



FORERUNNER MENTORING

PROGRAM

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW





**Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children
a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands
of a warrior are sons born in one's youth.
Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of
them. They will not be put to shame when
they contend with their enemies in the gate.**

PSALM 127:3-5

If there is one thing I am for sure about, it's that 2020 looked nothing like I thought it would. Forerunner was all set up for the biggest year we've ever had. We had a strategic plan. We hired a great staff. We fundraised. We were all set to execute. All the hard work of the last five years was going to culminate in the launch of this school year.

Then it all got shut down.

The dream of serving over 100 kids in our after-school program? Gone. Gaining access to Lake Highlands High School? Not anymore. All the events and programs we had planned? Not so fast.

And it hurt. All the circumstances affecting our plans for Forerunner in 2020 got me down. But then, something dawned on me. The Lord, in His kindness, began to give me perspective. Deep down inside my soul, I could hear Him saying, "The things you focus on aren't the things I focus on, Zach. Your ways are not my ways, and my way is always better."

While I was busy focusing on who wasn't enrolling in our after school program, I was overlooking the fact that 27 new families joined Forerunner this year.

While I was in the corner throwing myself a pity party over not having volunteer access to the local schools, God reminded me 20 boys gave their lives to Christ in our after school program this year.

Fear and disappointment were distracting me from hearing the single mothers who kept saying, "There is no way we would have gotten through this year without the Forerunner Family."

In a world of constant change, now is a great season to focus on the one who never changes. To remember the Cornerstone upon which everything is built: Jesus Christ.

In a few years, when someone says to me, "What sticks out to you from 2020?" - I will reply with a story. Not about numbers or expansion or fancy sounding words, but with a story about people who experienced the presence of God through this little organization.

It will be a story about Pyone, the single mother from Burma who called my wife on Thanksgiving day to thank us in her broken English for our friendship.

It will be a story about Jeremiah, who has found godly mentors and friends through our Junior High Program that have helped him process the pain of his brother's prison sentence and the loss of his mother this year.

We're asking for your support this Christmas season. In order for more of these stories to happen, we need your help. Please consider giving financially to our ministry. Whether it is a monthly recurring donation or a one-time gift, every little bit helps. We could not do what the Lord is calling us to do in our community without you. So thank you. May the Lord bless you and yours this holiday season.

Relationships change lives,



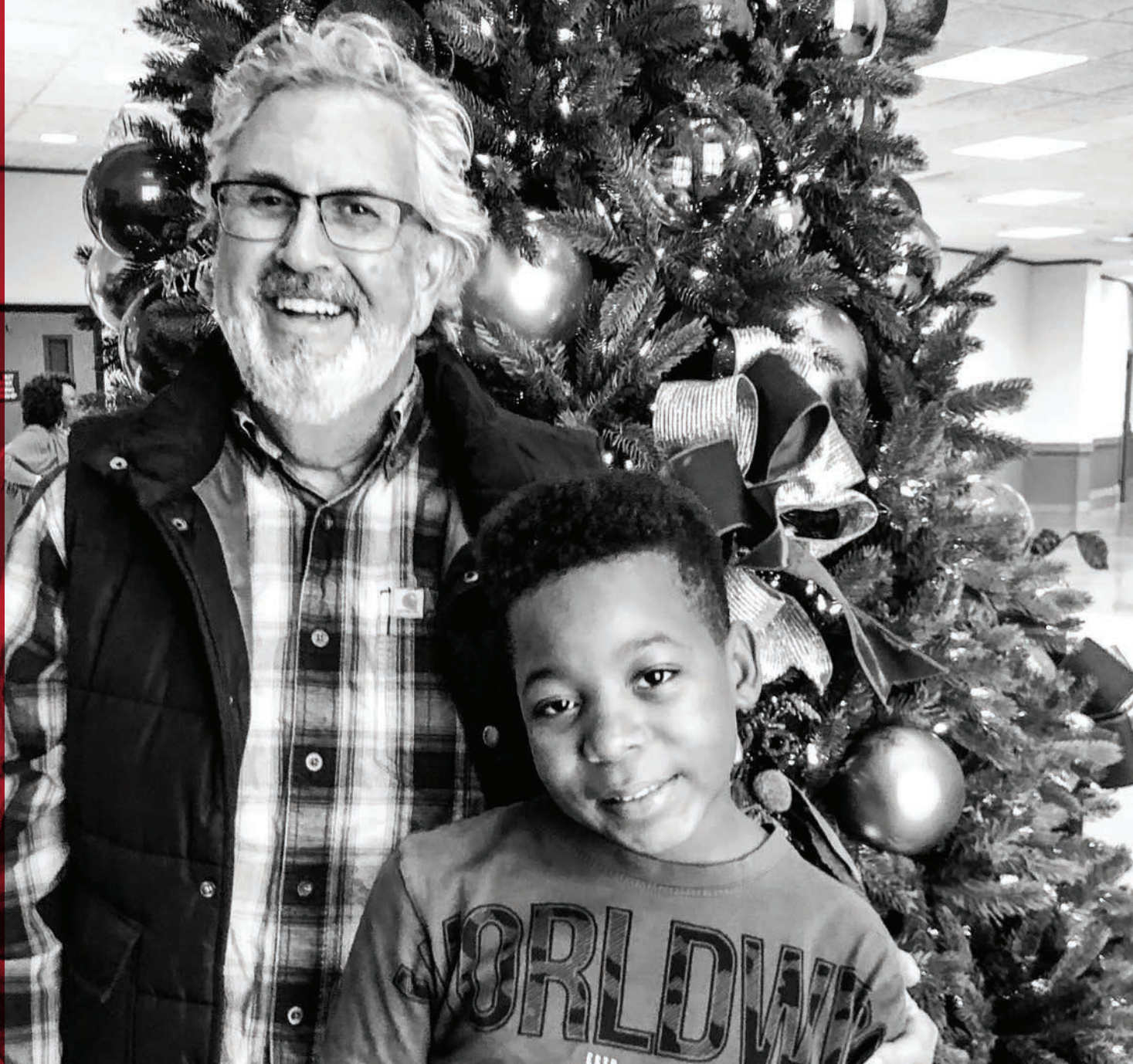
Zach Garza
Founder & Executive Director



YOU CAN GIVE FINANCIALLY ONLINE AT
www.forerunnermentoring.com/donation

OR MAIL A CHECK TO
10228 E Northwest Hwy #24
Dallas, TX 75238

CRAIG & SEMAJ



BY LATIFFANY DUNN
SEMAJ'S MOM

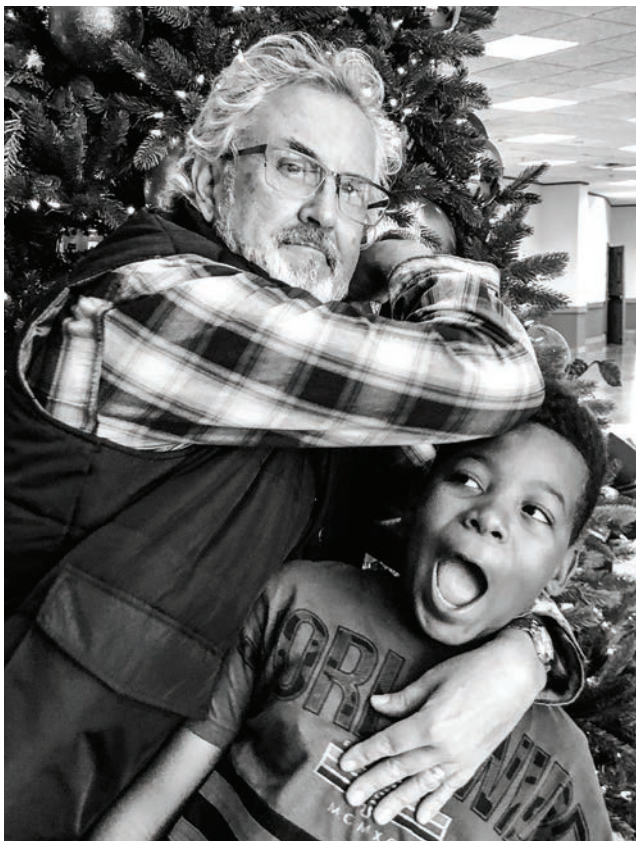
WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR SON?

- 1** Semaj is caring. His heart is bigger than his body. He's so selfless.
- 2** Semaj is wise. He teaches me daily on how to be. I admire how he moves on and doesn't stay down long.
- 3** Semaj listens and gives good advice.

HOW HAS FORERUNNER IMPACTED YOUR FAMILY?

Forerunner has been a life saver. Being a part of Forerunner makes me feel special. Like the program was made for us. It fits all of our needs. Forerunner has helped us keep our faith going. My son has learned more about God, and for that I am grateful.

His mentor Craig is wonderful. He spends time with my son and teaches him new things. And he never misses a football game. His wife Robin is a good friend. She is always there when I need her and more. She goes above and beyond. We are blessed to have them both apart of our lives.



WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT FORERUNNER?

All the moms get together like we're all one big family. We talk, we laugh, and we eat! And the food is always good. Semaj is always excited for moms nights and family dinners. He has such a good time with his friends. When it's time to go, he doesn't want to leave. At moms nights we always get a good laugh when we play Pictionary. And I love the crafting nights. They are relaxing and fun. Sara is creative and comes up with good ideas for us to express ourselves. Sara is great! She works hard to make sure we're all comfortable and she cares for us individually. We are blessed to have Forerunner a part of our lives.

Thanks for all you do!

WHAT WE DO



OUR VISION

To provide a trained mentor, safe programs, and support for the single mothers of every young man in Lake Highlands growing up without a father-figure at home in the name of Jesus.

OUR MISSION

We build relationships with kids in our community to fulfill their potential through mentoring, programs, and supporting families in the name of Jesus.



MENTORING

IF A BOY GROWS UP WITH NO MALE PRESENCE IN THE HOME, WHO WILL SHOW HIM HOW TO BE A MAN?

We connect the boys in our program with a godly man in our community who commits to:

- Showing up on a consistent basis
- Speaking truth and encouragement
- Modeling faith, manhood, and positive character

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

IF A BOY GROWS UP WITH NO MALE PRESENCE IN THE HOME, WHO WILL SHOW HIM HOW TO BE A MAN?

Unified followers of Jesus providing a safe, fun, and encouraging environment where boys are empowered to become men of God every school day.

- **K-2ND GRADE FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM**
Focus: Reading literacy in a Christ-centered environment
- **3-6TH GRADE EQUIPPING PROGRAM**
Focus: Character and obedience through studying the bible
- **7-8TH GRADE EQUIPPING PROGRAM**
Focus: Life skills, academic success, and faith in Jesus

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Equipping young men to grow in manhood, faith, and leadership through relationships and intentional teachings.

- **WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY:** Thrive is our weekly gathering where we grow in the knowledge of Jesus and his word.
- **MONTHLY LIFE SKILLS:** Monthly trainings led by mentors to show our boys the skills they need to become godly, productive leaders.
- **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** Investing into the younger boys at Forerunner events.



SUMMER CAMPS

We partner with summer camps to provide more opportunities for our boys to meet new friends, godly mentors, and experience the love of Jesus.

- PINE COVE
- STONEY CREEK
- T BAR M
- OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
- SKY RANCH

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

IF A BOY GROWS UP WITH NO MALE PRESENCE IN THE HOME, WHO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN HIS LIFE?

We serve and support the moms of our boys through friendship and community to help them flourish as the leaders of their family. We help our moms start and grow in their relationship with

- **MONTHLY LADIES NIGHTS**
Focus: Fun, fellowship, and dinner w/ childcare
- **MONTHLY ENCOUNTER NIGHTS**
Focus: Prayer and worship w/ childcare
- **SEMESTER CLASSES**
Focus: Parenting and financial literacy
- **ADVOCATES & FRIENDS**
Focus: Relational support



2020 MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY

STARTED FORERUNNER CHURCH

We launched our Wednesday Church service to model for our boys what it looks like for the body of Christ to gather in prayer, worship, and the reading of scripture. Through consistently sharing the gospel we had 20 Forerunners make a profession of faith in Jesus.

FEBRUARY

FAMILY DINNERS

Our Forerunners honored the most important women in their life on Valentines with handcrafted flowers, chocolates, and words of encouragement.

MARCH

FORERUNNER ONLINE

Our coaching staff created weekly content for our Forerunners to stay engaged and grow spiritually while in-person programming was shut down.

APRIL

COVID RELIEF FUND

Through your generosity we were able to distribute over \$10,000 to meet the needs of our families during the pandemic.

MAY

SOCIAL DISTANCE MENTORING

Relationships became more important than ever for our Forerunners this past Spring. Our mentors continued to meet with their Forerunners through virtual calls, porch visits, and small mentoring gatherings all summer long.

JUNE

PRAYER VIGIL

We gathered 25 church leaders / 350 people together to ask for God to unify the Lake Highlands and Hamilton Park communities.

JULY

SUMMER CAMPS

We partnered with summer camps to provide more opportunities for our boys to meet new friends, godly mentors, and experience the love of Jesus.

AUGUST

APARTMENT OUTREACH

With school going virtual, we've had to adapt and find new ways to build relationships with kids in our community. During our August outreach tour we knocked on over 200 doors, and distributed 1000+ flyers.

SEPTEMBER

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Following RISD guidelines, we have maintained a safe after school program for our families, volunteers, and employees with no outbreaks or confirmed cases.

OCTOBER

THRIVE

We started a new program for High School boys focused on manhood, faith, and leadership. They meet every week at Highland Oaks Church of Christ Youth Center.

NOVEMBER

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

We host dinners, prayer nights, and fun events for single moms with free childcare designed to connect them to a community of friends and encourage their spiritual growth.

DECEMBER

MANHOOD CURRICULUM

We completed year one of our very own after school program manhood curriculum designed to teach our boys what it means to be godly men.

53 ACTIVE FORERUNNERS

- 94%** of our K-6th boys believe that Forerunner will **help them become Men of God**
- 83%** of our K-6th boys say they have prayed for Jesus to be their savior and **identify themselves as followers of Jesus**
- 90%** of our 7-8th boys remember the **5 Traits of a Man of God**: Responsibility, Humility, Integrity, Leadership, and Respect
- 100%** of our 9-12th boys say they would **turn to their mentor in a time of crisis**

7 SCHOOLS

- **Lake Highlands Elementary**
- **Northlake Elementary**
- **Wallace Elementary**
- **Skyview Elementary**
- **White Rock Elementary**
- **Lake Highlands Junior High**
- **Lake Highlands High School**

9 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM STAFF 9 staff members pour into our boys every weekday through scripture reading, homework time, and fun physical activities.

870 HOURS OF SUPPORT A CHILD RECEIVES AT FORERUNNER ANNUALLY

MENTORING

46 ACTIVE MENTOR MATCHES

Our mentors show up consistently, build up with encouragement, and model faith in Jesus.

Our mentors spend an average of two hours with their mentee per interaction.

- 77%** of our mentors are meeting or exceeding our expectation to meet with their Forerunner **twice a month**
- 42%** of our mentors **listen to the podcast** consistently (at least once a month)
- 71%** are confident their mentor relationship has **strengthened** this last year
- 96%** of our mentors say they receive regular **guidance/support** from Forerunner regarding their mentor relationship
- 96%** of our mentors are confident they are **advancing God's Kingdom** through mentoring with Forerunner

TUTORS

10 VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Our tutors spend time every week helping our students complete their homework and encourage them to keep progressing.

Our tutors provide a total of 10 hours/week of focused homework help.

- 72%** of our tutors have served with Forerunner for over one year
- 100%** of our tutors believe they are **advancing the Kingdom of God** by volunteering at Forerunner

74 FAMILIES SERVED

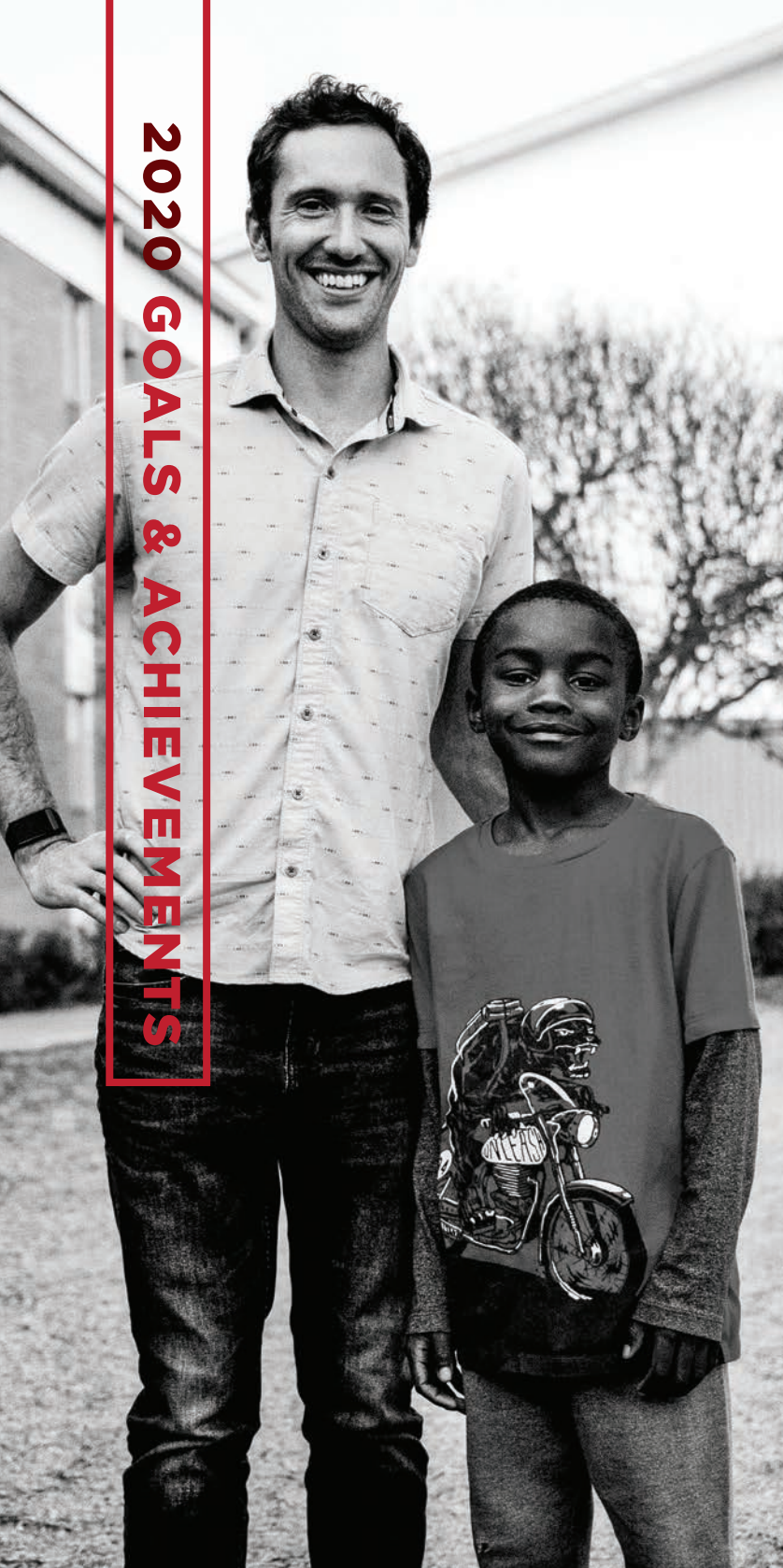
Total families served in 2020 through our programs and mentoring relationships.

8 VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES

Our advocates provide relational support and encouragement for our single moms

- 100%** of our moms say they see a **positive change** in their relationship with their son because of Forerunner
- 100%** of our moms **feel supported** by the resources and relationships Forerunner provides.

2020 GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS



GOAL:

Serve 80 families and pair every child with a mentor

ACHIEVEMENT

In 2020 we served seven schools and 74 families and 81 boys through our after school programs and mentoring relationships. Of all the boys who qualified, only three were not matched with a mentor.



GOAL:

Equip and encourage our mentors through podcasts and handbooks

ACHIEVEMENT

We have provided over 1500 hours of training for mentors this year through our podcast - over two months of straight training.

GOAL:

Equip and encourage our mothers with resource trainings and retreats

ACHIEVEMENT

Our women's ministry has focused on supporting our moms through every financial and relational gap created by the epidemic. Our moms ministry coordinator called to check-in on our families on a weekly basis during the shutdown, provided ongoing access to resources and financial assistance, and currently leads two bi-weekly events to invest in their relational and spiritual health.



GOAL:

Hire a full-time 7-12th grade Programs Coordinator

ACHIEVEMENT

Through the generosity of our donors, we were able to hire Darius Person as our new Program Coordinator for Junior High and High School. Darius leads our Junior High program that focuses on manhood development, academic success, and faith in Jesus, and in Fall 2020 we launched Thrive, our weekly bible study for our High School boys.



GOAL:

Complete an independent audit to ensure financial responsibility

ACHIEVEMENT

An independent audit was conducted this year by J. Alexander CPA, LLC confirming our financial statements are GAAP compliant.

GOAL:

Host a national You Can Mentor conference to build relationships to help us improve what we do

ACHIEVEMENT

We have developed a network of 35+ mentoring organizations across the country who share best practices that continually shape and improve how we mentor.



2021 GOALS

1 GOAL:
Continue to develop a plan for scalability with our K-6th after school programs to give us an opportunity to serve the elementary schools that feed into Forest Meadow Junior High in the upcoming years.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Easy to implement, biblically based curriculum
- Proven processes and procedures to execute daily operations
- Consistent training to prepare and guide our part-time staff grade coaches and program leads.

2 GOAL:
Establish a functioning and sustainable 9-12th grade high school program at Lake Highlands High School.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Hire and train a proven leader to start this new initiative
- Partnerships with other Lake Highlands organizations to help us recruit new students to join our program
- Easy to implement, biblically based curriculum
- Proven processes and procedures to execute daily operations

3 GOAL:
Develop key leadership essential for survivability of Forerunner by focusing on delegation, tiers of organizational leadership, and raising up new leaders from within our organization.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Leadership training for current team members who have shown a desire to take on more responsibility within our organization
- Delegation of major initiatives from the Executive Director to other members of the Forerunner team
- Clear strategic plans for organizational growth and sustainability

4 GOAL:
Maximize student enrollment to serve as many families as possible

ACTION ITEMS:

- Expand the Mom's Coordinator role to include recruiting, onboarding, and building relationships with all of our new and existing mothers
- Create and execute a recruiting and marketing plan to ensure that every male student in Lake Highlands who qualifies for our program has an opportunity to join our program

5 GOAL:
Financial Viability

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building relationships and asking our partners to fund our full 2020-2021 budget (\$875,000)



A WEEKLY HANGOUT FOR THE YOUNG MEN OF LAKE HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

THRIVE

MANHOOD · FAITH · LEADERSHIP

THURSDAYS AT 7PM

AT HIGHLAND OAKS STUDENT CENTER

WE HAVE REAL DISCUSSIONS High School is a very important time to have meaningful conversations. Every week one of our mentors will speak on a topic relevant to the lives of adolescents. We include scripture with every topic.

WE TEACH LIFE SKILLS High School is training wheels for adulthood. Once a month our young men will be led in a life skill by our mentors. Our desire is to set them up for success after graduation.

WE HAVE FUN (AND FOOD) We believe fun and food bring life into relationships. Basketball and barbecue, ping pong and Popeyes, 2k and tacos, you name it...it all happens at Thrive.

A LAKE HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

SPONSORED BY FORERUNNER MENTORING





BAILEY & GASER

God has moved mightily in our 3-4th grade class this semester. Each boy has had a breakthrough in either their character or confidence. Every week we take time to call out what we see in them and make sure to give them the attention they long for.

Our classroom size this semester has really helped us devote one on one time to every boy. As coaches, the more we can get on their level, look them in the eyes and tell them what's true about them, the more growth we see in their journey as men of God.

I never truly know how much they are picking up in these teachable moments, but I'm always shocked to see them mirroring my actions. Every intentional thing I do in class models for them what healthy, godly relationships look like. Care, comfort, listening, prayer, encouragement, discipline... These practices all lead to Jesus bearing fruit in their lives. Fruit that blesses them and gives life to those around them.

Let me tell you a story. One day my 4th grader named Gaser was begging for attention. He pulled me aside for a conversation. He asked about everyone in my life and I did the same in return. He asked me if my parents were together or not and I told him no.

He asked why they broke up and after begging to know I answered, "my dad just made some mistakes" and he said, "did he drink too much beer?" For those

of you who don't know my dad has struggled with alcohol most of his life. There is no way Gaser would have known that, but somehow he knew exactly what I meant when I said "mistakes." I told him, "Yes, and I believe God is still working on him, chooses him, and loves him no matter what mistakes he makes." He then started asking about my tattoos. I have one that says, "I love you, dad". Gaser read it and asked about it. I told him that my dad was really sick so I got it for his birthday one year.

He said, "Did he have a heart attack?" WHICH IS TRUE. He had a heart attack. We went on with the rest of our daily activities with the other boys, and right before program ended Gaser came back to me. "Thank you coach Bailey for telling me all of those things... I drew something for you." I asked him to show me and he brought me this drawing. He said it's a picture of God pulling out all of the mistakes and alcohol out of my dad. He said that God is going to heal him and that my dad is going to still go to heaven.

God sent a nine year old to share with me the one thing I truly needed to hear. Not only are we changing these boys lives, they are changing ours. My heart couldn't physically love our Forerunners more. Thank you Lord for the ways you are working in and through our boys.

BAILEY FALKNER
3RD & 4TH GRADE COACH

**"NOT ONLY ARE WE
CHANGING THESE
BOYS LIVES, THEY ARE
CHANGING OURS"**



You Can Mentor.

You Can Mentor is a network of mentoring ministries collaborating to advance the Kingdom of God through mentoring kids from hard places. We have provided over 1500 hours of training for mentors this year. That's over two months of straight training.

PODCAST

A place for mentors and mentoring leaders to share their knowledge and experiences

RESOURCES

Easy-to-digest, practical mentoring tips to help organizations of all sizes

THINK TANK

A monthly phone call with mentoring leaders to discuss specific aspects of mentoring

WHAT OUR LISTENERS SAY

"I really enjoy taking in the "You Can Mentor" Podcast as I take my exercise walks. They have such diverse guests, who are skillfully interviewed in a fun and engaging way, but they get serious when they need to. Every show gives me at least a few takeaways that I can apply to building relationship with my mentee. The podcast provides convenient opportunities for me to get frequent mentor training of a very high quality. Also, just pulling up the podcast on my device or seeing the logo on my screen gets me thinking about my mentee and what he's doing at that moment. That's a good thing. I highly recommend the podcast!"



GREGORY & TYLER



BY ASHLEY TURNBO

GREGORY'S MOM

I never imagined raising my children as a single mother. Gregory took the divorce the hardest. Going from seeing his dad every day to seeing him every once in a while, he was struggling.

Usually Gregory is immensely gregarious, respectful, caring, loving, fun, tenacious and everything in between. It was in kindergarten and first grade that I noticed behavioral and academic challenges in my son. I was getting a phone call, email or sticky note every couple of days.

During Gregory's first grade year at White Rock Elementary, I was blessed to become friends with Val Smith, a complete stranger who just genuinely loves my son. Val also has a son at Forerunner and she introduced me to the program. She noticed the challenges Gregory would face when it came to changing routine, and the uncertainty of knowing if he would be picked up or not every Thursday and every other Friday.

“FORERUNNER HAS GIVEN GREGORY, MY DAUGHTERS, & I SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO”

Of course I was apprehensive but my heart began to change. Gregory is the only boy of 5 sisters so he's just always thrilled to go see his friends at Forerunner every day. He's made it known to me that he does not feel like I should pick him up before 5:59:59. He wants to soak up EVERY SECOND of being in the presence of other the boys, men, and God.

I started to notice a shift in his behavior. My sweet baby was coming back. He is respectful, happy, and gregarious again.

Everyone at Forerunner has done their part for sure, but Coach Zoey, Coach Joel, Coach Quinn and his mentor Tyler have especially had a positive effect on him. He knows they love him. From being amazingly supportive, to attending Gregory's football games during their free time, to just being really sweet friends and role models in his life. He prays for them before he goes to sleep and that's how I know I made the right choice in choosing Forerunner. He'd never prayed before. I never taught it to him. But he's so



comfortable praying, and his coaches are to thank for that.

I remember hearing my son recite the Manhood Declaration that he learned at Forerunner for the first time. I heard him say something about, “I am a man of God, I will be a Godly husband, father, and leader.” That was really an affirmation that, okay, yeah, he's where God wants me to have him. Since then, I adopted the phrase, “Man of God” and use it in conversation with him daily. “Man of God, have you read today?” It's our thing, he loves it, and I believe that it reinforces positive behavior/choices without it feeling like I'm chastising him.

Forerunner has given Gregory, my daughters, and I something to look forward to. My daughters and I look forward to the first Thursdays every month. I've met some amazing and hilarious mothers through the Women's Ministry. I've embarked on a journey that I've always known I wanted to be on, but never knew how to start: building a relationship with Jesus. The Women's Encounter Night has pushed me in that direction. I'm always welcomed by a spirit of calmness and comfort and it allows me to seek that relationship. I'm thankful for Sara giving her time to us ladies. Her spirit-led presence has encouraged me in numerous ways. I aspire to be a more Godly and spirit-led mother, and with the Women's Ministry I know I can get there.

I can't express enough how grateful I am for my family to have these Godly friends in Forerunner. My son is better and I see him grow spiritually every day. I'm better and growing spiritually, and I never expected to. Whatever they're doing, it works. Thank you so kindly.



ELIJAH & EH TAW

I'm amazed so many times at how God lines up our mentor matches. I asked Him for wisdom on who I should match Elijah with, and immediately Craig Watson came to mind. We scheduled a time for them to meet each other at Elijah's apartment.

As soon as we walked in, Craig shared about his favorite hobbies: boxing and running. Elijah's eyes got really wide. He said the two things he's been most interested in over this past year have been running track and learning how to box. They sat and talked about famous runners like Usain Bolt and boxers like Floyd Mayweather.

Craig asked to see Elijah's knuckles. He made a fist and Craig leaned over to inspect them. "You're going to be a great boxer with those hands."

This is a mentor match made in heaven. Since they were matched, Craig and Elijah have been meeting weekly for a run and some boxing lessons.

During staff prayer that very morning, the Lord gave our program coordinator a picture in her mind's eye of Elijah in a boxing ring. He was hurt and walking to the corner for medical attention. The Forerunner staff was there to take care of him. She had no clue Elijah was being matched with his mentor that night, nor that his mentor was a boxer.

This is how God works. He is aware of what our boys need and long for. He is intentional. He is at work in our relationships. He knows what He is doing. And we are grateful to be a part.

STEPHEN MURRAY
DIRECTOR OF MENTORING

"THIS IS HOW GOD WORKS. HE IS AWARE OF WHAT OUR BOYS NEED AND LONG FOR. HE IS INTENTIONAL. HE IS AT WORK IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS. HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING"

We take time every week to write down what we see in our boys. We want each of them to know we see the gold in them. Each boy gets uplifted, praised, and encouraged for what God is doing in their life. And one of those boys is named Eh Taw.

At the end of the week, Eh Taw came up to me and asked if I would read his encouragements to him. He was struggling to understand them. I sat down and slowly read them all over him as he leaned in. When I finished, he looked up at me with eyes full of tears. "You really think those things about me?"

Every boy is hungry for this kind of affirmation. At Forerunner, our boys know they are loved. Every word we speak over them sticks. Eh Taw amazes me every day & I am forever thankful God brought him to this program.

BAILEY FALKNER
3RD & 4TH GRADE COACH





"I wear my Forerunner shirt to school so everyone knows I'm one of the brothers"

- KING

"My favorite part of church is hearing the God songs. Now at night before I go to bed, I go to Youtube and listen to My Lighthouse. Listening to my favorite God songs helps me when I can't sleep."

- Gaser



"Someone from Forerunner randomly delivered groceries to us twice in the past week! I feel so blessed and taken care of by the Lord."

- MOM



"Hey! I just need you guys to know how thankful I am for you guys. Every single one of you. For every single thing that you do. From the big things to the littlest interactions during pick-up. It takes special people to know how to love us the way we need to be loved and y'all do it and I don't think you know how much it means to us. So thank you. I love you guys. I really do."

- MOM



"I love Forerunner so much I got a cross necklace because it reminds me of what we're all about."

- Julian





GLYNNE

I grew up where I was blessed to have many mentors in my life, whether it be a teacher, coach, or neighbor, there were people outside my family who were instrumental in my growth as a person. My wife and I were fortunate to see the same thing happen in the lives of our three children; people, not just mom or dad, truly caring for the development of their lives. Because of these experiences in my life, I always have loved to spend time with kids in the Lake Highlands area; from coaching, driving to and from practice, and now tutoring.

Forerunner has become the perfect opportunity for this. I first learned of Forerunner from my son, who lives in LH. He and his friends support this organization and they instilled in me a desire to volunteer. I have known of Zach Garza since his days of coaching and Young Life at Lake Highlands Junior High; his idea to create Forerunner fills a void for grade school kids who need a place to go after school. Here they not only do their schoolwork and build friendships with others, but they are mentored by many “coaches” and most importantly, they are exposed to the Bible and learn about Jesus Christ. I have been very impressed with this grassroots program and admire how it has grown over the years with the leadership of the staff and volunteers.

“INSTILLING CONFIDENCE IN THE CLASSROOM IS VITAL”

My little part in all of this is to spend time each week with these kids by helping them with their homework, which ensures they are keeping up with the rest of their classmates. For me, just being patient, compassionate and listening is the key to building a relationship. My greatest satisfaction is to see a smile when they walk into the room and ask Mr. Glynne if I will help them with their homework. When they complete their assignments and understand how they answered each question, their faces glow. Instilling confidence in the classroom is vital. We are there to be a positive role model and to love on these kids. I retired a few

years ago and am proof that age doesn't matter. What matters is showing up consistently, staying positive and finding ways to connect.

There have been many times that I have come home from tutoring and told my wife how a particular kid was so proud of himself for being able to do his assignment with little assistance from me. Trust me, I get as much out of this as they do. I even had to learn a new way to do math!

My family has been truly blessed by the good Lord and has walked with us through good times and bad. This is what I want these kids to know - that no matter what the situation is, Jesus is there and believes in them.

GLYNNE MILDREN
TUTOR SINCE 2017

MANHOOD DECLARATION

I am a man of God.

I am strong, fearless, and courageous.

I am a man after God's own heart.

I walk in wisdom and power.

I have favor with God and man.

I live life to the fullest.

I was created on purpose, for a purpose.

I act with responsibility, humility, integrity, leadership, and respect.

I am loved and will love others with the love of Jesus.

I will forgive because I am forgiven.

I surround myself with godly friends.

I honor women with my words and actions.

I will be a godly husband, father, and leader.

I am loved by my heavenly Father.

I am saved by grace through faith in Jesus.

I am empowered by the Holy Spirit.

I AM A MAN OF GOD.

MAN OF GOD CURRICULUM

Our staff created a daily curriculum for our 5th-6th graders designed to build them into men of God through biblical stories, character studies, and gospel truths.

YEAR ONE
FALL SEMESTER

Who are some men in the Bible to learn from about how to be a Man of God?

YEAR ONE
SPRING SEMESTER

What does a Man of God believe about God?

YEAR TWO
FALL SEMESTER

What does a Man of God look like?

YEAR TWO
SPRING SEMESTER

What are some key things I need to know to be a Man of God?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Scott Frost | *Board Chairman*

President and Chief Operating Officer and Co-Owner, RIM Manufacturing, LLC

The ministry of Forerunner matters to me because I grew up in a single parent home with an absent father. A young man mentored me. He taught me what it meant to be Christ follower and a man. He hung out with me, encouraged me, and loved me. My life was forever changed and he is still in my life today.



Zachary Garza Sr. | *Founder & Executive Director*

Forerunner Mentoring Program

I'm passionate about Forerunner because the Lord used mentoring relationships with Godly men to introduce me to a relationship with Jesus Christ and to give me vision, direction, and purpose in my life.



Jeremy Sain | *Development Committee*

Managing Director at JLL

We have a Heavenly Father who loves us. Forerunner Mentoring teaches boys to walk in the joy of the Lord, and to carry the love of Jesus into their families, schools, and futures. It's a privilege to watch what God does through mentoring.



Chad Lancaster | *Financial Committee / Treasurer*

Director - HR/Finance, Chacon Autos

I am passionate about Forerunner because the organization is providing a deep investment, centered in Christ, that can be transformative and life altering. Our mentors, volunteers, and staff give selflessly to ensure these boys and their mothers feel loved, respected, and cared for in ways they might not have ever experienced before. God called us to be leaders in our communities and to provide a voice and to defend those in need. I'm not sure how you could hear the story of Forerunner and not want to be a part of this mission.



Clint Justice | *Governance Committee/Secretary*

Multi-Unit Franchise Owner, Premier Martial Arts International

I'm passionate about Forerunner because I've seen the ripple effect that deeply investing in one can have on an entire community. The program provides an opportunity to point young men and their families towards Jesus, encourage them to pursue their dreams, and ultimately change the world.



Ricky Zorn | *Governance Committee*

Senior Management Consultant, Credera

I care about Forerunner because it powerfully displays the love of Jesus in our community. When Zach told me he was starting Forerunner, I was playing catch at Lake Highlands with my dad, the first of many influential mentors in my life. I'm grateful for the mentors who invested in me and challenged me to be a man of God, and I'm thankful that Forerunner is providing the same opportunity for others.

FORERUNNER HIGHLIGHTS

RILEY

In his 4th grade classroom, Riley regularly prays for chains to be broken off of everyone. When asked about why he loves Forerunner he said, "Forerunner makes you a better man and brings you closer to God."

Through one year of our literacy program, Riley has increased **2.1 reading levels**.

2019: 22nd percentile (struggling)

2020: 72nd percentile (proficient)



BARNABAS

Forerunner is a safe place for boys to come out of their shell and recognize who God has made them to be. Barnabas has been able to process his emotional life through our daily check-ins, and has felt seen and listened to by his coach Andrew. Barnabas believes Jesus paid for our sins, and can recite our Manhood Declaration from memory.

In one year of participating in our literacy program, Barnabas spent **over 43 hours reading**. He reached the 78th percentile (proficient) in reading for his grade level.



ZHMARI

On the field, Zhmari scores touchdowns. Off the field, he lends a helping hand. Zhmari helped build a shed for an elderly couple, regularly serves on the parking team at church, and pours into the younger boys at Forerunner events. He gives friends at his apartment complex rides to school, and works a part time job on the weekends.

Zhmari joined Forerunner at the end of 7th grade, and **will graduate from Lake Highlands in Spring 2021 with plans to attend college**.



Relationships Change Lives.

