



SOUTH DAKOTA FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

2025 YEAR END



A YEAR OF GROWTH AND GROWING IN FAITH

FCA's mission is to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. A few years ago, it was realized that if we are trying to reach every coach and athlete, or "catch every fish" we needed to cast a wider net. So officially began what we now call FCA League and Club Sports ministry.

In South Dakota, we were blessed with a 20-year head start in this area of ministry thanks to the vision of our own, Brian Hansen, who launched FCA Flag Football in Sioux Falls in the early 2000s. We've seen this ministry grow exponentially over the last few years, and as it stands we are on pace to have nearly 3,000 flag football registrations for fall and spring FCA Flag leagues in Sioux Falls, Brandon, Brookings, and Scotland SD as well as Luverne MN. Praise God for the open doors he continues to provide!

FCA Flag Football wasn't the finish line, though. It served as a catalyst. Here's a snapshot of the FCA Sports programs happening around the state of South Dakota:

This past summer, FCA partnered with First Evangelical Free Church in Sioux Falls to create a space for soccer skill development trainings to happen. Ethan Poulter, current girls head soccer coach at Sioux Falls Christian, stepped in as FCA's first-ever Soccer Director in South Dakota to see this vision come to fruition. We were blessed to see God use a single coach, a single goal post, and an empty field to create a bustling discipleship opportunity and we look forward to continuing similar training throughout the winter months.

Currently, Casey Frandsen, FCA West River Director of Clubs, is running and facilitating an FCA Club Basketball program in Rapid City with nearly 150 athletes. Thanks to generous donor support in the area, what is now known as the E3 Sports Complex serves as a home site for not only the basketball program, but a multitude of other sports programs that FCA has been privileged to partner in, providing a pathway to share the Gospel hundreds of athletes each week. Meanwhile, Coach Craig Nelson, head coach of Brandon Valley boys basketball, will

also be coaching and launching FCA's first Club Basketball team in the Sioux Falls area in nearly 15 years as he leads a group of seven sixth grade boys in tournament play this fall and winter.

The groundwork has been laid, and FCA is just scratching the surface on creating new programming. To help us lead the charge into this next season of ministry we're excited to announce that God has called Jon Setzer to serve as our next East River Director of League & Club Sports, and that our own Jared Wockenfuss, formerly Southeast South Dakota Area Director, will be transitioning into a Program Director of Leagues. Additionally, Alison Haas has moved from a part-time FCA Sports Admin role into a full-time position.

"The harvest is plenty"... and God continues to call more workers to the field. Thank you for your generous support of FCA League and Club ministries and we can't wait to see how God continues to use this ministry for the development of young athletes and the growth of His Kingdom.

2025 YEAR END



TRANSFORMING FAITH AT BLACK HILLS SPORTS CAMP

The Black Hills Sports Camp was a powerful week of ministry and transformation. With 294 campers in attendance, the camp created space for deep spiritual impact—52 campers made the decision to follow Jesus for the first time, and 101 recommitted their lives to walking more closely with Him. The camp also welcomed 110 first-time campers, many of whom encountered the love of Christ in a fresh and personal way. In total, 477 individuals were ministered to throughout the week, including coaches, children, volunteers, and campers.

One camper captured the heart of the experience, saying, “At camp I learned that God is a better forgiver than I am a sinner. He loves me no matter what and that challenged me to take my faith more seriously on a daily basis.” This quote reflects the kind of life-changing encounters with God that were happening all week long. Through sports, worship, teaching, and intentional relationships, campers were invited to grow in their faith and discover their identity in Christ. The ripple effects of this camp will continue to be felt in homes, schools, and communities as these young people live out the commitments they made and share the hope they found.

We are deeply grateful to our partners and supporters whose prayers and financial contributions help make this camp possible—especially those who gave toward our scholarship fund. Your generosity helped remove financial barriers and allowed athletes from across the region to attend and experience the love of Jesus in a transformative way. Because of you, lives were changed, faith was ignited, and young leaders were equipped to carry the Gospel into their communities. Thank you for investing in the next generation and for being a vital part of what God is doing through FCA in the Black Hills.

HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL HUDDLE

I initially participated in FCA, as I was growing more in my own faith and wanted to share the word of God with my students. Then one of my friends needed someone to assist here at HHS, as she was leaving, and I was excited to help. Now my focus has been to provide a platform to build faith-based relationships with my students, share our beliefs in a more informal setting, and make a positive impact on their lives beyond academics. My daughter also attends, and this has been a wonderful way to continue to grow in our faith together. FCA has given HHS staff and students an opportunity to share our love of Jesus, dive into the word together, apply it to our daily lives and help equip us with sharing the good news. I look forward to continuing to work with our Leadership team, collaborate with FCA members in our area and impact our community with service projects.

Melissa Hofer, Harrisburg High School Huddle Leader



FROM THE COACHES



As a coach, I've seen God work through FCA by giving me the chance to impact athletes beyond the game. FCA has reminded me that coaching isn't just about wins and losses — it's about shaping character and pointing my players to Christ. I've watched God open doors for meaningful conversations and use small moments of encouragement to plant seeds of faith in my athletes' lives.

Macy (Miller) Stanage, Former SDSU WBB Player, Current Assistant Coach

FCA has been a big part of my life since college as we had a great huddle at Northern State University. My college coach Don Meyer was a 3-Dimensional coach who brought his faith into our program and had a tremendous impact on my faith journey. Throughout this college sports experience I learned to not treat sports as my main identity. I learned that I am loved by God whether I win or lose. My identity became in Christ, not in my ability to perform on the court. This was the first time in my life that my outlook on sports changed from a self-centered mindset to a Christ centered mindset.

Since then I've always looked at teaching and coaching as simply a way to make as great of an impact as possible for His kingdom. Once you have this outlook, it totally changes your perspective on how you run your program. Your goal is no longer to win as many games as possible, but instead to simply build up young men, treat people well, and possibly just show them a glimpse of Jesus in how you do things. How is your locker room talk? Is it honoring God? How is your on-court demeanor? Something that magnifies and represents Jesus?

I think with launching our 6th Grade FCA Basketball team we get to kick-off something really cool that could potentially catch on as a life-changing basketball experience for many more teams down the road. I'm looking forward to opening up the Gospel with this team and pouring into one another in a spiritual realm that most coaches don't have the opportunity to do. I hope the teams we play or the people who watch us play feel or see something special in the way that we carry ourselves, the way we respect the game, the way we remain humble in victory, and the way we honor the Lord even in defeat. I'm hoping it is an opportunity to let our light shine positively in a youth sports world that badly needs these positive examples.

Craig Nelson, Brandon Valley HS Boys Head Coach & FCA Basketball Coach

We're thrilled our son gets to be part of FCA basketball because it gives him the chance to compete with a purpose rooted in Christ. In a world where youth sports can easily become all about trophies and attention, FCA calls players to something higher—faith, character, and excellence. We love that these boys learn they can chase victory and still honor Jesus in the way they play, lead, and treat others. We're excited to watch the impact ripple through the team, the parents, the opponents, and every family involved. It's a powerful environment where their love for the game meets a deeper mission.

Nik Aamlid, FCA Basketball Parent and FCA State Board Member



2025 YEAR END

FROM THE ATHLETES



FCA, a community of brothers and sisters God knew I needed before I even stepped foot in. My freshman year at Dakota State a teammate invited me to FCA. I had heard of FCA from high school but little did I know in college, FCA would change my life. During my first time attending, our FCA leader posed the question “Who am I?”. In that message he reminded many, but I heard for the first time that through Jesus, joy was permanent even when change is constant. FCA is where I learned who Jesus was. I learned that I am a sinner but Jesus paid it all. Through FCA I learned Jesus had more for me. FCA quickly became something I looked forward to and something I never wanted to leave. This fellowship of Christian athletes became my family. FCA planted a seed in my heart, the seed that the Lord watered and brought me, to surrender my life to Jesus. The question of “Who am I?” was not one I could answer when asked it. Now, 2 years later I can tell you I am a child of God.

Jordyn Jeffries, Dakota State University, Softball



I was born and raised in church, but for most of my life, faith was always a family requirement/routine rather than something personal. That all began to change after I had a life altering pole vault accident in my senior year of high school. I missed the mats, landing on my back and tailbone, I was backboarded and rushed to the trauma unit. The doctors said when I first came in that I'd be lucky if I walked again, let alone vault. I also have recently discovered due to this I have lost a large amount of my hearing. Still less than 24 hours later I walked out of the hospital. Less than 3 months later I was back on the runway vaulting. After all that, I went to a smaller college, the only opportunity I had to keep vaulting, it was the hardest season of my life. I was told I was nothing, a mistake, that my PRs were flukes and that I had just gotten lucky. It broke me down, but God was working through that. I found not only a fresh start but also a community that reminded me who and what I am not through my vaulting but through Christ.

Through FCA, I have seen God moving powerfully, opening new doors, giving me strength, and showing me how I can connect with others in ways I never could have imagined before. I felt heard, seen, and loved in ways I had never felt before. I learned what it means to be on fire for Him, to be in my word, and how I can be the example for others. He took what was meant for harm and turned it into a beautiful example of His grace and protection. FCA has reminded me that my sport is a gift, not an idol, and that I can use this platform to glorify and bring others closer to Him. Most importantly to always encourage others.

Liz Dunham, Northern State University, Track and Field: Pole Vault



My name is Carli Maley, and I play softball at Black Hills State University. I started going to FCA my sophomore year of high school because one of my friends had been going and invited me to a huddle. From that moment, FCA has been such a big part of my faith journey. I have seen God work in so many people around me, as well as in myself. Watching God change the hearts of people who had never even heard about the gospel before coming to a huddle is something that will stick with me forever. To me, FCA has been a circle of people with similar lifestyles, all pushing each other in their faith. It's a place where I've found lifelong friends who have stood by me through the lowest moments of my life.

This past year, I went through something that a lot of people don't even think about going through. I had just played my first games of my freshman season and had a really good weekend. But when I got on the bus after our last game, I got a text from my dad telling me that my mom was in the hospital. This came

out of nowhere because my mom had been very healthy and active, and I had even called her that morning to talk. I ended up flying home to see her, and she passed away a few days later. In that time, so many questions circled in my mind: “Why did God do this?” “What is God going to do with this?” I had just lost my best friend and had no idea why. People kept telling me that it was okay to cry and grieve, that it was okay to be mad at the world and not understand. But even through all of this, I kept thinking about the worship song Firm Foundation and the lyric that says: “I've got peace that makes no sense.” Because in that moment, it would have been so easy to be mad at God and turn away from Him since I didn't understand. I can't really explain why, but in my heart I knew that God had a plan, even when I couldn't see what that plan was. In a time when I was at my lowest, I felt God in my life more than ever before. God doesn't promise that we won't have struggles or that we won't be tested. Instead, He tells us that we will have struggles, but He will be with us through them and give us the tools to overcome them. Our biggest struggles are often our greatest testimonies of God's love.

I tried not to talk about what I was going through to anybody other than my close friends, so I would go to FCA and nobody really knew what was happening. But even though they may not have known, every single person in that huddle lifted me up in ways I can't even describe. They made sure I was coming to FCA, asked how I was doing, and let me talk about my feelings and thoughts — without even knowing that I was grieving my mom who had passed just a month before. That's what FCA is for me: it's an outlet to talk about God without backlash, to share your feelings, and to be surrounded by people who care deeply.

It's a community of people who want what's best for you — a group that pushes you in your faith and holds you to a standard through love and grace. This year, I am a huddle leader at Black Hills State, and it is such a blessing to come together once a week, make new friends, and talk about God with so many amazing people. Being part of FCA has shown me that faith is strongest when shared in community. FCA has truly been one of the greatest blessings in my life, and I'm honored to now help others experience that same love and growth.

Carli Maley, Black Hills State University, Softball

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FIELDS OF FAITH: A 24/7 MOVEMENT

On a typical night, the Young Center Fieldhouse at Black Hills State is filled with the sounds of football practice, track workouts, or students in gym class. But at Fields of Faith on October 15th, the Fieldhouse echoed with the voices of nearly 200 students and athletes lifting praises to God. Turning a place dedicated to celebrating human performance to a place of worship to God, magnifying His glory.

Fields of Faith is an FCA sponsored event intended to bring together students, athletes, coaches, and community members to glorify God. The evening consisted of worship, a powerful student athlete testimony, a panel of athletes who shared how faith impacts sport, and a Gospel message that challenged everyone to take either the first step in their faith in Jesus or the next step in their relationship with Him.

It was a vivid reminder of this year's FCA theme, GLORY — that true fulfillment isn't found in our own success, but in reflecting the never-fading glory of Christ both on and off the field.

"Fields of Faith was a beautiful way to highlight how God is moving in the Black Hills. High schools & colleges all over the area packed the field house & it was incredible. I loved hearing from my peers about their stories and relating to how being a Christian doesn't automatically make your life easier. The mayor ended the night talking about how we need to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus. What a beautiful reminder to glorify an awesome God. I'm so excited we had the opportunity to put this together and I can't wait to do it again!" -BHSU student athlete

"Fields of Faith was an amazing experience. Hearing testimonies from people who are in similar situations as me was very moving. It was an experience that I wish everyone could have. I had so much fun and will never forget it." -Rapid City Christian student athlete

COACHES TIME OUT

The second annual Coaches Time Out marriage retreat was a tremendous success, offering a time of rest, renewal, and reconnection for couples who pour so much of themselves into their teams and communities. Over the weekend, participants gathered to step away from the busyness of their coaching schedules and focus intentionally on strengthening their marriages through faith, communication, and shared purpose. The atmosphere was filled with encouragement and authenticity as couples worshiped together, listened to powerful messages delivered from Chris and Sarah Roberts, and took time to reflect on God's design for marriage.

One of the highlights of the retreat was the opportunity for couples to connect with others who understand the unique challenges and blessings of being in the coaching world. Through small group discussions and intentional fellowship, many found encouragement in realizing they are not alone in balancing the demands of sports, family, and faith. Testimonies from attendees shared how the weekend helped them rekindle joy in their marriage, communicate more openly, and pray together in new ways.

By the end of the retreat, couples left refreshed and re-centered on what matters most—Christ at the heart of their relationship. The event reminded everyone that while coaching impacts lives on the field and court, the most important team they lead is their own family. They focused on winning where it truly matters...at home.



See the 2025
Highlight Reel

2025 YEAR END



RIGHT PERSON, RIGHT SEAT

It has certainly been a season of growth over the last few years. Just four years ago, there were only seven people on staff. Today, there are 19 team members serving across the state. This has led to more huddles, leagues, clubs, camps – and most importantly, to hundreds more coaches and athletes hearing about Jesus Christ for the first time. Praise the Lord!

As we close on this year of ministry, it feels like we're entering a new season. One that's not only about finding the right people to serve within FCA but about finding the right person for the right seat.

This theme has been clear from the very top. Earlier this year, TJ Carlson stepped down as the State Director and returned to Brookings to serve as the SDSU Campus Director. TJ felt God nudging him to "come back home" and serve the Jackrabbits. Over the last few months, it has been abundantly clear that he's right where God wants him. With TJ's transition, Matt Dykstra – formerly the Director of League and Club Sports – stepped into the role of State Director in June.

Additionally, Collin VanderWal transitioned from Area Representative to Area Director in the Glacial Lakes Area, taking on a bigger leadership role while continuing to serve in the same communities. Jared Wockenfuss also shifted from Area Director to Program Director of Leagues in Southeast South Dakota, allowing him to focus on expanding opportunities for athletes through league sports.

As league and club sports continue to grow nationwide, FCA has also made structural changes to better reach coaches and athletes. This has led to role changes within our South Dakota team. Brian Hansen has moved into serving as the Director of Leagues, Alison Haas has moved into serving as the State FCA Sports and Facilities Admin, and Casey Frandsen has moved into serving as the West River Director of Clubs.

This year, we also celebrated the addition of three new teammates.

- **Jon Setzer** – East River Director of League & Club Sports
- **Laura Bogue** – Rapid City Area Representative
- **Savanna Herrboldt** – Sioux Falls Administrative Assistant

We are also excited to welcome Anna Savey, who is currently raising support to join staff as the Augustana Campus Area Representative in Sioux Falls.

Two of our teammates are stepping into new roles outside of South Dakota but remaining part of the FCA family. Brennan Stine, formerly an Area Director at USD, will now serve as the Assistant Regional Director of Ministry Advancement for the Northland Region. Jessi Giles, formerly the Glacial Lakes Area Representative, will now serve as the Northland Administrative Assistant. Although they're transitioning to regional roles, Brennan and Jessi will still be working closely with our team as South Dakota is part of the Northland Region along with North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

We are so excited to see how the Lord uses each one of these people in the new areas that God has called them to. We truly believe we have found amazing people to serve FCA and lead coaches and athletes into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church!

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"And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work." – 2 Corinthians 9:8

Dear FCA Family,

Our team is reminded daily of God's provision. In our mission of reaching EVERY coach and athlete with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our great state of South Dakota, we've seen God continue to call the people to serve as His hands and feet, to open the doors and create pathways to share His Good News, and to transform the hearts and minds of those who hear it. Glory to God for the work He has done, is doing, and has yet to do!

As you read through this newsletter detailing just a small sample of how God has been at work this year, I want to take a moment to recognize three key components that our FCA ministry couldn't function without. First, our staff. Praise God for the individuals that he has called to serve in this ministry. I learn from them. I am challenged by them. I am supported by them. I am blessed to serve alongside such a hard-working, selfless group of individuals that remain tenaciously focused on our mission of EVERY. Second, our board members. Our team is blessed by a deeply invested group of board members walking with us every step of the way. Finally, on behalf of our entire FCA team, we'd like to thank you. As you know, our ministry budget (salaries, insurance, camps, bibles, FCA Sports programs, etc.) is entirely faith-funded. We quite simply could not do what we've been called to do without your faithful prayer, volunteer, and financial support. No matter your level of involvement, FCA ministry is YOUR ministry as well. Thank you for your generosity.

We have many reasons to celebrate God's faithfulness and transformation this year, but even so, the work is just beginning. As you consider your end-of-year financial contributions and giving for 2026 and beyond, please keep FCA in your prayers and ask the Lord how He wants you to partner with FCA to reach EVERY coach and athlete in South Dakota for His Kingdom.

To make a 2025 tax-deductible donation to FCA, please either give online by Wednesday, December 31 OR with the enclosed envelope (postmarked by 12/31). I pray that the eternal hope of Jesus Christ and the excitement of His Gospel would fill your hearts this season and that His blessings would continue to be with you in 2026.

Your brother in Christ,

Matt Dykstra – State Director, South Dakota FCA

OUR GO CAMPAIGN: EXPAND. EXPLORE. EXCEL.

CURRENT RAISED: \$624,000

GOAL BY DEC. 31, 2026: \$950,000

EXPAND \$600,000

OUR REACH ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

God continues to provide wide open doors for FCA here in South Dakota, and we have a responsibility to take advantage of the access He has provided to us! There is a direct, positive correlation between the areas in which we have staff, and the areas of largest ministry growth. Our EXPAND goal helps us to hire, train and support new staff, as well as raise seed money for future staff in underserved areas. It's vital that we continue to expand our reach to cover the entire state of South Dakota.

Areas of immediate importance:

- 📍 Glacial Lakes
- 📍 Southeast South Dakota/USD
- 📍 Sioux Falls Metro
- 📍 Aberdeen/Northern State
- 📍 Black Hills



EXPLORE \$200,000

NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

South Dakota FCA has had a long history of successful ministry on campuses throughout the state. With the explosion of youth sports and off campus sports, we want to take the Good News of Jesus to EVERY coach and athlete.

Building on our proven successful programs such as FCA Flag Football, FCA Wrestling and FCA Soccer, we desire to explore new ministry opportunities in the lane of league and club sports. We are ready to see this ministry reach new heights with the recent additions to our team, and we're excited to see how God will use this growing point of emphasis to reach more coaches, athletes and families.

These dollars will help provide the margin to start up the programs we feel are vital to take the next steps in this lane of ministry.

Would you consider a yearly commitment to help us Expand, Explore and Excel the ministry of FCA in South Dakota?

EXCEL \$150,000

IN DEVELOPING LEADERS

Excellence is one of FCA's four core values. As our ministry continues to expand, and as we are presented with more opportunities to invest in the lives of coaches, athletes and families, we want to ensure that our events and offerings are glorifying God by being done with excellence. These opportunities include but are not limited to our annual Black Hills Sports Camp, our Coaches Time Out (CTO) marriage retreat, our state volleyball and basketball tournament dinners, and our College Retreat. These events, among others, create opportunities to share the Gospel with thousands of individuals each year. We don't take that access for granted.

Our Excel fund helps us take full advantage of the opportunities and access God has provided us here in South Dakota. This fund helps enhance our ministry to do these things with excellence as our presence, and God's Kingdom, in the state continues to grow.



SOUTH DAKOTA FCA

VICTORY

dinner

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026
SIOUX FALLS CONVENTION CENTER



SouthDakotaFCA.org



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