



Stewards of the Game Athletic Facility  
View Looking South-East



## A Partnership for Youth Sports Ministry & Community Outreach

## **Sharing the Vision:**

*...Envision a gymnasium filled with youth from all walks of life playing basketball in an environment that encourages sportsmanship and teamwork above winning at all costs. At the same time parents and families gather for fellowship, bible study, after-school enrichment and tutoring...or to simply share in Christian community.*

Unfortunately, in professional sports today, it often seems as if role models are lacking. While there are many individuals who play their respective sports the right way and set a good example, they often take a back seat, especially in media coverage, to players who selfishly put themselves before their team and teammates.

Stewards of the Game is a thriving sports program involving families in the Lake Norman community that has the potential to develop into a state and even nationally competitive sports program, while still adhering to values in sports that have appeared to have gone by the wayside. At Stewards of the Game, the dream, land, staff and methods are in place, and now only a lack of the necessary facilities prevents Stewards of the Game from becoming a premiere sports program that espouses fundamentals, teamwork and good sportsmanship, on and off the field. This is what the exciting partnership between Stewards of the Game and Family Christian Center is all about!

Your sponsorship of Stewards of the Game will reflect your beneficial influence in the community by investing in a program that is dedicated to teaching children good work ethic and compassion for others. A beautiful facility or a pristine baseball field could be named in the honor of a corporation, an individual or family member creating a lasting legacy of love and service to the community.

“Every parent, coach, and player should take a very close look at Stewards of the Game. The emphasis upon building character through teamwork and athletic skill development makes it a program that I applaud enthusiastically and highly recommend. The fundamentals on the court are consistently reinforced by the fundamentals of faith and responsibility.”

*- Bob McKillop, Head Coach of the Men's Basketball Team, Davidson College*

## **I.) History of Stewards of the Game:**

Stewards of the Game is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization co-founded in 2000 by Mike Sharp and Mike Kayes. Kayes, who directs the basketball program, was an All-Conference high school point guard, and has over 15 years of youth basketball coaching experience. He is the author of *Coaching Youth Basketball with Faith and Fundamentals*, in which he shares his unique Christ-centered approach to basketball. Kayes is currently the president of Willingdon Wealth Management. Sharp, who directs the baseball program, has over 11 years of experience as a youth baseball head coach and played varsity football and baseball for Davidson College. He currently works for Bank of America as the Corporate Workplace Senior Vice President.

Stewards of the Game provides spring and fall baseball leagues, summer basketball camps and clinics, and winter basketball leagues. To date, over 1000 families in the North Mecklenburg area have participated in Stewards of the Game as either a player, coach, or volunteer since its first season, six years ago.



## **II.) Stewards of the Game Principles and Philosophies:**

### **Vision**

“To teach young people valuable, faith-based “life lessons” through sports that will help them grow up to be honest, respectful, disciplined, hardworking, compassionate role models in their communities, while preserving their love for the game and cultivating their love for the Lord.”

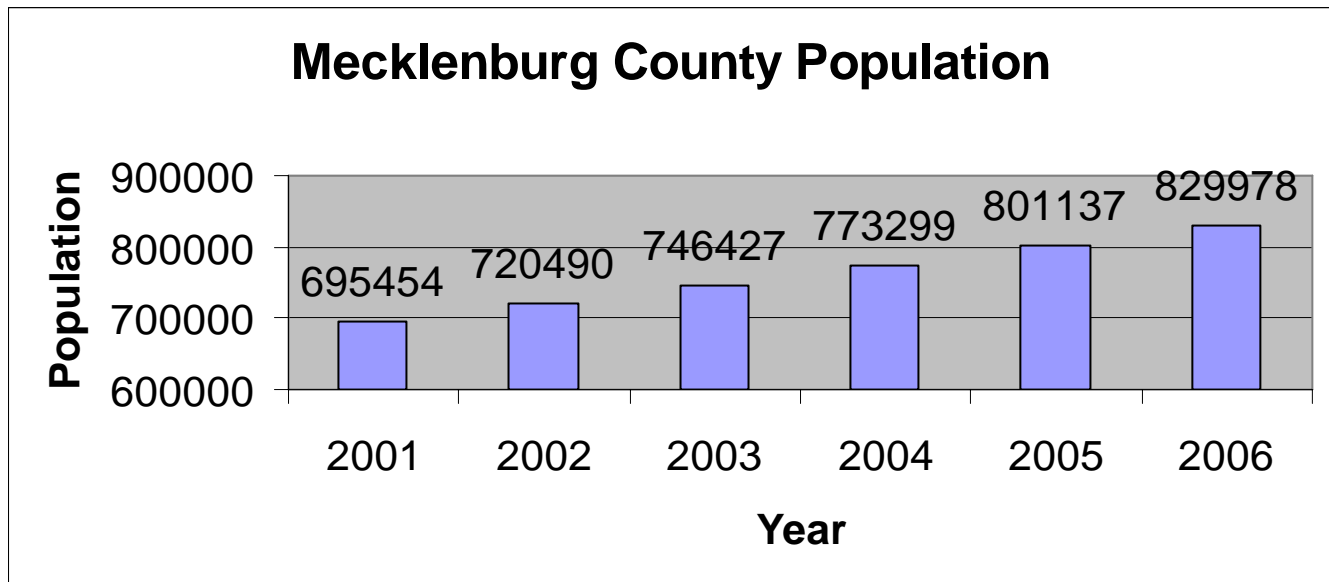
### **Mission**

“To offer all\* young people in the North Mecklenburg area an opportunity to participate in one of the premier youth sports programs in the country. A program whose trademark is the teaching of faith-based life lessons and mastering of age-appropriate fundamentals in a safe atmosphere full of good sportsmanship and fun-filled, Christ-centered competition”

\* As a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Stewards of the Game cannot discriminate on any basis. Every participant involved in Stewards of the Game is made aware before signing up that Stewards of the Game is a Christ-centered organization.

### III.) The Goal:

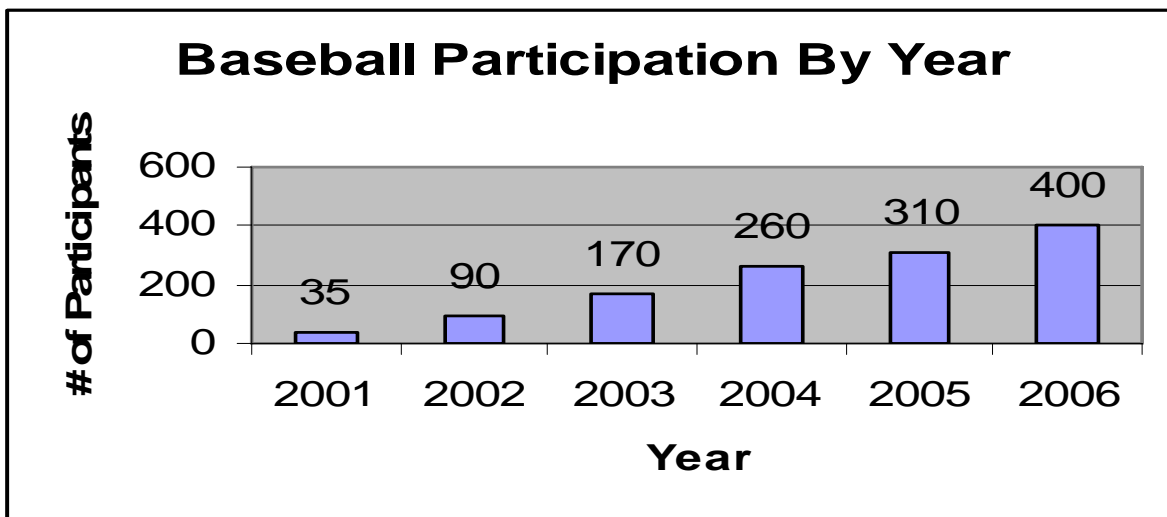
Lake Norman is a thriving community filled with young families. According to the 2000 census, the population of Mecklenburg County was 695,454, an increase of 36% since 1990. Of that population, youths from ages 5-14 constituted 13% of that population, at an astounding 93,229. Now, a mere six years later, the population of Mecklenburg County has risen to 829,978. The graph below illustrates the total population in Mecklenburg County since 2001:



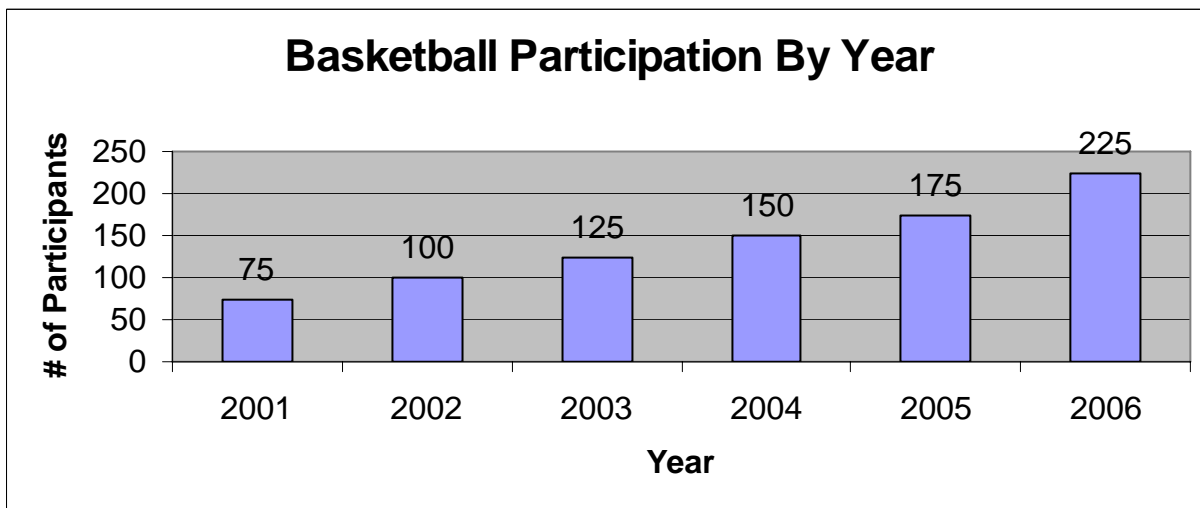
Assuming that the same 5-14 age group is still at 13%, the size of the youth population would be approximately 108,000. Many of these youths are involved in youth recreational sports, and the demand for basketball courts and baseball fields outweighs the availability of facilities.

For the Stewards of the Game basketball and baseball programs practices and games are typically held on local, town-owned athletic fields, or on rented facilities, which not only represent a significant cost to the program, but are also difficult to book because of high demand. Therefore, a new facility, consisting of four basketball courts and two baseball fields would not only serve the needs of Stewards of the Game, but also of the community as a whole by freeing up courts and ball fields on which other teams would be able to play.

Also, with a new facility, we would be able to increase the number of camps and clinics because we would not have to worry about court availability, and therefore raise revenue so that Stewards of the Game would be self-sufficient in operating costs, while still maintaining our dedication to giving scholarships to underprivileged youths in the area. The graphs below detail the participation by year in both the Stewards of the Game Baseball and Basketball Programs:



The basketball program participation has been intentionally restricted since its inception to maintain Stewards of the Game's dedication to practice time. In Mooresville, Davidson, Cornelius and Huntersville, no basketball league offers practice once their season begins. Stewards of the Game, however, practices for at least three hours a week during the season, ensuring that children not only play often and enjoy themselves, but also learn how to play correctly.



## Sponsorship Opportunities

Varying levels of escalating Capital Partner Sponsorships will include:

- Individual Ball-field Dedication
- Individual Gym Floor Dedication
- Room Dedication
- Recognition plaques displayed in facility
- Individual Player/Coach/Family dedications throughout facility

A portion of the capital dollars raised will be used to endow need-based college scholarships for future Stewards of the Game participants (discussed later).

## **IV.) The Partnership:**

In order to make the Stewards of the Game dream a reality, Stewards of the Game has partnered with the Family Christian Center (FCC), a church that shares the passion of Stewards for espousing positive values and being involved in community outreach. Stewards of the Game offers a well-established youth sports program, an abundance of enthusiastic volunteers with a passion for coaching and mentoring to youth and an exciting outreach opportunity. In addition to providing spiritual guidance and mentoring, FCC has offered up the land on which Stewards of the Game plans to build a facility. The land is centrally located at 12419 McCord Rd. in Huntersville. Because FCC has so generously donated this land to Stewards of the Game, we have the fortune of forgoing fundraising specifically for land purchase. Instead, we can focus on the facility we would like to develop. Our plan is to build a four court, approximately 70,000 square foot gymnasium on this site. We also plan to establish two baseball fields. (See attached site plan)

### ***About Family Christian Center:***

Founded in January of 2000 by Pastor Randy and Patty Hickman, FCC began with a small group of about a dozen people, and a Sunday service that was held in a ballet studio. Although small in size, the church was fervent in prayer and evangelism, reaching out to the Huntersville community. As the church grew, God soon opened doors in Lake Norman that allowed for the purchase of 18.5 beautiful acres of land in the heart of Huntersville. The building on site was remodeled, and now serves as their main facility. A new sanctuary will soon be under construction and, through our partnership with Stewards of the Game, a brand new sports complex.

Family Christian is involved in many forms of community service and outreach both at home and abroad including **YouthNet**, an after school sports and character building program for at-risk children and youth.

#### ***How YouthNet works:***

**YouthNet** has use of several horse ranches in Mecklenburg County and through our partnership with The 4-H Clubs of America, other sites are opening up as well. These ranches already serve visually impaired and physically handicapped children and adults. While working with the handicapped population at the ranches our kids learn all facets of horsemanship and responsibility in caring for large animals and serving others in need.

**YouthNet** has obtained permission to copy and manufacture an Adirondack chair designed and signed by artist-designer Bob Timberlake. Over three semi-truck loads of high quality wood have been donated to our program. The chairs are assembled by the kids in our program and sold throughout the Charlotte area with all proceeds going to continue this great work.

**Youth Net** is utilizing Character First curriculum to teach character development and True Life, a web based curriculum, to teach life and job planning skills.

*YouthNet* is partnering with Bank of America to open free savings accounts for all youth in our program who receive a small stipend for completing all aspects of their daily assignments. All funds in these accounts are used to send our kids to a week long camp where they will have an opportunity to meet wonderful mentors and make new positive friends. In the future we hope to increase these funds to include college scholarships.

*YouthNet* has obtained the services of high school seniors who have demonstrated the capacity to tutor our kids in subjects our youth are currently weak in and to prepare them for advancement in the next school year.

Accountability: YouthNet takes very seriously the responsibility to account for all monies, by grant or gift, donated to us. An annual audit is mailed to all grant and gift makers along with a progress report on our program.

How will we judge success? All young people coming into our program are interviewed along with teachers and parents. These files are updated on a regular basis and provide us with concrete evidence of progress, we want to know we are making a difference.

At FCC we know that we cannot afford to loose even one young person to the lure of the streets or gang activity, The “family” these youth are looking for and finding in area gangs can and should be provided in healthy environments that produce verifiable results.

## **V.) Stewards of the Game Corporate Structure:**

### **Board of Directors:**

The Stewards of the Game Board of Directors meets monthly to discuss and decide matters of strategic importance to the future of Stewards of the Game and to ensure the organization stays true to its Vision, Mission, Pivotal Philosophies and Core Values. This six-member board includes:

- Mike Kayes: Co-Founder, Director of Basketball Program
- Mike Sharp: Co-founder, Director of Baseball Program
- Cline Comer: Treasurer, Baseball & Basketball Coach
- Teresa Sharp: Outreach Director, Baseball Coach
- Wayne Worley: Baseball & Basketball Coach, Age-Level Coordinator
- Mitch White: Coaches Bible Study Leader, Coach
- Ben Travis: Baseball Coordinator

### **Operating Board:**

The Operating Board consists of 20-24 Stewards of the Game volunteers appointed by the Board of Directors. These are individuals who hold various leadership positions with Stewards of the Game and are integral contributors to both the strategic and day-to-day operation of our basketball and baseball programs. This group will convene 3 or 4 times a year to exchange ideas, dream about the future and map out strategies on how we can make these dreams come true; maintaining a sharp focus on continually improving the Stewards of the Game experience for the youngsters we serve.

Matters brought before this board will be openly and thoughtfully discussed at Operating Board sessions and then referred to either the Board of Directors or the respective sport-specific board to which the matter applies for a final decision.

In addition to our six board members, the Operating Board will consist of various Volunteer Team leaders including:

- Long Range Planning
- Registration
- Special Events
- Communications
- Scheduling / Facilities
- Website Design
- Fundraising
- Uniforms & Equipment
- College Scholarship Program

**Advisory Board:**

We have also established an advisory board which includes respected high school and college coaches in the area, various community, church, and business leaders. These individuals offer their professional insight, guidance and support from time to time to ensure that Stewards of the Game continues to prosper and serve our communities in accordance with our Vision.

<b>Athletic Professionals:</b>	<b>Dick Cooke</b>	Davidson College Head Baseball Coach
	<b>Larry Garloch</b>	Owner: Hoops Help Basketball Instruction
	<b>Aidan McCarthy</b>	Owner: The Fungo - A Training Center for Baseball & Softball
	<b>Bob McKillop</b>	Davidson College Head Basketball Coach
<b>Community Leaders:</b>	<b>David Dunn</b>	Assistant to the Chancellor University of North Carolina Charlotte
	<b>Dr. Steve Eyler</b>	Founding Optometrist University Eye Associates
	<b>Philip Horton</b>	Upper School Principal - SouthLake Christian Academy
	<b>Dr. James Howell</b>	Head Pastor Myers Park Methodist Church
	<b>Dr. Edward Palmer</b>	Davidson College Psychology Professor
	<b>Mike Moses</b>	Head Pastor Lake Forest Community Church

## **VI.) Stewards of the Game Programs:**

Stewards of the Game is a practice-intensive organization, striving to teach young people the value of hard work. This applies not only to sports, but other aspects of life such as school, relationships, community service and their relationship with God. Stewards of the Game can only convey this crucial message within a framework that encourages and challenges each individual to become the best he is capable of becoming. Growth, be it physical or spiritual, requires struggle. Our coaching philosophy and overall goals can be summed up as follows:

- Demonstrate an encouraging coaching philosophy centered on developing the whole player; Spirit, Character and Athletic Skills
- Concentrate on teaching the *FUND*amentals of the game through repetition of proven techniques and drills; enabling each and every player to reach their full God-given potential
- Promote a spirit of cooperation between coaches and players *across* team lines
- Emphasize teaching players to put the team's interest before their own
- Have FUN ... players, coaches, parents, and fans!

### **Basketball:**

- Teams practice two to three times per week.
- Regular season games consist of inter-league play between Stewards of the Game teams.
- At the end of the season, the players participate in a March Madness round robin tournament, with games on Friday and Saturday, and the final game on Monday.
- We offer tournament play for the more advanced players, by participating on "challenge teams" that play in YBOA and USSSA tournaments.
- We also hold camps and clinics during the summer. Some of these events will be co-sponsored by Stewards of the Game and various churches and organizations in the area.

### **Baseball:**

- Affiliated with Cal Ripken-Babe Ruth Baseball since 2002, when we were awarded the territory covering Huntersville, Cornelius, Davidson, and Mooresville.
- Regular season games in the spring consist of inter-league play between Stewards of the Game teams.
- For advanced players, regular season play is supplemented by participation on "Challenge" teams in various Challenge / USSSA / AAU tournaments in the area.
- At the end of the season, All-Star teams participate in Cal Ripken Area Tournaments, with the opportunity to advance to State, Regional and National levels of play.
- In the fall, older age divisions compete against other youth sports program in nearby towns.

- Fall instructional clinics for players ages 5-8 are structured so that players rotate from one Skill Station to another, providing players with good fundamental instruction and ample repetitions to build the necessary muscle memory required to reach their full potential.

## **VII.) Stewards of the Game Community Outreach:**

In addition to respect for oneself and others on the field, Stewards of the Game encourages dedication to others off the field through various outreach programs. Since its inception in 2000, Stewards of the Game has been involved in the following community outreach:

- ❖ Collected over 150 baseball hats and over 50 baseball gloves and delivered to orphans in Bolivia
- ❖ Taught Bolivian street children how to play baseball and gave them their very own glove and hat
- ❖ Gathered an entire van full of canned goods for 2nd Harvest , which supplies local food banks
- ❖ Donated boxes full of new toys to the Solomon House at Christmas
- ❖ Provided Christmas assistance to area families through our Adopt-A-Family program
- ❖ Raised \$2,000 that went to help families in our program via one email about our Family Crisis Fund
- ❖ Provided transportation and scholarships to underprivileged children so that they may participate in youth sports
- ❖ Organized our annual Stewards of the Game golf fundraiser each October so that any child, regardless of need, will be able to participate in our clinics, leagues and summer camps.

## **Stewards of the Game Christian Character College Scholarship**

Stewards of the Game is very excited about our Christian Character College Scholarship Program. In the spring of 2005, we awarded our first college scholarship to a high school senior in the amount of \$10,000. The purpose of the Stewards of the Game Foundation is to award educational scholarships to deserving high school seniors who best exemplify Christ-like character and have “lived out” the core values of Stewards of the Game in all aspects of their life.

## **VIII.) Finances and Fund Raising:**

The costs incurred to provide our baseball and basketball programs are funded primarily through league registration fees. All coaches and administrative supporters donate their time and talents on a volunteer, non-paid basis.

Currently we generate \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year through contributions and another \$10,000 - \$15,000 through fundraising events like golf tournaments and summer

basketball camps. We currently have approximately \$45,000 in short term cash account. Our financial statements are attached.

In addition to larger corporations, Stewards of the Game will seek funds from the following sources:

- Local Corporate Sponsors
- Individual donations
- Grants & Endowments

### **Projected Income Statement Summary:**

With a new gymnasium and baseball fields, Stewards of the Game would have new sources of revenue by which to keep up with operating costs as well as providing its participants with the equipment necessary to perform at a high level and provide scholarships to underprivileged youths who cannot afford league dues. See attached spreadsheet with detailed projected annual revenues and expenses.

The churches listed below have dedicated not only volunteer time, but also use of any fields and facilities they have, as well as advertisements in their programs and we are currently attempting to get them to pledge funds to support Stewards of the Game.

- Bethel Presbyterian Church
- Davidson United Methodist
- Catawba Presbyterian
- First Baptist of Mooresville
- Grace Covenant Church
- Hopewell Baptist Church
- Lake Forest Community Church
- Mt. Zion Methodist Church
- Ramah Presbyterian Church
- SouthLake Christian Academy

Listed below are attachments which further detail future plans as well as financial status. We truly appreciate your consideration and hope that you will decide to support Stewards of the Game. Thank you.

### **IX.) Attachments:**

Exhibit I. Organizational chart

Exhibit II. Site Plan

Exhibit III. Financial statements

# Exhibit I. Organizational Structure

## Board of Directors

Cline Comer Mike Kayes Mike Sharp  
Teresa Sharp Mitch White Wayne Worley

## Operating Board

(Comprised of Board of Directors Plus the Following Operating Board Members:)

Jeff Dudan	Brad Frazier	R.J. Fabian	Bob Gordon	Don Hamilton	Chris Hardin
Greg Howard	Mike Jacobs	Jamie Jenkins	Sam Long	Glenn Loomer	Bobby Moore
David Thornton	Vic Thompson	Beth Tucciaronne	Ben Travis	Frank Walsh	Neil Welborne
Shawn White	Sharon Worley	Joe Zuhosky			

### Basketball Board

**Director of Basketball:** Mike Kayes  
**Asst. Director:** Wayne Worley

### Baseball Board

**Director of Baseball:** Mike Sharp  
**Asst. Directors:** Brad Frazier  
Ben Travis  
**Age Level** Mike Jacobs (5/6)  
**Coordinators:** Cline Comer (7/8)  
Wayne Worley (9/10)  
Mike Sharp (11/12)  
Ben Travis (13/14)  
Brad Frazier (Challenge)

### Basketball Volunteer Team Leads

Registration: Sharon Worley  
Uniforms: David Thornton  
Equipment: Bill Handel

### Baseball Volunteer Team Leads

Administrative: April Agosto  
Registration: Brad Frazier  
Special Events: Open  
Scheduling/ Facilities: Ben Travis  
Uniforms & Equipment: Bobby & Cathy Moore

## Multi-Sport Volunteer Team Leaders

Communications:	Bob Gordon	Finance:	Cline Comer	Fund Raising:	Frank Walsh
Long Range Planning:	Mike Jacobs	Outreach:	Teresa Sharp	Website Design:	Glenn Loomer

## Coaches and Volunteers