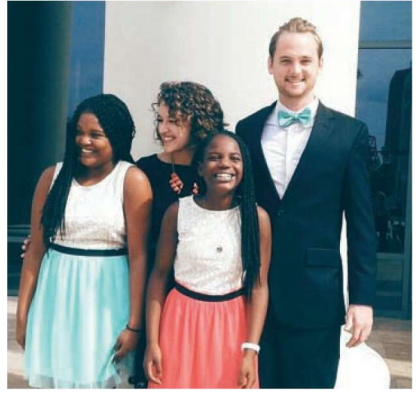


Bradley Fischer

I grew up in the North Kansas City suburbs and attended Smithville High School. I was recruited to Youth With Vision by some upper-classmen who I sang with in the honor choir. At the end of my freshman year I went to a YWV's spring retreat and was fascinated with the young leaders and the policy issues they talked about



so articulately and passionately. Alcohol and drugs had not really touched me growing up, so it wasn't the issue that initially drew me in to advocacy. Through conversations with Vicky Ward, the wonderful leader of that organization, I realized: there are unjust laws that favor liquor sellers and endanger young people, and as a young leader, I could do something about it.

My work with Youth With Vision eventually culminated in being awarded the *Presidential Award for Volunteer Service* by then President Bush. (I would later be invited to the White House my sophomore year of college along with other recipients of that award.) During a dynamic period of spiritual revival in my life, I came to see injustice everywhere; not just in the Missouri Legislature. I came to realize that the spark of fury I felt at injustice was a piece of the Father's fire that burns at injustice everywhere. I spent my college years working with homeless outreaches, international students, immigrant service, pregnancy care centers, and short-term international aid trips. I met my wife



through Christian Campus House, a service-oriented student ministry, and we got married after spending a summer working at a medical mission in Haiti.

Today we live and work in inner-city Jacksonville, Florida. We are a part of 2nd Mile Ministries, a community development

organization that focuses on education, health, and leadership development. I teach high school at a Title I, re-segregated, nearly all African American high school where I encounter the results of systematic injustice every day. Over the past three years, we have adopted two beautiful daughters from this neighborhood and are fostering two more. Our house and life are loud and full and crazy; driven with the same purpose I was just beginning to discover at that retreat 13 years ago.