



Bob Laurent is the founding partner of The Hitting Center (THC) team. In 1993, as a senior partner in a computer consulting company, Bob was approached by friend and then Major League baseball player Tim Lincecum to assist him with the business end of his batting cage business, Lincecum's Hitting Center. With over 30 years of community ministry and service experience, Bob quickly identified the connection that athletics can have in mentoring children and families. After Tim moved to Louisiana, Bob was encouraged by many to continue the business where he brought his business and project management experience to the table bringing together the mentor, volunteer and community involvement model currently in place today.

Ministry and mentorship to children and families was always a part of The Hitting Center even when it was a for-profit enterprise. In 2004, Bob elected to donate the business to Calvary Church to continue and enhance the ministry component of the THC team. Bob serves as the volunteer Co-Director of The Hitting Center program along with having served on multiple community boards including the Capital Area Sports Commission, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leadership board, Land of Lincoln Junior Olympic Softball board in addition to being an adviser to many other community sports organizations.

In the 2011-2012 season he assisted the University of Illinois in Springfield (UIS) softball team as a volunteer coach and later served as Head Assistant coach before retiring in 2015. The success of the 2011-2012 softball team garnished an NCAA Top-10 turnaround program award and was recently inducted into the 2020 UIS Sports Hall of Fame. He continues to assist many of the High School and College programs throughout the area.



Greg Brown has been with the THC team since its inception. In 2005 he followed his calling and became full-time facility and operations manager for The Hitting Center. Prior to this move, Greg was a successful professional recruiter, business consultant and Dale Carnegie trainer. Having pitched briefly in the Chicago Cubs organization in his younger years, he understood the value that healthy mentorship plays in developing young adults. As an accomplished instructor and teacher, Greg quickly and efficiently applied business mentorship and development concepts into athletic and coaching

development. His strong calling to prayer and personal relationship ministry can be directly attributed to the success and longevity of the Hitting Center.



Jackie Laurent serves as the volunteer Co-Director of The Hitting Center program. She brings years of organizational and business office experience in developing the support and volunteer staffing components of the Hitting Center. The Hitting Center functions as a state-of-the-art indoor training facility administratively supporting the over 20 full-time, part-time and volunteer resources necessary to address 19 supported travel baseball and softball teams along with the over 4,500 private lessons that are provided annually. Her experience of over 30 years of community ministry serving alongside her

husband and founding partner, Bob Laurent, has brought a unique perspective to the parents and more specifically the moms of the student athletes seeking to find a healthy balance and understanding of athletics.



Phil Laurent, son of Bob and Jackie Laurent, has been a lifelong member of the THC team having retired from Professional Baseball after a stellar collegiate and professional career. Dedicating himself to Christian Education, he attended Calvary Academy from K-12 then accepted a baseball scholarship at Liberty University where he graduated with honors and athletically still holds many of the single season and career records. Phil started his professional career in the independent Can-am league before moving to the Frontier League where he signed a free agent contract with the San Diego Padres. Phil ended his professional career with the Normal Corn Belters in 2023 and now serves a higher role as husband and father.



The Calvary Protestant Church Softball league, part of the Calvary Church Sports Ministries, was founded by Bob Laurent in 1990. This unique ministry was formed through a need for providing God and family balances within athletics, not only in the community but within his own life. To provide accountability to this ministry, by-laws were developed encouraging churches to reach out to athletes within their congregations and community while providing accountability to their representative church through code of conduct and attendance requirements to be eligible to play. Many men point to this ministry as their introduction to Christ and healthy stewardship as husbands and fathers.