



# 2019 HEROES OF SPORT

## OUR LARGEST ANNUAL GRANT DISTRIBUTION EVER



**HEROES OF SPORT** know the time and sacrifice it takes to realize dreams. Heroes of Sport manifest bravery and never give up. Heroes of Sport believe that sports make us whole.

CAF supports Heroes of Sport in pursuing their athletic goals with the right equipment, community, coaching and programs.

- ▶ **3,260** individual grant recipients for adaptive sports equipment, training and competition expenses.
- ▶ **\$4.8 Million** in funding awarded to individuals with physical challenges across 103 different sports, 50 states and 42 countries.

Because of this support, new heroes of sport are now on the path to playing and accomplishing more than ever in their authentic quest to success in athletics and in everyday life.

## GENERAL FACTS & FIGURES

- ▶ **103** sports
  - ▶ **50** states + Puerto Rico
  - ▶ **42** countries
  - ▶ **4** yrs old- youngest grant recipient
  - ▶ **77** yrs old- oldest grant recipient
- 29%** under age of 18
  - 39%** are first-time grant recipients
  - 35%** are female
  - 65%** are male

## BREAKDOWN BY PHYSICAL CHALLENGE

<b>22%</b> Amputee	<b>5%</b> Quadriplegic
<b>15%</b> Paraplegic	<b>5%</b> Limb Difference
<b>14%</b> Spina Bifida	<b>2%</b> Polio
<b>13%</b> Visually Impaired	<b>2%</b> Muscular Dystrophy
<b>11%</b> Cerebral Palsy	<b>11%</b> Other

## INCOME BREAKDOWN

- ▶ **65%** of households earn income between **\$20K-\$50K/year**
- ▶ **40%** of households earn **under \$20K/year**

## TOP GRANT REQUESTS BY SPORT

Wheelchair Basketball.....	<b>343</b>	Running .....	<b>81</b>	Equestrian .....	<b>40</b>
Track & Field.....	<b>161</b>	Handcycling.....	<b>77</b>	Alpine Skiing .....	<b>37</b>
Sled Hockey.....	<b>119</b>	Surfing .....	<b>76</b>	Goalball.....	<b>31</b>
Beep Baseball .....	<b>110</b>	Wheelchair Rugby.....	<b>65</b>	Rock Climbing.....	<b>24</b>
Swimming.....	<b>101</b>	Wheelchair Racing.....	<b>56</b>	Wheelchair Boccia.....	<b>22</b>
Triathlon .....	<b>85</b>	Wheelchair Tennis.....	<b>55</b>	WCMX .....	<b>17</b>
Cycling .....	<b>82</b>	Power Soccer .....	<b>53</b>	Fitness Training.....	<b>15</b>
				Snowboarding .....	<b>15</b>



**GETTING INJURED VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS  
BACK INTO THE GAME OF LIFE THROUGH SPORTS.**

**334** Grant recipients.  
**37%** 1st time grant recipients.  
**18%** Female

**\$501,981** in grant funding for adaptive sports equipment, training and competition expenses.

## HERO OF SPORT SPOTLIGHT



### ETHAN BUCHKOVICH – SUMMERHILL, PA

**Grant:** Hockey Sled

**Bio:** Ethan is 18 years old and has been playing sled hockey since he was eight, starting with his dad as his coach. He improved dramatically over the years and played at a very high level. In the past few years, Ethan has had 2 complicated surgeries resulting in weight gain and depression. “If it wasn’t for sled hockey,” insists his dad, “Ethan might not be with us today.” Ethan has now lost 30 pounds and eager to get back to the level he was once at prior to his surgeries. He is a first time CAF grant recipient.

**Physical Challenge:** Spina Bifida



### RYLE FLODIN – GENESSEE, ID

**Grant:** Vesco Defensive Chair for Wheelchair Rugby

**Bio:** Ryle is a 15 year old who played football, basketball and baseball prior to his spinal cord injury in April, 2018. Soon after his injury, he discovered wheelchair rugby and loves being able to block other players from scoring while playing on defense. Having his own chair will allow him to train at home and with the team he plays with 4 hours away in Spokane, WA.

**Physical Challenge:** Quadriplegia



### JAMES HUNT – CANISTEO, NY

**Grant:** Golf Competition Expenses

**Bio:** James is a nightclub DJ, a substitute teacher, a hunter and fisherman, a former high school baseball player, and now, a golfer. He does all of this while missing all four limbs. James was recently featured as the spotlight story on The Golf Channel’s Emmy Award nominated feature, “Limitless”. James’ first-ever CAF grant will open the door to golf competitions around the country.

**Physical Challenge:** Amputee



### MEREDITH KOCH – ROSLINDALE, MA

**Grant:** National Competition Expenses for Swimming

**Bio:** Swimming has been life-saving for Meredith, a former runner and operating room Clinical Specialist. At the promising and healthy age of 24, Meredith never expected to become a patient. She was crushed by a piano that fell out of a pickup truck, leaving her with a spinal cord injury that resulted in paraplegia. She first met CAF at a Boston swim clinic and discovered swimming as her new athletic calling. This CAF grant for competition expenses will allow Meredith to train for her goal to make the US Paralympic swim team.

**Physical Challenge:** Paraplegia

## HERO OF SPORT SPOTLIGHT



**RYLAN RIOS-DELGADO – WALDEN, NY**

**Grant:** Basketball Wheelchair

**Bio:** Rylan is a big brother, a good student, and a kind-hearted yet competitive wheelchair basketball player and surfer. In his 6-years of life, Rylan has beat the odds at every turn while living with Spina Bifida. Rylan is the youngest athlete at his local adaptive sports club and his CAF grant for a new basketball wheelchair will help him keep up with the big boys and continue to excel on and off the court.

**Physical Challenge:** Spina Bifida



**KATIE HOLLOWAY – PALO ALTO, CA**

**Grant:** Coaching/ Training expenses for Sitting Volleyball

**Bio:** Katie Holloway is a Paralympic Gold medalist in sitting volleyball and captain of the Women's National team.

Katie works full time as a Recreation Therapist at the VA in Palo Alto and advocates for athletes with physical challenges. She is training for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020 and going on her 13th year of competing in sitting volleyball. Because of CAF's support over the years, she has been able to become team captain, and lead her team to victories.

**Physical Challenge:** Limb Deficiencies



**HODA MOHAMED – MANSOURA, EGYPT**

**Grant:** Racing wheelchair

**Bio:** Hoda is using her passion for wheelchair racing to break down barriers in every way. Born with Polio, Hoda dabbled in adaptive sports, but nothing captured her heart more than the male-dominated sport of wheelchair racing. Last year, Hoda impressively placed 2nd and 3rd in multiple races against her male competitors. A CAF grant for a new racing chair will allow Hoda to carry on her dream of representing Egypt on the world's stage.

**Physical Challenge:** Polio



**KEITH HARRIS – LEAGUE CITY, TX**

**Grant:** Coaching/Training Expenses for Baseball

**Bio:** 10-year-old Keith has a determination and drive that far surpasses his young age. Keith was born missing his right hand, and despite hesitations from his parents, he was determined to play baseball. Soon enough, Keith had earned his spot as a first baseman and become one of the best batters in the league. He even played first base and pitcher for the American All Star Little League team. A CAF grant will ensure that Keith has the coaching he needs to continue playing baseball.

**Physical Challenge:** Limb Deficiencies

## THANK YOU TO OUR GRANT PARTNERS

Our grant partners provide generous support, products and services to our challenged athlete grant recipients.

