

# Newsletter

OCTOBER 2023

## Western North Carolina NORTH & SOUTH VI



North & South unites participants from around the country for a fun & competitive event to raise awareness and support for Handshake America.

### **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- 80 PARTICIPANTS, FROM 25 STATES
- OVER **\$60,000** RAISED
- PROCEEDS ENABLE WNC TO EXPAND BY 100%

"THE NGS KEEPS GROWING BECAUSE THE PARTICIPANTS RELATE TO OUR EMPHASIS ON GRIT AND LOVE TO COMPETE!" DOUG PROBST - FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN, & WNC REGION LEADER







### SAM KESSINGER

Western North Carolina Class of 2021

<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u> Brevard High School

HANDSHAKE AMERICA COACHES Doug Probst and Mark Visk

#### **GREATEST TAKEAWAY**

"My greatest takeaway was the 5 P's. No matter what may be going on around you, circumstances will always be out of your control. We not only push through those times with our committed passion but we do so with a positive and joyful spirit. It can be so easy to treat people poorly when things do not go your way, but this program taught me how to care for the well-being of others simply by being present."

#### WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

"Currently in my 2nd year at Liberty University where I am majoring in Biblical Studies and Youth Ministries. I am pursuing my passion for leading youth within the church and sharing my faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ."

### WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

"I love playing sports such as basketball, volleyball, golf, and pickleball. I am very outdoorsy and also enjoy hiking and camping."





We are excited to announce the expansion of our <u>"5 Practices of Success"</u> <u>Coaching & Scholarship Program</u> into **THE QUEEN CITY!** 

Former Central Ohio H.A. Coach & School Ambassador, <u>Chad Nugen</u>, is leading our local Team.

Chad, a SVP with Bank of America, is passionately recruiting <u>Coaches</u>, his <u>Regional Leadership Team</u>, and <u>School Partners</u> to help us identify & coach gritty Charlotte studentathletes for success in life!

Click the links above or email us @ <u>handshake@handshakeamerica.org</u> to learn more.

### HANDSHAKE ATLANTA









### Devray Kirkland

Central Ohio - 2023 Coach

### Team - All Stars

Current Residence: Westerville OH

Family: My wife Nicky and I have been married for 21 years and have been blessed with one son, Devray II, who is a freshman at Virginia State University. My most influential person in my life must be my mother, Ella Kirkland. She has been a foster parent for 30+ years and I have over 40 foster brothers and sisters. She is still fostering now, even at the age of 85 years old. Her devotion to giving back to others, has been embedded in me since I was a young person.

High School: Massillon OH

College: Howard University, (BA) Bowie State University (MA)

Professional: Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at Cardinal Health

For Fun: I enjoy family time, traveling, and all types of sporting events. **FUN FACT:** I have attended a game at every Major League Baseball stadium in the country.

Why Do You Coach? There have been so many different things that have made an impact on me from this experience. The one thing that stands out is that we all needed or need help at some point in our lives. None of us got to where we are by ourselves and none of us will get to where we are going by ourselves. This opportunity to continue to help and support in paying it forward is very important to me. This has been a tremendous outlet for me to fulfill.

### **TEAM OF THE MONTH**



REGION: METRO ATLANTA TEAM NAME: SHAARP (Sincere Honest Accountable Accepting Respectful Positive)

### **COACHES**

Lee Boudreau - 2nd Year Coach SVP Operational Excellence, Unidine Kara Slavoski - Rookie Coach Nurse Practioner, Roswell Pediatric Center Ern Sherman - Rookie Coach Retired, Former VP Industry Affairs, Coca Cola

### STUDENT-ATHLETES

Seth Berkowitz Marlow Burton Neva Miller Jessica Tyler Godoy

Luke Velez

Marjee Williams

Lakeside High School Discovery Blessed Trinity Catholic Roswell Roswell Wesleyan

"I love how the program has brought me closer to my teammates and how the welcoming environment allows everyone to feel comfortable sharing their ideas and thoughts with each other. I also love how the team experience has allowed me to reflect on multiple perspectives that I may not have thought of before."

Jessica Tyler Godoy

### LEARN HOW YOU CAN JOIN THE TEAM

• As a <u>Coach</u>

Years Coaching: Rookie

- As a **Regional Volunteer**
- As a School Partner
- As a **Corporate Teammate**
- As a Financial Teammate

#### **REGIONAL LEADERS**

Central Ohio - Joel Juday Charlotte, NC - Chad Nugen Metro Atlanta - Tommy Kramer Western North Carolina - Doug Probst

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We have BIG plans for 2024, but need to raise \$42,200 by 12/31/23

- PROGRAM EXPANSION INTO CHARLOTTE, NC
- COACH 90\* STUDENT-ATHLETES FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE \*Most student-athletes accepted in a year (Previous record, 84 in 2021)
- ENGAGE 75% OF ALUMNI THROUGH ENHANCED PROGRAMMING
- ALUMNI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



CLICK or SCAN ABOVE TO MAKE A YEAR-END GIFT.

## **THANK YOU,** FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

### LEADERS

Penny & Rick JACKSON Marjorie & Jorge MORALES

Patty & Doug PROBST

DESIGNER BRANDS

### GOLD

 Trisha & Bill
 Cindy & Dave
 Roy
 Ronnie
 Ruth & Keith

 JORDAN
 PROBST
 PROBST
 ROBINSON
 STEPHENSON



#### SILVER

