



The Foundation



The Swagnew Foundation has been providing resources to youth, aiding mental and physical development, as well as providing low cost and free sports camp experiences since 2013. Meet the team behind it >>



Vince Agnew Founder

Personal

Native of Grand Rapids, Michigan and graduate of Catholic Central High School. Graduated from Central Michigan University receiving a bachelors of science degree in Journalism.

Mother and Father, Valencia and Darron Agnew, still reside in Grand Rapids, along with siblings, Paige and Carty.

Inducted into Grand Rapids Catholic Central Hall of Fame for academic and athletic excellence as a two-sport All-State student-athlete.

Attended Central Michigan University 2006-2010, playing on a team that won three MAC Championships and ranked in the Nation's Top 25. Vince was named Defensive MVP in 2009 and named a Captain and Defensive MVP in 2010.

Professional

Played professional football for the Miami Dolphins, Dallas Cowboys, Kansas City Chiefs and Toronto Argonauts.

Retired and began work as a feature writer for the NFL, interviewing first-round draft picks and influential league leaders. During that time, also volunteered at parks and served as a Title-I paraprofessional in Davison Public Schools teaching math and reading.

Worked as a personal trainer and sports development professional at the Freeland SportsZone and Midland Country Club.

Owner of Michigan Made and Founder of the Swagnew Foundation.

Steph Agnew Co-Founder



Personal

Native of Bad Axe, Michigan and graduate of Bad Axe High School. Graduated from Central Michigan University followed by receiving a masters degree in Occupational Therapy at Nova Southeastern near Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Mother and Father, Theresa Byrne and Ron Johnston, still reside in Bad Axe.

BAHS Varsity Letter Winner in Volleyball, Basketball and Track and Field, and broke multiple school records in each sport from 2002-2006 as well as winning a Track and Field State Championship.

Attended Central Michigan University 2006-2011, and is a member of CMU's current record-holding 4x400 M Relay team.

Served as a caregiver during college, living with and providing care for her late cousin Jess that was born with muscular dystrophy.

Professional

Has worked as an Occupational Therapist providing services to a wide range of populations, from youth to the geriatric settings. This includes traumatic brain injuries, home care, within the school district and in-patient rehab.

Steph has volunteered with entities across the state and country including the Special Olympics of Michigan, National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders, Suicide Prevention and more.

She has spent the last 8 years working for My Michigan Health serving geriatric and special populations as an OT.

Co-Owner of Michigan Made and Co-Founder of the Swagnew Foundation.



Background of the organization



The Swagnew Foundation's 2013 inception was sparked by an unexpected diagnosis of Lupus.

Founder, Vince Agnew, and his family learned that father, Darron Agnew, was diagnosed with the chronic illness and wanted to make a difference using what they know best - faith, family and sport.

With Vince playing for the Kansas City Chiefs, the family's Swagnew Foundation made its debut. The non-profit acted as a pipeline for the Lupus Foundation of Michigan by hosting camps, providing mentorship and raising funds, all going directly toward clinical research and improving medications to treat Lupus.



At the time, the Lupus Foundation of Michigan in partnership with University of Michigan, acted as the only non-profit organization in the state, solely dedicated to Lupus research and medicines.

After 3 years of partnership with the Lupus Foundation of Michigan, the mission of the Swagnew Foundation saw a shift and a need to advocate for underserved youth of all populations and abilities. Swagnew Foundation now strives daily to provide access to healthy lifestyles and mindsets for all, still driven by the same core values and using faith, family and sport as the avenues.

The Swagnew Foundation is a proud 501(c)3 Public Charity primarily serving Midland, Saginaw and Bay Counties. It is operated by Co-Founders, Vince and Steph Agnew. The couple met in college at Central Michigan University in 2007 and they have been married for 12 years. Vince and Steph have three children - all boys - Logan, Swayze and Murphy.





Our Programs

The Swagnew Foundation supports the families who need it most, ensuring that financial burden or lack of resources are never a reason to miss out on opportunities to play. We currently pilot free camps, skill-building programs, recreational leagues and travel sports, cheerleading, basketball, football and soccer, with plans to spearhead more through Michigan Made Advanced Athletics LLC. Our sports-based programs are designed around our core values of unwavering integrity, community and youth development. Community involvement and brand recognition allow us to be a resource for supporters to give back and for youth to participate.

Who We Serve

Operating with the backing of local Parks & Recreations departments, we proudly serve over 3,000 youth from 20+ counties around the state. Over the last 10 years, Vince and Steph have helped to positively impact, mentor and aid families and youth to thrive among their peers and also reach the next level. With support of the Swagnew Foundation and Michigan Made, the Agnew's have provided the resources people need to challenge themselves, overcome barriers and accomplish their goals.

www.michiganmade.net/swagnewfoundation



Saginaw County Standouts

The Harry Hawkins Award honors the top senior football player in Saginaw County who excels in athletics, academics, and community service. Michigan Made and the Swagnew Foundation mentored and coached all three 2023 finalists: winner Braylon Isom (Saginaw Heritage → Miami (Ohio)), along with runner-ups Sam Talaga (Freeland → Harvard) and Preston Otter (Nouvel Catholic Central → Cornell).



In the 2025 Harry Hawkins Award finalist class, Vince and Steph had the opportunity to mentor and coach all three finalists: Tristan Comer (Freeland → Michigan State), Zander Wheatley (Freeland → Saginaw Valley), and John Carlson (Nouvel Catholic Central).

Michigan Made and the Swagnew Foundation have also spent years pouring into many other Saginaw County standouts, including Swan Valley's record-setting wide receiver Jamison Pelt (SVSU commit), Frankenmuth's Colin Main (Eastern Michigan University), and Saginaw Heritage's Connor Greif (Madonna University commit), along with Nouvel Catholic Central products Tristen Elizalde (SVSU) and Sean Foley (Adrian College).

In total, Vince has coached more than 30 student-athletes who have gone on to compete at the collegiate level.

