

#### **COMPASSION > COMPULSION**



#### Kurt Schwarz Executive Director

l've experienced that people ministries can be driven by compulsion or compassion. From the outside, both acts of service can look quite similar, but the experience itself vastly different. Generally, compulsion-led people focus on the task while compassionate people are motivated by their heart for others. Both people can have a tremendous work ethic, but compulsion is a tiresome grind. Compassion, on the other hand, is energizing and life-giving. I've witnessed compassionate people accomplish acts far beyond their own capacity.

It is an absolute joy to serve in a ministry where I am surrounded by compassion-driven people. These individuals have chosen to make themselves available and use their God-given gifts, talents, and abilities for the sake of others.

Our ultimate example of compassion is Jesus Christ himself. He literally lived and died for the sake of others. His supernatural compassion is on display for us all throughout scripture. One example is the time He walked the streets of Jericho. As blind beggars called out in desperation, He stopped and had



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### EAGLE'S PERSPECTIVE



#### A Safe **Haven**

Many parents are faced with the challenge of finding a place where they can send their children, where their children will have a memorable summer experience. Last year as school let out, I found myself faced with the same dilemma for the youth we minister to. The youth of my church needed a place to go during the summer. I searched and looked for a place where they would feel safe and secure. I also wanted to find an environment that would be enjoyable. As I discussed my dilemma with my friend Father Brian

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#### **COMPASSION > COMPULSION**

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compassion on them (Matthew 20:34). This word "compassion" literally means He was deeply moved, a feeling that came from the depth of His bowels, but this scene didn't finish with a feeling. Jesus was moved to act. He touched the men and healed their blindness on the spot. I believe this example is a powerful lesson for us. Through the power of His Holy Spirit, each of us have the ability to both deeply care for and powerfully act on behalf of those who need our help.

Each summer, we are flooded with young people with great needs. These needs are physical, mental, behavioral, and emotional. As we share life with them, we are given many opportunities to show and share compassion with them. Yet, the most important need we address is their need for a Savior who loves them and has an even greater plan for their lives than either they or we can understand at the moment.

The goal of this ministry is to love tough kids from tough places and point them towards Jesus Christ. We all play different roles, some directly serve, some send us campers, and some prayerfully and generously support the mission. Thank you for the amazing role you play in sharing the love and compassion of Jesus Christ with the young people we serve.

The goal is to love tough kids from tough places

### EAGLE'S PERSPECTIVE

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(St. Anthony's Church); he informed me of a great summer youth program called "Inspire Sports Camps" that his youth attend. He told me that they had a great Christian staff. At first, I was skeptical because I had never heard of Inspire Sports Camps. However, Father Brian assured me that my youth would have a great time because his youth have attended on several occasions.

## Their experience at camp powerfully changed their lives

To make a long story short, my youth were initially apprehensive when discussions began about attending but we decided to move forward. My youth attended Inspire Sports Camps in summer 2018, and their experience at ISC was a life-changing event. Every one of my youth informed me that they gave their heart to Jesus! They also expressed their gratitude towards all of the staff for their encouragement and the support they showed them. My youth, in turn, shared about their experience at ISC with our entire congregation. As their Pastor, I watched their behaviors throughout the balance of the year. In February of 2019, all of my youth that attended Inspire Sports Camps were baptized. This was a blessed occasion. Inspire Sports Camps was found to be a safe haven for my youth. Their experience at camp powerfully changed their lives in a positive manner, to God be the Glory!

Pastor Jarvis Williamson Mount Holiness Temple- Hackensack, NJ



#### **REAL** IMPACT

Powerful Testimonies from the Past Year



#### CAMPERS

"I always thought I was too dirty and sinful to be a Christian, but now I know that Jesus meets me right where I am."

"I am no longer going to pursue sex, drink alcohol, do drugs or praise them. I accepted Jesus into my life and feel transformed from it."

"This camp helped me understand Jesus better and how to study the Bible."

"This week I made a decision to resist the temptations I have been struggling with all my life."

"This week taught me that God has a plan for me."



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#### **SUMMER STAFF**

"I loved seeing God change the hearts of even my toughest campers."

"Seeing how they were the first day compared to the last day of camp was such an amazing shift."

"There is nothing better than being able to experience God working in kids' lives who have never heard of Jesus before. I've been serving on staff for two summers and that is always the best part of camp."

"Still to this day I keep in contact with my campers as if I knew them my whole life, and I can't wait to see them next summer."

### Counselor's CORNER



Tyana Brooks

Montclair State University

**Public Health Major and Classics Minor** 

Being a counselor is one of the roughest and most rewarding experiences of my life. I learned how to be more patient and loving toward children and grown adults. I am blessed that ISC chose me to be a part of their staff and a member of their family. I learned to "Expect More"! As it pertained to my campers, I would challenge them to overcome fear on low/high ropes, continue walking the trail during the hike, and during precious worship enjoy time with God! I found myself expecting more from my character and time management skills. I watched several groups of young girls and ladies push their bodies and mental capacity to learn an entire dance routine. My experiences were so special because they had to be brought together by God in order to work. I was nourished well physically, Hallelujah! I was nourished well spiritually, Hallelujah! God is good and I would not change a thing about my Inspire Sports Camps 2018 (Expect More) experience.



#### THANK YOU!

# You make ISC a reality for inner-city young people all across the Northeast.

On behalf of the campers, staff, and our entire leadership team we "Thank You" for your relentless prayers and generous support.



\*If you would like to make a donation to ISC and sponsor campers for this year, you can do so with the attached "Sponsorship Letter" or by clicking on the "Support" page at: www.inspiresportscamps.com

#### OUR ONLINE GIVING PAGE MAKES SINGLE GIFTS AND MONTHLY GIVING QUICK AND EASY!

All sponsors receive a hand written thank you note and a baseball card picture of the campers that they sponsor.

