



March 1, 2023

Dear Friend,

At Aim High International we recognize that we could not help the young people in our program without the support of individuals like yourself!

But what does your gift actually DO? Simply put, it changes lives.

Take a moment to read the impact that Aim High has made on just a few out of the hundreds of student-athletes who have joined our program.

Chad Allen was a 19-year-old young man from Michigan. He was too old for the public school system. He had exhausted his options to play basketball. He was without direction and going down the wrong path quickly. Chad Allen attended our school, graduated, went to Glen Oaks Community College on a full-ride scholarship. Today Chad Allen is a 4-year college graduate, he is married with 2 beautiful young daughters...and he owns his own construction company.

Eric Haut was 16 and had just lost his father to cirrhosis of the liver. His high school English teacher had just told him at 6' he would never play college basketball. Eric was being pressured by peers to make horrific choices. Instead, Eric joined Aim High where he competed for 3 years. He earned a full-ride scholarship to Kent State University where he helped lead his team to Sweet 16. Today Eric is the associate head coach at Northern Kentucky University. He is married and has a little boy.

Jason Bossard was a junior in high school and he was averaging 13 points per game on the junior varsity team. He struggled academically but worked hard and maintained a 3.6 grade point average. His parents were divorced. He had no idea what was inside him. He knew everything was a lot harder. He joined the Aim High team for his senior season and spent the entire summer and preseason working to prepare for his "last chance." Jason averaged 30 points and 12 rebounds in his senior season. His GPA improved. He had offers from all over the country but decided to attend the University of Michigan- on a full athletic scholarship. Jason took an internship with Goldman Sachs his junior year and after graduation he took a job with them and became the youngest on wall street to have his tie cut with his million-dollar desk.... all while having dyslexia.

Our participants have now earned well over 50,000,000 in scholarships! They have gone on to lead impressive lives as leaders in their businesses and their communities. We are making a difference in this world because of people like you.

So, who is Aim High?



## Who:

Aim High International is a 501C3 non-profit sports-training program that specializes in basketball. We provide intense training, camps, leagues, and preparatory school education which includes high-level national competition to student-athletes from across the globe. Through academic partners, as well as our own NCAA accredited curriculum, we offer a classical education for student-athletes grade 7<sup>th</sup> –post-graduate.

## What:

- We help the student-athletes who need more sport training.
- We help the student-athletes who need to improve their academics.
- We help the student-athletes who need to improve their test-taking skills.
- We help the student-athletes who need more EXPOSURE so they may earn a college scholarship.
- We help the student-athletes from overseas who want to play college basketball in the USA.
- We help the student-athletes who want to play a national schedule rather than be limited by their state athletic association's rules.
- We help student-athletes find their academic passions and encourage them to pursue them with vigor.
- We actively promote our student-athletes to our contacts in college and professional programs across the world.

**Where:** Sebring, Florida

**Why:** Because student-athletes want the ability to train at their highest level, while taking the courses that will help them achieve their individual academic goals and satisfy the core requirements to graduate and play sports at the college level. Our post graduate program offers a year after high school (called a gap year) where the student-athlete doesn't have to "waste eligibility"\* in a junior college or sit a year out, they can simply use the year to get bigger, stronger, faster, improve their athletic and academic skills, and get exposure to colleges/universities that may not have been there before.

\*NCAA says your athletic clock starts when you start college full time. By going to a post graduate program for one year, you avoid the loss of eligibility.

Sebring, Florida offers Aim High International a safe community feel with ease of access to the amenities that our student-athletes seek. Furthermore, the historic town, our living facilities, along with our strategic partners provide our program with one of the finest training centers in the country as we bring to Sebring some of the best prep school, college, and pro players in the world.

**How:** Our team has over 90 combined years of building championship level teams and helping individual student-athletes find a place in college programs when they may not have had any opportunity at all previously. As a team, we have been directly involved in over 500 college placements in basketball, baseball, football, softball, soccer, and track & field. We have each coached novice players and professional players. Most of our strategy, which you can find on the [www.aimhighfl.org](http://www.aimhighfl.org) website, is simple....

- We teach our student-athletes to compete against the game...and this includes the game of life.

- To work to be better every day.
- If you are going to do something, do it to the best of your ability.
- To become complete players rather than position specific.
- We help our student-athletes grow to be effective leaders both on the court and in the community.
- We train consistently throughout the program, and we play against the best competition in the country.
- We teach our student-athletes to be community members, contributing towards the betterment of our surroundings through mentorship programs, community service projects, and responsible leadership.

## **Community Outreach:**

Aim High International believes in a strong relationship with the community. Past student-athletes have offered their service through the following:

- Youth reading programs
- Raking/Shoveling for elderly and those in need
- Community "Clean-Up" days
- Community garden
- Community picnics
- Community movie nights
- Fellowship pizza nights/cookouts
- Pancake breakfasts
- Food/Clothing Drives
- Mentorship programs
- Leading fundraisers to assist local government
- Visiting hospitals and nursing homes
- Planting flowers/trees
- Providing free/discounted services to local residents  
...and more!

## **About Us:**

**Director: Erika Ernst, BS in Psychology, OSU, MA Sports Chaplaincy Liberty University**

Highlights:

- 4 Time First Team All-Area Basketball
- 4 Time First Team All-State Unanimous Selection Basketball
- 4 Time All American (Gatorade, Converse, Street & Smith) Basketball
- Fabulous Five, Dream Team, McDonald's Camp All Star, Who's Who in HS Sports
- Coached prof men's basketball in Europe, UK, IBL.
- Coached HS girl's one year. Improved their record from 2-19 to 19-10 and the school's first playoff .... starting 3 Freshman. Arizona Coach of the year.
- Former Director of Build and DOO for the Tarkanian Basketball Academy in Las Vegas, NV
- Former Director of Basketball Operations for Nike's High Five America in San Diego, CA
- Former Director of Aim High Sports in Lansing
- Former Domino's Pizza Franchisee
- Trained over 200 college and/or professional players.
- Leading scorer & assists in boy's and girls' basketball at Charlotte HS
- MHSAA record holder in Career, Season, and Single game assists.
- MHSAA/National record holder for free throws in a single game.

**Director: Andros Desir, BS Law & Policy, Liberty University**

Highlights

- All State Player
- SHS PPG Record holder
- All Star Player
- Professional Player: Spain, Greece, Germany, N. Ireland,
- Professional Coach: Scotland, Germany, Spain
- Athletic Director Aim High International
- Has sent over 50 basketball players on to college basketball.

**Board Member: Gerald Ernst, BA English, Alma College MA Athletic Administration, CMU**

Highlights

Coaching

- 74-75 WBRN- Pioneer Coach of the Year, Osceola County- Coach of the Year
- 75-76 WBRN- Pioneer Coach of the Year, Osceola County- Coach of the Year
- 76-77 Detroit Free Press Class C Coach of the Year, WBRN Pioneer Coach of the Year, Osceola County- Coach of the Year
- 78-79 Michigan HS Basketball Coaches Association Class C Coach of the Year, Detroit Free Press Class C Coach of the Year, Detroit News Coach of the Year, WBRN Coach of the Year, Osceola County Coach of the Year
- 79-80 Selected to coach the East team in the 1st ever Michigan Sanctioned All Star Game, Michigan HS Basketball Coaches Association Class C Coach of the Year, Detroit Free Press Class C Coach of the Year, Detroit News Coach of the Year, WBRN Coach of the Year, Osceola County Coach of the Year, State Championship at Reed City HS (28-0)
- 85-86 BCAM Regional Coach of the Year
- 89-90 Lansing State Journal Class A Coach of the Year
- 90-91 Lansing State Journal Class A Coach of the Year
- 92-93 Lansing State Journal Class A Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year, 25-2 record, Final Four
- 96-97 Coached Michigan's first nationally traveling basketball team. Walter French Academy, to USA Today #7 ranking
- League Champions 77, 79, 80, 86, 89, 89, 90, 90, 91, 92
- District Champions 77, 79, 80, 86, 87, 89, 90, 92, 00, 03
- Regional Champions 79, 80, 86, 92
- Quarter Final
- Final Four 80, 92
- State Champions 80
- Has helped hundreds of student-athletes achieve success in the classroom and on the court, including hundreds who played at the college level.

Playing

- 4 Sport Varsity Letter Winner at Dansville, HS (Basketball, Baseball, Football, Track & Field)
- Alma College Baseball (Pitcher)

## Through your generosity we are working towards the following improvements:

Gymnasium (steel frame)	\$120,000.00
Wood floor	\$50,000.00
Build out another dormitory (5 bedroom for 20)	Still pricing.
Portable classroom	Still pricing.
15 passenger van payoff	\$15,000.00
New uniforms	\$6400.00
Bunk beds	\$6000.00
Lawnmower	\$3000.00
Freezer repair (kitchen)	\$2500.00
Icemaker repair (kitchen)	\$2100.00
Washer/Dryer	\$1000.00
Team standup freezer	\$500.00
Fix the fuel pump in Ford	\$400.00
Team microwave	\$100.00
Toilet paper (case)	\$55.00

Aim High International accepts financial donations through the following means:

1. **CashApp**- \$AimHighIntl
2. **ZELLE**- [eerntst@aimhighinternational.org](mailto:eerntst@aimhighinternational.org)
3. **Venmo**- @Aimhighintl
4. **Check/Money Order** made out to Aim High International
5. **Credit or Debit Card through Square**- **PO Box 8290, Sebring, Florida 33872**
6. **Bank Wire**-

Account Holder- Aim High International

Account Number- 898137622071

Routing Number- 026009593

Swift Code- BOFAUS3N

Account Address: PO Box 8290, Sebring, Florida 33872-0122