**SUMMER FUNDRAISING: JUNE**

1. **Mike Atherton**

**Bio link on our website:** [**http://www.challengedathletes.org/athletes/mike-atherton/**](http://www.challengedathletes.org/athletes/mike-atherton/)

**Storyline /Messaging – Father’s Day**

**Email Copy:**

Family man and water-skiing professional Mike Atherton was on vacation off the shore of Florida aboard his in-law’s boat when a horrific and unexpected explosion caused the boat to engulf in flames and severely injured Mike. Thankfully, doctors were able to save his life, but they could not save his limbs. Both of Mike’s legs and his left arm below-the-elbow were amputated. Since his accident in 2009, thanks to the support of his family and CAF, Mike has worked to reclaim his active lifestyle. Last year, he finished his first 5K as an amputee and ran the race alongside his 15-year-old daughter, Maddie. And now, he’s even back to water-skiing!

**Social copy:**

Inspired this Father’s Day by Mike’s story – a triple amputee dad who ran his first 5K with his daughter thanks to @cafoundation. Help me support more dads like Mike!

***Notes:*** Ran marathon with his daughter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoTSS70YLgg>

0:37 - :50 mark – interview w/ his daughter and him on race day

2:25 – 2:38 – finish line and interview w/ daughter post-race

1. **Katie Eddington:**

**Bio link on website:**

***NOTE – Updated bio for website below. Fixed grammatical errors, etc.:***

Katie is a joyful nine-year-old girl from Georgetown, Kentucky. She is in third grade and does everything the other kids in her class do. Recently, she was given a homework assignment that asked her to share her future dreams. Her answer: “I would like to participate in the Paralympics one day.”

On October 13, 2013, Katie was in an accident involving a lawn mower that severely injured her leg. Limb salvage was attempted, but ultimately – after 22 surgeries - Katie decided to amputate her leg above the knee. Katie has a knee disarticulation and received her first prosthetic in January 2016. Shortly after, in May of 2016, she received her first CAF grant for a running blade prosthetic leg. Amazingly, just six months after her amputation, she started running. She completed her first 5K in August of 2016 and has since completed eleven 5ks. Katie has also played basketball for the last two seasons. It is hard to believe that she has been an amputee for less than five years, and already, thanks to CAF and her strong spirit, her dreams are becoming closer to a reality.

**Email Copy:**

Katie is a third grader with big dreams for her future: to make it from her hometown in Kentucky to the Paralympic podium. A tragic accident with a lawn mower in 2013 caused her to lose her right leg above the knee, but she hasn’t slowed down since. After receiving her first CAF grant for a running blade prosthetic in May of 2016, she completed her first 5K just three months later – and has gone on to run five more 5Ks and play two seasons of basketball. Thanks to CAF and her strong spirit, her dreams of being a Paralympic champion in the future are closer than ever to becoming a reality.

**Social Copy:**

Inspired by Katie’s dream to make it to the Paralympic podium thx to @cafoundation! Help me support more kids like her: [FUNDRAISING PAGE LINK]

1. **Tara Butcher**

**Bio link on website:** [**http://www.challengedathletes.org/athletes/tara-butcher/**](http://www.challengedathletes.org/athletes/tara-butcher/)

**Email Copy – NOTE: I wrote 2 versions / options below – choose whichever you like better:**

**Email Copy Version 1:**

“I always knew I could go one of two ways with this… I could lie in bed, be depressed, not do anything, and take pain pills. Or I could fight—work out, try my hardest, and be the strongest and in the best shape that I can be. There’s no in-between with this. I chose to fight.”

Since her accident in 2005, Tara Butcher has discovered her inner fighter – and inner athlete, thanks to support from CAF. She was struck by a car at 72mph that resulted in severe spinal cord damage and the amputation of her left leg below-the-knee. She has run marathons, hiked Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Whitney, and is a dedicated yogi. Her love for practicing yoga reminds us all to practice mindfulness and be present in our lives, as every day is a gift and what you make of it.

**Email Copy Version 2:**

It is both a mystery and a miracle that Tara is alive today – and not only is she alive, she is thriving.

In 2005, Tara was hit by a car on the San Diego freeway while standing on the shoulder of the road. At 72 miles per hour, the oncoming car catapulted her across two lanes and resulted in severe injuries to her neck and spine, a metal rod inserted to her right leg, and the amputation of her left leg below the knee. Since her accident, CAF has helped pave Tara’s road to recovery – providing her with grants for running prosthetics, athletic ventures, mentoring programs and more. As a dedicated yogi, Tara practices mindfulness and living every day in the present moment.

**Social Copy:**

Tara’s story has me practicing mindfulness & feeling grateful for @cafoundation this #InternationalYogaDay! Help me support more challenged athletes like Tara: [FUNDRAISING PAGE LINK]

1. **Riley Phelps**

**Bio link on website:** [**http://www.challengedathletes.org/athletes/riley-phelps/**](http://www.challengedathletes.org/athletes/riley-phelps/)

**Email Copy:** Born with Cerebral Palsy and Spastic Quadriplegia with Dystonia, Riley Phelps has not let her challenges stop her from being an active and outgoing 13-year-old girl. In addition to typical teenage activities like hanging out with friends and going to the movies, she is also a thrill-seeking athlete! Her favorite sports are surfing and adaptive skiing. Every year, she attends adaptive surfing events with CAF & the Junior Seau Foundation, among others – and her custom surfboard granted by CAF helps her defy the odds…and catch some great waves!

**Social Copy:** 13-year old Riley defies the odds. You can help more kids like her to do the sports they love by supporting @cafoundation: {FUNDRAISING PAGE LINK}

1. **Sebastian Desposado:**

**Bio link on website:** [**http://www.challengedathletes.org/athletes/sebastian-desposato/**](http://www.challengedathletes.org/athletes/sebastian-desposato/)

***NOTE: On Wrike / your list of athletes you sent me, his name is spelled Sebastian Despesato. On the website, it is spelled Desposado. Which spelling is correct??? Advise fixing wherever the wrong spelling is. – Thanks, finding out from Lauren Ram***

**Email Copy:** Nine-year-old CAF athlete Sebastian was born with acondroplasia, a form of dwarfism. But that has never slowed him down. As a rising star in the adaptive swimming world, he’s competed with Team USA at the World Dwarf Games where he won eight gold medals and broke two records! He’s currently training for the Dwarf Athletic Association National Games and qualifying for the Adaptive Sports USA Jr. Nationals…and that is just the beginning! Sebastian also loves to surf, do triathlons, mountain bike and more.

Sometimes, people make comments about Sebastian because he is little. But recently, while he was at the pool training for the World Dwarf Games, a bunch of kids were overheard making comments about Sebastian saying, “Hey, did you see that kid with all the muscles!?”

CAF is proud to support Sebastian and others like him, changing the perception of kids with physical challenges!

**Social Copy:** Sebastian proves you can do anything – no matter how big or small! Help support me to change more kids’ lives & change perceptions w/ @cafoundation: [FUNDRAISING PAGE LINK]