

OCTOBER 2022

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

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:

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

FOUNDER

John S. Saucier
johnsaucier@teamjam.org

DIRECTORS

Shawn Lazarus
Michigan alum, NFL- ret. (Det.)
President, C-3 Crew

Lt. 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- Stow, Oh.

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 July 9, 2002

TEAM JAM... Jesus' Athletic Ministry

www.teamjam.org 605 N. Revere Rd., Akron, Oh. 44333 Main Number: (330)352-4231 (330)620-0234

“... INTO ALL THE WORLD”

Whether in Ohio, in other states, or internationally, the TEAM JAM experience is replicated in each person's own way. Here, Shawn & Molly Lazarus coach, counsel, lead Safety Town, & host weekly Bible Studies and host dinners for 15-20 guests 2x weekly..



Safety Town at Northwest HS
Led by Molly Lazarus



Co-Director Dante Booker
with Keith, Shawn, and Braden.



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

- Facilitates communication.
- Hosting youth & families at their home including: swimming, softball, lake, gardens, woods, basketball and hosting guests. Molly is the ultimate hostess.
- Evening. Bible studies.
- Molly coaches youth travel basketball teams.
- Counseling to young married couples.
- Shawn. uses his construction business as outreach for employees and customers.
- Daily devotionals and inspiration for the Northwest HS football team



Shawn & Brandon Wallace

ADVISORY BOARD

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

AKRON AREA



MATT FUTCH

Matt played basketball for Akron U and was a Grad ass't there. From there he became Head coach for Ohio Christian U women's Bb. Recently he led Buchtel HS to the state final four in 2018. Now he is the head boys basketball coach at CVCA..since 2020.

The spiritual growth of individuals has been as notable as their success on the court. Nationally ranked soph **Darryn Peterson** has been one of those spiritual leaders.

Marshall Jennings has been faithful in assisting Matt with devotions, networking and arranging guests to share testimony about Christ changing their life.



Coach Futch taking his CVCA team to lunch much like his experiences as a Team Jam student-athlete.



THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY !!

Team Jam was officially launched on February 10, 1991 at a West Hill Baptist Church board meeting. A thirtieth anniversary celebration had been planned by West Hill in 2021 but was delayed by the worldwide epidemic and even John's ICU hospitalization. Not to be deterred, West Hill still managed to arrange a surprise celebration on September 25th, arranging for several to share testimony how God had changed their lives and others had been involved in it's establishment. Young men and families from several generations were present for the morning service and the church wide luncheon afterward.

Luring John and Pam from Florida by way of an invitation to speak, Pastor Aaron Varner and the church arranged for John and Pam to do all the listening instead - to their surprise. Speakers included **Pastor Aaron Varner**, a letter from **Pastor Gary Moosey** (who pastored West Hill during Team Jam's inception), a video from **Pastor Paul Sorber** (the youth pastor who helped John launch Team Jam), and speakers **Shawn Lazarus, Dante Booker, Jason Wallace, Matt Futch and Brandon Sweeney (video)**. **Jerome Moss, Pete Hannan, Kevin Sunde, Kenny Smith, Tim Loney, Brandon Wallace, Mike Hurley, Hunter Olsen, Jimmy Oliver, Abe Lazarus, Seth Bagwell, Adam Flossie, Jeff Smith, Jeff Schofield and Bernie Reisch** were among former participants present. Another surprise was special singer **Jay Nye** (and wife Chantelle), the Revere middle school wrestling coach who was key to our Revere outreach in 1992. Better yet was seeing wives and children join our celebration.



Bernie Reisch Jr. ran our first camp



Corey Fuller was with the Browns at this time. Today, Corey, Josh Bostick, Andy Shepperd, Dave Harris & Kyle Mraz are all active.



John with Jason Wallace



Our first team and outreach – 1991

FLORIDA

Missions – Ft. Myers



Much of Florida was either devastated or flooded by Hurricane Ian in Late September. We made strategic visits with supplies to those we know who were affected and yet also were helping others with food for shelter. Additional events are currently in progress to obtain and distribute tarps.

Trinity Baptist College Jacksonville



Head Men's Basketball Coach John Jones and his summer basketball camps, using the sport for outreach and spiritual development.

ACROSS FLORIDA



John with Roy Tosh

Pastor **Adrian Crawford** (Tallahassee), **Kevin Geiss** at AIA & Campus Crusade, **Roy Tosh** (Orlando) thru Christian music, **Bobby Hegadish** (UCF Cru), Servants **Dan & Stacey Cagwin** (Orlando). **Steve and Sarah Sorenson** (Philanthropy & Christian Music) **Luke Wollet** (Addictions), are examples of a few former Ohio athletes or associates who now minister in Florida.

AKRON AREA

ANDY SHEPPERD – PROJECT OUTRUN



Project Outrun inspires children with pediatric cancer by working with them in designing custom made running shoes to “outrun” cancer!

www.projectoutrun.org

Hundreds of children have already received their shoes and have 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 how his outreach led him into surrendering his life to Christ this past year.

Andy and John “coincidentally” met when both were visiting a mutual friend getting cancer treatment. This reunited them after a 20 year period. Since then it has been a miraculous blessing to see Andy's family and Andy himself transform, hear his testimony and watch him impact numerous other ministries.

AKRON, OHIO

JEROME MOSS



Jerome is a qualified behavioral health specialist for Family First Health Services and is a youth advocate-mentor for the East Akron YMCA mentoring program. Jerome attended Christian colleges Geneva and Malone and also earned his Master's 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 health screening event, youth basketball clinic and adult alumni basketball games. The program resulted from close friend Kimyatta Cooper dying at only 34 in 2016 while playing basketball at the Barberton YMCA - unaware of his blocked arteries. This Health Fair has been a stage for several area ministries to impact Akron area families and to save lives of young men throughout the city.

AKRON AREA MARSHALL JENNINGS



Marshall started driving for the ride share company “LYFT” 3 years ago, providing literally thousands of experiences for riders who have a large variety of needs. Over 60 have been led to Christ and numerous others have had quality counsel provided. His regular prayer list numbers almost 800 former riders. Practical acts of kindness have enabled them to survive difficult challenges. Many now join Marshall and his wife at church weekly (pictured above) and share their testimony in places like CVCA's boys basketball team.(below).



CANTON, OHIO OFFICER LAMAR SHARPE



The picture says it all! Lamar was one of the first basketball players to play for TEAM JAM and then played football for the U. of Kansas. Officer Sharpe is an officer liaison between the department and his Canton community. Lamar is notable for founding “**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. His electric personality is a true gift from God that he uses to inspire hope and direction throughout Stark County.

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, 20 years later, many of those who visited Corey, are doing similar things: people like Ben & Adam Flossie, Matt Futch, Jerome Moss, Brandon Wallace, Jason Wallace and Brandon Sweeney. Corey and John still stay in contact as he coaches HS FB coach in Tallahassee and trains his gifted son Chase in baseball.



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

KIWANIS

John learned of Kiwanis and Key Club at Medina HS(Ohio) and through Hudson's Kiwanis years ago. They serve the community by providing after-school programs, college scholarships, and by honoring emergency workers, fireman, police and students each year. This international organization benefits millions of children throughout the U.S. and around the world, "Serving the Children of the World one child at a time". Hudson's Kiwanis also hosts an annual basketball league that helped us meet numerous athletes approx..20 yrs ago.

John is now involved in the Flagler-Palm Coast Kiwanis Club in Florida. This has quickly helped him be involved with the HS Key Club, the Kiwanis Christmas basketball tourney at Matanzas HS., distribute scholarships, and honor many in the community. This comes at no cost to TEAM JAM, but helps those we are trying to reach for Christ.

HUDSON HS LEADERSHIP



Each November, Hudson HS hosts a Leadership Conference Retreat in Hiram. Dave Spohn has led this conference for much of its 25 year existence and is a longtime teacher and coach. Due to his faith in Christ, Dave encourages Biblical leadership values and high character speakers. This 48 hr retreat impacts 120 of Hudson's top student leaders annually.. John is often a chaperone, helper, or special speaker, participating even after moving to Florida.

SOUTH CAROLINA



Greg Lewis, John, Coach Tony Stockman

Tony Stockman (Medina HS, Clemson U, Ohio State U) continues to lead outreach basketball camps, arrange for Christian mentors and increase team success of the Columbia Int'l University (S.C.) men's team. CIU is a Christian university and Tony has been named Coach of the Year regionally at CIU and nationally at Ohio Christian U. Tony and his wife Brittany pour their lives into their own 5 children as well, even after the loss of their oldest son just a year ago from life-long health challenges. Their example is admired and reported on often!

ARIZONA JED DUNN

Coach Dunn once played in the Akron City Series, for Akron U, and coached at Revere and Brush HS's. Now he is a legendary coach for Deer Valley HS in Phoenix, making sure each of his players knows about Christ.



NATIONALLY

Zoom Bible Studies

Attendees from: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas.

SUNDAYS Chad Mraz. Mike Hurley.

More than two years ago, Chad and Mike initiated a Zoom call on Sunday nights to inspire their closest friends to follow Christ. More than 40 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. Two college-aged men also have become Christians! Chad's brother **Kyle**, **Mike's brother Ryan**, **Shawn Lazarus**, **Mike Kuykendall (and his brother Gary)**, **Hunter Olson (Cleveland State wrestler)**, and **Matt Futch** are some of the attendees.

In the winter, Mike and Ryan combine with their Dad (Mick) in coaching Akron area youth wrestling. This has provided additional relationships and opportunity to share hope through Christ.

JAPAN

Colonel Michael DeRienzo

Having served in several countries and U.S states, Chaplain DeRienzo and his wife are now in Japan, responsible for training hundreds of chaplains who minister to tens of thousands of troops! Mike is a former Hudson HS football player, Kent State U grad and ROTC participant. His next stop will be in Michigan for 2023.

TEXAS

BRANDON SWEENEY

(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, are speakers at FCA events, coaches, and plan on planting a church near Texas A&M university. Their plans are to minister to college students and young adults starting December 17.

KENTUCKY BEN CARSON

Former Cleveland Indians minor league player Ben Carson continues as pastor at Grace Reformed Baptist in Owensboro, Kentucky. Ben became a Christian during his baseball career after an unfortunate foul ball hit a young fan in the stands. With the help of baseball chaplains and his own empathy for the family, he turned this potential tragedy into a heartwarming and lifechanging story.

**RUNNING FOR JESUS
LEGACY**



1979



2015



2018



2022



2022

COLORADO

PLATFORM GIVES – CHAD MRAZ

The Mraz family has been with TEAM JAM for the whole ride. It began with Kyle at Revere HS and Chad at SVSM. After their college careers both have been successful in business and raising their families.

In Chad's pursuit of God, he challenged himself to a trio of marathons in the Colorado mountains to launch his next pursuit, to raise funding for charities about which he is passionate. Though not a runner, Chad ran a 50 mile marathon at the 10,000 to 14,000 ft elevations, biked 100 miles, and finished the summer with a 100 mile run (in 30 hrs), all in a 3 month period! With the support of his wife Kari, family, and friends, Chad's conquest challenged us all to dare to do more!



NEW JERSEY

Pat Stanley (w/ Shawn)

Pat and Shawn met while Shawn was the Double A Akron chaplain and Pat was an opposing player, Pat now uses his baseball training business to share Christ and meet needs of those young people.

PITTSBURGH

MARK ABDUL / MAX SIMMS



Alier Maluk, Bez Abdul, John, Virgil Hall.

Mark is a pastor's son and is mentoring basketball student athletes. After his father's death, Mark (24 yrs old) took leadership in raising his brothers and foster brother. During 2020, they visited open gyms that Max Simms Jr. was hosting at a local church. Max helped the development of this whole family. Max then established the relationship with TEAM JAM, leading to CVCA playing their Christian school (Imani) in a showcase Dec. 28 featuring Alier Maluk & Darryn Peterson (both on USA Nat'l Team) and D1 prospect Virgil Hall. Some of the promoters plus Coach Futch (CVCA) are all part of the TEAM JAM family and are challenging each other to grow spiritually.

TENNESSEE

DREW SUTTON / BEN ZOBRIST

Drew and Ben became friends as Houston Astros minor league teammates and through 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 with his family to fully commit to this effort and even had a chance meeting with Cody (below).

TEXAS

CODY STRAIT



Weekly meetings continue with Cody and son Asher. Cody (once a pro teammate of both Josh Holden and Ben Zobrist), has influence thru his baseball training, travel teams, and their local Christian school in the Dallas area. They have been active in assisting other former pros have an impact in mentoring, training and helping other teens grow closer to Christ.

MILITARY

JRS Memorial Fund



Johnny Saucier's closest friends (led by Ben & Brandon Gency) had their first Memorial golf tournament this past spring, donating the proceeds to a ministry that works with Soldiers. Since Johnny's passing in Oct 2020, we have set aside funds and time to be supportive of his military peers and talk to them about Christ.

Dedicated funds that go toward our JRS Memorial Fund are only used for ministry to soldiers in his memory and to continue interaction he had already helped us establish.

Please consider giving to this fund to help us minister to help soldiers that need Christ.