in 1985. Today it continues with Irv Smith Jr in Minnesota.

JAPAN

Chaplain Derienzo



Having served in several countries and U.S states, Chaplain and his wife are now in Japan, responsible for training hundreds of chaplains who minister to tens of thousands of troops.!

FLORIDA



Corey Fuller

addresses his team in the Florida HS state championships in Nov 2020

FLORIDA

Palm Coast Kiwanis

Kiwanis is a service organization that first made an impact on John thru Key Club at Medina HS. They serve the community, provide scholarships and honor students throughout the school year. Their focus is "Serving the Children of the World". Kiwanis once provided a basketball league in Hudson that helped us impact numerous athletes approximately 20 yrs ago.

Once John moved to Florida, Roy Lehman of Medina's Kiwanis club reminded John that this area could dramatically speed up his efforts to be connected to area schools. What great advice!!! Within one year John is now involved in Palm Coast Kiwanis leadership, the local High School's Key Club (50 students), their Christmas bsktball tourney, granting scholarships for graduates, and programs that honor teachers, police, fireman and like-minded youth programs – all at no cost to TEAM JAM.!



KENTUCKY

Ben Carlson

Former Cleveland Indians minor league player Ben Carlson continues as a pastor at Grace Reformed Baptist in Owensboro, Kentucky. Ben became a Christian during his baseball career with the help of baseball chaplains. The story of the events that took place during a game to bring Him to that point has been the subject of numerous articles and news broadcasts.

NORTH CAROLINA

Tyjuan Alston



Tyjuan is a coach and teacher in Durham, NC. He also founded the non-profit "Eternity Living" to model unconditional love toward all people as Christ would. His athletic outreach is primarily in his community. This summer he hosted his first outreach basketball camp, bringing in the "Bone Collector" (Larry Williams) of AND1 streetball fame. Larry freely shared his testimony with us.

To prepare for this, John served as Tyjuan's supervisor for his Master's Degree internship - which included planning & preparing for this camp. Sponsorship was provided by area businesses such as Chic-fil-A, and Food Lion. Team Jam sponsored shirts for the counselors and printed the Bone Collector cards seen above (design by Heather Cagwin). The camp was successful and created relationships throughout the Durham / Raleigh area for Ty.

TENNESSEE

Drew Sutton. Ben Zobrist

Drew and Ben were met in Minor League Baseball Chapel. Today they have Bible studies to grow closer to God with friends and former players. They are also currently developing their own baseball training facility with 2 other former MLB'ers in Tennessee. Drew moved from Texas this past year with his family to fully commit to this effort.

TEXAS

CODY STRAIT



Weekly phone call Bible Studies continue with Cody Strait and his son Asher. Cody was once a pro baseball teammate of both Josh Holden and Ben Zobrist. Baseball tournaments in Florida have allowed John to visit with the Straits and Cody uses his influence to spiritually impact the youth that he trains and coaches.

BRANDON SWEENEY

(Akron Firestone HS, Clarion U, NC Central A&M) Brandon has lived in North Carolina and now Texas. He has been an inspirational speaker for schools throughout the south and written two books. Currently Brandon and his wife are active as leaders in their church, lead services, he speaks at FCA events, coaches, and plans on planting a church near a major university. Their plans are to minister to college students.

GEORGIA

Mark & Abigail Noble

Mark and Abigail (Akron U basketball player and chapel leader, Youth leader, & Manchester HS grad) are now group home directors in Georgia. Though an engineering major, Mark has always enjoyed ministering to young people the most.

MILITARY

JRS Memorial Fund



Pictured above is Jeremiah, one of Johnny Saucier's closest friends in the military. Since Johnny's passing in Oct 2020, great effort has been made to track down and establish communication with these military friends to assure them of Christ's interest in their lives. Whether in Ohio, Florida, on Zoom or visits to other states, these friendships continue. Bibles are also purchased for Chaplains to distribute on base.

Donations received since John's death were the inspiration behind a dedicated JRS Memorial Fund that specifically benefits outreach and the needs of soldiers.

Though we do not actively fund raise we are developing this resource for a new initiative. John asks that you please consider giving to this fund to help us minister to those affected by the tragic loss of Johnny and other soldiers that would benefit from growing close to Christ.