

Grantee Spotlight: Brendan Driscoll – Paying it Forward

Nine-year-old Brendan Driscoll does not give up easily. Born with a congenital lower left leg anomaly, Brendan had a left knee disarticulation at Children's Hospital in Boston before he started kindergarten. Despite wearing a prosthetic leg, Brendan loved running, racing and playing tag. He even played in his town soccer league.

But something was missing. What Brendan always wanted most was to be able to keep up with the other kids when running – he hated always being the “slowest.” He knew that a high-tech carbon running foot was the answer. After gaining support from his doctors and physical therapists, Brendan was crushed when the required foot was not covered by his insurance company. But he did not let go of his dreams. That’s when he was introduced to the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF.)



“All my life I dreamed of running as fast as my friends, and thanks to a grant from the Challenged Athletes Foundation, my dream came true,” Brendan enthusiastically explains. “Getting an OSSUR Flex-Run Prosthesis through CAF is the best thing that ever happened to me!”

Brendan is now comfortably in the pack during those PE runs. But that is only the beginning. Recently, he finished a kids’ triathlon wearing a tri-suit that formerly belonged to 2007 Ford Ironman Triathlon World Champion Chris “Macca” McCormack. (Brendan and his Mom picked up the suit at a silent auction at the CAF gala in New York City.) Brendan was competing in his second race when he crashed his handcycle at the Westchester Triathlon. After a quick trip to the emergency room, he showed his true colors, telling the crowd at the triathlon banquet that he would be back next year to finish the race.

Like Macca, Brendan has shown that determination can take you a long way. In 2007, he visited eight states and competed in eight races, three youth triathlons and the Endeavor Games. And now that he’s experienced the thrill of competition, Brendan and his Mom Ginger are motivated to help CAF get more kids like Brendan to the starting line. So far, they’ve raised an astonishing \$17,404 for CAF through the Race For A Reason fundraising and incentive program.

Even at nine, Brendan understands the idea of “paying it forward” and is setting an impressive example for others to follow.