



PRESS RELEASE

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CAF's A Celebration of Heroes, Heart and Hope Gala a Huge Success
Heroes were personified. Hearts were filled. Hope was given to all.

San Diego, CA - The power of perseverance now resonates through the streets of New York City, thanks to the energy and inspiration of the **Celebration of Heroes, Heart and Hope Gala (HHH Gala) held on Wednesday, June 10** in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf=Astoria. As a major fundraiser for the **Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF)**, the evening's message of hope helped bring in more than \$600,000 through sponsorship, a silent and live auction and ticket sales to help fulfill CAF's unique mission. New York area CAF athletes and supporters, triathlon clubs and professional businessmen and women alike were there to **honor Mark Holowesko**, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of Holowesko Partners Ltd., and to recognize the athletic achievements of four outstanding physically challenged athletes.

"This year's event surpassed all of our expectations," said Virginia Tinley, CAF's Executive Director. "Given the state of the economy, we were worried about folks' willingness to give. But, our worries disappeared when the evening's energy, passion and inspiring stories touched everyone's heart."

Highlights of the evening included professionally produced athlete profile videos, by Emmy-Winning producers Lisa Lax and Nancy Stern of Lookalike Productions, the Fund An Item Handcycle auction which raised \$100,000, the Fund an Item Running Leg auction which raised \$141,000 and the Ford Ironman Triathlon World Championship auction where two bidders duelled it out, the winning bidder paying \$30,000 for the slot.

New to the event this year, CAF gave awards to four challenged athletes who embody the traits of a Hero, demonstrate Heart, give Hope to others and displays Perseverance in the face of adversity.

CAF was proud to honor the following four athletes:

- **Hero Award Winner: Sam Cila**
An America hero who joined the New York National Guard after September 11 and was permanently injured in Iraq on July 4, 2005. After the amputation of his arm below the elbow, he continues to heal through sports.
- **Heart Award Winner: Deanna Babcock**
A competitive athlete her whole life, Deanna was devastated when she lost her leg after a sudden cardiac arrest. Now with a new running foot, she's back into sport, and back into life.
- **Hope Award Winner: David Gelfand**
Born with Proximal Femoral Focal Deficiency (PFFD), the same condition as

Sarah Reinertsen – his idol, this young Weston, Connecticut native offers hope to other physically challenged kids.

- **Perseverance Award Winner: Ricky James**

When a motocross accident went horribly wrong, he lost the use of his legs, but not his competitive spirit.

“I’d like to again congratulate each of the four award winners,” said Scott Stackman, Chairman of the HHH Gala Committee. “Their courage and determination inspired every single one of the 500 attendees that evening. I couldn’t have been more proud of my affiliation with such an amazing organization and the athletes they support.”

CAF would also like to thank the following generous HHH Gala sponsors and committee whose support helped make the evening possible.

Platinum Sponsors:

- Nick & Kitty Brady
- Holowesko Partners, Ltd.
- Ironman
- Cindi and David Samson and Family
- Scott Stackman

Gold Sponsors:

- Gary Gilbert
- Chef Robert Irvine and J. Randall Williams, R&R Hospitality LLC.
- Major League Baseball
- Men’s Health
- Dax Vlassis

Cocktail Reception:

- UBS Private Wealth Management

Committee:

- Scott Stackman, Chairman
- Jennifer Bornemann
- Allison Caccoma
- Ray Kelly
- Sari Levy
- Michael Mann
- Robin Mann
- Justin Model
- Joan Murray
- David Samson
- Kevin White
- Amy Williams

To say the HHH Gala just provided hope, is an understatement. It changed lives – both able-bodied and physically challenged. It changed perceptions of what is possible. And, it changed attitudes about the benefits of sport.

Don't miss the 2010 Celebration of Heroes, Heart and Hope Gala! **Mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 9, 2010.**

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The Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) is a special place where courage has many faces ... where perseverance has a first name ... where dreams are nourished and heroes have a home. It is an organization unlike any other in the world.

CAF grew out of a desire to assist one athlete paralyzed in a triathlon. From this modest beginning arose a more important mission – to make sure people with physical challenges have the same freedom to enjoy sports as everyone else. CAF believes that participation in sports at any level increases self-esteem, encourages independence and enhances quality of life.

Since 1994, more than \$21 million has been raised and more than 4,000 funding requests from challenged athletes in all 50 states and dozens of countries have been satisfied. Additionally, CAF's outreach efforts reach another 65,000 individuals each year. Whether it's a \$2,500 grant for a handcycle, helping underwrite a carbon fiber running foot not covered by insurance, or arranging enthusiastic encouragement from a mentor who has triumphed over a similar challenge, CAF's mission is clear: give those with the desire to live active, athletic lifestyles every opportunity to compete in the sports they love. To learn more about CAF, log on to www.challengedathletes.org or call 858-866-0959.