

## **A Look at our Founder and First Committee**

Visionary and Founder: Mr. Daniel LaDow, former Youth Director at FPC

First Committee: Todd Hunt, Jack Kelly, Shirlynn Kelly, Justine Hogan, and Byrd Wyatt

First Chairman: Todd Hunt

First paid employee: Shirlynn Kelly

First Executive Director: James Moore

1<sup>st</sup> School: Central High School

## **A Word from Campus Club Founder, Daniel LaDow**

The beginning was a spiritual war for the lives of kids between God and Satan. We, a small team of 4, were meeting weekly to prepare spiritually and fix up an abandoned building with a game room, basketball court, etc. We went out to the schools, met kids, and promoted a Campus Club meeting.

After weeks of meeting kids on their turf, we prepared our first meeting to include a chicken cookout. We waited and no one came. We sat down together and prayed. At the end I told the team, to their surprise and probably disbelief, tonight was the greatest success to a ministry I have ever been involved in. We got Satan's attention, we are in a war for the lives of kids, and he has taken notice of us. Shortly after that a car pulled up and a kid came in with one of our flyers in his hand asking about the meeting. There was no question that God would succeed if we went with His Word to the lost sheep.

Within six weeks, we had 70 kids coming to the High School Campus Club and 130 to the Middle School Club. What happened next was everything Jesus promised...EVERY THING.

My platform for the ministry came from the conviction that within the Church, God had given us direction on how to worship and serve him.

## **History of Campus Clubs**

### **1996 – Campus Club is founded**

Campus Clubs began in the fall of 1996 as a ministry of First Presbyterian Church. The students met at the church and the staff also had office space there. The Club began as an urban youth ministry with the ultimate goal of winning young people to Christ. Another important goal was to show inner-city kids that there were people in Macon other than their parents and teachers who care about them and want them to have good lives.

Daniel LaDow, Jack Kelly, and Justine Hogan went to Central High School to begin meeting students and forming relationships. At their first meeting only 3 boys attended. By October 29, 1996 there were 19 Central High School students meeting in the building next door to First Presbyterian Church. Campus Clubs was patterned after the Young Life ministry which has a variety of “clubs.” The numbers grew rapidly and volunteers came from First Presbyterian, Alethia Baptist, and Bethel CME churches.

### **1997 – Urban intern is hired and more structure is introduced**

In 1997 the realization of the importance of providing structured and well supervised activities to enrich the lives of youth, spiritually, physically, educationally, and socially was made clear. Shirlynn Kelly was hired as Urban Intern – the number of students involved was limited and a more formal schedule was established. Central High School students met on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 and Miller Middle School students attended on Thursday evenings from 6-8. The number of students was determined by the number of CC leaders, transportation available, and facilities. 43 students attended this year.

### **1998 – 2001 – Our First Retreat and banquet**

In 1998 Campus Clubs was incorporated and became a 501C3, Campus Clubs Inc. There were approximately 25 students from middle school and 45 from high school attending. Also, Campus Clubs’ first leadership retreat was held September 19-20 at New Ebenezer Retreat in Rincon, Georgia.

In 1999 Shirlyn Kelly’s title was changed to Campus Clubs Intern and the first summer tutorial program was held with the theme *Passing the Georgia High School Graduation Test*. Alane Crabtree, a Mercer student, was the coordinator and the first summer student intern was hired, Karel McWhite. Also, Campus Clubs held its first fundraising banquet. In 2000, Katrina Curry was the coordinator for the Campus Clubs summer tutorial program. 2001 brought another change to Shirlynn’s title, which became Youth Director and James Moore was hired as Campus Clubs’ first official Executive Director.

### **2002 – 2004 – Form partnership with third school and new programs are established**

In May of 2002, Campus Clubs entered its 3<sup>rd</sup> school and first elementary school, Union Elementary. Executive Director James Moore began leading a mentoring program for young men and new clubs were established within Campus Clubs –Swing for Life, Male Call, and Teen Moms. A slogan was established, Loving Kids Into the Kingdom and Equipping Them for Christ. Shirlyn Kelly became Program Director.

In 2003, Prayer On The Steps (P.O.T.S.) was designed and promoted for young men age 6-18, but the vision was expanded in 2004 to see all young people (ages 6-18) from Macon/Bibb County praying on the steps of City Hall. James Moore stated, “It is our desire to make this an event that crosses denominational and racial barriers.”

### **2005 – 2008 – New job pilot program is started**

In 2005, Campus Clubs began a Job Club pilot program with 15 African American youth enrolled in a 7 week summer program. They were all 12-13 and going into the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades. This was a work readiness program to teach inner city youth the value of and the reward to be gained from gainful employment so

that they may grow into productive citizens in our community. Classroom instruction and various work place environments were provided. Students were paid a weekly stipend, one half of which was placed into a savings account redeemable upon their high school graduation.

In 2008, Tony Lowden was hired as Executive Director when James Moore desired to start another ministry called Room 141 geared toward elementary students. The program was expanded to 4 days, Monday-Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. Students were required to come every day and tutoring was offered as well as homework assistance. Club meetings were held on Tuesday and Thursday nights. A summer tutorial program ran Monday-Thursday from 9-4 and the Benjamin Hawkins Learning Center opened for all students to learn basic computer operation, technology communications, and hands on activities. This summer there were 3 employees – Executive Director, Program Director, summer certified teacher, and 8 volunteers.

### **2009 – Present – Growth and new programs**

During 2009 and 2010 the program was expanded to include elementary students and approximately 100 kids were picked up from 32 different schools around the community. A second location was added at Strong Tower Fellowship Church for the middle and high school students. The elementary students continued to meet at First Presbyterian Church.

Robin Crosby was hired in September of 2010. The Board made the decision to move the Campus Clubs ministry to the Pleasant Hill community, to lease the CE building from Strong Tower Fellowship, and to concentrate on community relationships in order to bring bigger impact in kids' lives. On October 18, 2010 the updated Campus Clubs after-school program began with 35 students, one employee, two borrowed STF employees, one full time volunteer, and one neighborhood volunteer who had a child in the program.

By December, Campus Clubs had two full time employees with the hire of a Program Director, two part time teachers, and 60 students were now attending. In the Spring of 2011, Macon State educators came to Campus Clubs to practice their course, Love and Logic. Dr. Sarah Worley taught the CC staff this method of classroom management while her students practiced. Also a science/math educator was hired and assessed all our STEM based curriculum and began to formulize plans to use STEM during the summer.

The 2011-2012 after-school program began with 93 students enrolled and a waiting list. All the students have been assessed and strategies are being determined to help each student.