

# Thank You for Your Partnership in our Mission

The sacrificial prayers and heroic generosity of benefactors like you have allowed FOCUS to grow each year since our founding. Here are just a few of the ways your gifts this year helped to change the lives of young people — the future of our Catholic Church.



## Building for the Future

Thanks to the incredibly generous response of our supporters, FOCUS was able to purchase a building neighboring our current headquarters this spring.

Since 2011, the number of campuses we serve has more than doubled and we have added several fruitful initiatives such as FOCUS Missions, Varsity Catholic, FOCUS Greek and FOCUS Alumni, all of which help students deepen their relationship with Christ in the college years and beyond. This blessing of growth also came with a challenge: We simply need more space to continue growing.

Thanks to the heroic, sacrificial generosity of our supporters, FOCUS was able to purchase a building neighboring our current headquarters this spring. Thousands of people like you helped us to raise nearly \$4,500,000 — 90% of the total building goal.

Thank you for helping us take this important step for the future of our mission. This additional space supports a bold vision for growth, allowing us to provide vital formation, training and support to the growing ranks of FOCUS missionaries in the field.



### INSIDE:

- Reaching New Campuses
- Reaching More Students on Campus
- SEEK2017 — 13,000 Hearts on Fire for Christ

# FOCUS Reaching **New Campuses**

Your gifts helped establish FOCUS teams at 12 new campuses over the past academic year, along with our first international campuses in Austria! Here is just a glimpse of the lives you helped to change on three of the new campuses.

## Brown University

- ◆ 46 students in weekly Bible study
- ◆ 10 students and the Brown chaplain attended SEEK2017
- ◆ FOCUS held creative outreach events like the waffle study break during finals that attracted 40 hungry exam crammers

*“Living for God is the ultimate struggle to which we are all called, and a college campus is the least conducive place for spiritual growth — in the pursuit of academics and social validation, one semester was all it took to displace my faith to the bottom of my priorities. However, the 2017 SEEK conference cemented my resolve to recommit myself to God. I was blessed with the opportunity to explore my faith in a deeper and intellectually stimulating way.”*

— Olivia, Brown freshman



## University of Oregon



- ◆ 57 students in weekly Bible study
- ◆ 13 students attended FOCUS' regional spiritual retreat
- ◆ FOCUS hosted Archbishop Alexander Sample on campus

*“All my life, I have grown up with a love and desire to play baseball, and for a long time that is what I wanted to do with my future. However, when I met Jesus, I fell deeper in love with Him than anything I had ever loved, including baseball. Feeling that love of Christ shifted my priorities from pursuing my dream of baseball to pursuing holiness and heaven first.”*

— Joe, Oregon Ducks pitcher & new FOCUS missionary to USC



# Boise State University



- ◆ 137 students in weekly Bible study
- ◆ 9 students leading Bible studies for their peers
- ◆ On campus outreach through Welcome Week events and activities like Spikeball

*“Not only for me, but for all of my friends, there is a real personal and spiritual growth and holy community growing here. In the missionaries, we finally have mentors that are our good friends, who care about us, have fun with us, but also want us to be saints. It’s amazing!”*

— Maddie, BSU senior

## New U.S. FOCUS Campuses for 2016

- ◆ Boise State University
- ◆ Brown University
- ◆ Emporia State University
- ◆ Idaho State University
- ◆ McNeese State University
- ◆ Northwestern State University
- ◆ University of Idaho
- ◆ University of Mississippi
- ◆ University of Oregon
- ◆ University of Wisconsin
- ◆ Washington State University
- ◆ Wichita State University

## Reaching **More Students** on Campus

This year, you helped us equip missionaries to raise up more than 7,000 student leaders on their campuses. Student leaders, or disciples, commit to weekly meetings with a mentor and aim to start their own Bible studies and lead others in discipleship. The example of these two Texas schools shows the exponential impact FOCUS has with a strong body of student leaders.

### University of Texas

595 students attended one of 108 Bible studies at UT this past year — 74 of which are led by students! This year, 143 students committed to one-on-one discipleship and are helping FOCUS missionaries reach out in a special way to students in the Greek and athletic communities.

### Texas A&M

Nine graduating A&M seniors will serve as missionaries on FOCUS campuses this fall. The faithfulness of the Aggie community can also be seen in the 30 students who went on FOCUS Missions trips during spring break and through one graduating senior who is pursuing religious life.

Your prayers and support are helping change so many lives on FOCUS’ 125 campuses. And in a few weeks, we’ll have more to share about the new campuses that will receive FOCUS missionaries this fall!

For more information, please visit [focus.org/impact2017](http://focus.org/impact2017).



# 13,000 Hearts on Fire for Christ

SEEK2017, held in San Antonio, Texas, from Jan 3 – 7, welcomed nearly 13,000 attendees from more than 500 colleges!

Students engaged in faith-shaping formation with more than 35 speakers, like Sr. Miriam Heidland, SOLT, and Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

They learned about God's sacrificial and unconditional love for them, how to cultivate a relationship with God through prayer and how to share the faith with their peers.

The highlight of the conference was adoration and confession in the main event hall on Thursday evening. It was truly moving to witness thousands of young people encountering our Lord, worshipping and praying well into the night. **For more than three hours, hundreds of priests heard confessions from over 4,000 people.** For many, this time in confession was a life-changing moment. Students emerged from SEEK2017 with a renewed commitment to living and sharing the Catholic faith.

Lauren Hartman, a freshman at University of South Alabama, said,

*"It's been life-changing to be part of something larger and more powerful than I ever thought. I'm excited to go back to college to share my faith with others."*

Freshman Dai'Jon Brown of Indiana University — Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) said,

*"[SEEK2017] opened my eyes up to grow as an individual and showed me how to be a better man by being positive in all situations and lifting up my brothers and sisters."*

Boise State sophomore Katie Poggi summarized the experience of attending SEEK2017 in a powerful way:

*"We became more than ourselves, our schools, our allegiances. We became the visible Church. We became the Body of Christ for the world to see and were granted the graces to make His love known."*



To learn more about SEEK, listen to SEEK2017 keynotes or download formation talks, visit [www.focusoncampus.org/SEEK2017](http://www.focusoncampus.org/SEEK2017).



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