



**FY 2018 - 2019
ANNUAL REPORT**

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN



It was our greatest honor to celebrate with you during our 25th anniversary. It started with the “CAF Proclamation Day” at San Diego City Council on July 31, 2018, and included the 25th San Diego Triathlon Challenge (the event that started it all) in October. Our memorable anniversary finale was in April 2019 at the Celebration of Will Gala where we continued reminiscing, honoring, appreciating and reconnecting with the voices from our past. It was a beautiful reminder of how we started and why we exist.

We exist to empower.

We exist to remove barriers.

We exist to provide what is needed, when it is needed, and to those who have the greatest need.

That was reinforced to me this year hearing an athlete say, “CAF doesn’t tell you what you should do; they ask you what you want to do, then help you get there.” We truly believe that listening to the *voice of the athlete* is our highest responsibility.

It is unfortunate that much of what we heard at that very first event remains consistent even today – that adaptive sports equipment is prohibitively expensive, and the lack of access to equipment, training and competition holds potential athletes back. Fortunately, CAF can help.

Now new messages are also being heard – that challenged athletes are getting more opportunities on the field. That more challenged athletes are represented in advertising and sports-related marketing. That more challenged athletes are competing, breaking records and blazing trails. We can proudly say, CAF helps here too.

We have heard a message loudly this past year from the athletes we support – “We no longer want to be viewed as your inspiration; we want to be viewed as your teammate or fiercest competition.”

Whether it is a grant for a piece of adaptive sports equipment, opening up a new region in Idaho, or changing the landscape of high school sports through our newest initiative, the High Schools Adaptive Sports Program, we are quickly responding to new voices with innovative programming and resources to support new goals.

To our athletes and the CAF community that surrounds them – Keep talking, because we are listening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JEFFREY ESSAKOW'.

Jeffrey Essakow

*We exist to provide what is needed, when it is needed,
and to those who have the greatest need.*

2019 A Celebration
of Will Gala



WELCOME

The Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) was founded 26 years ago on the belief that sports and an active lifestyle can transform lives. With a record-breaking 3,260 grants funded across 103 different sports in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019, CAF continues to be the world leader in providing opportunities for athletes with physical challenges.

We're continuously working toward greater inclusion and empowerment for challenged athletes to achieve more. In the past year, CAF made amazing strides in our mission with the support of partners, donors, fundraisers, and volunteers. Athletes impacted by CAF programs, mentorship, and community are no longer sitting on the sidelines. They're crossing finish lines, making waves, and changing perception of what people with physical challenges can accomplish.

26 YEARS OF IMPACT

- ▶ \$112 million raised
- ▶ Over 26,000 individual grants awarded
- ▶ Estimated over 20 million people impacted through community outreach and media
- ▶ Athletes served in all 50 US states and Puerto Rico and 70 international countries



CAF LEADING THE WAY

This past year was an exciting one as we celebrated our 25th Anniversary and created thousands of transformational moments for challenged athletes and supporters alike. As we move our efforts into 2020, CAF continues to innovate and adapt its programming and fundraising events to best meet the needs of our athletes and to ensure our supporters are connected to the mission in new and exciting ways.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



LARGEST GRANT DISTRIBUTION EVER

We distributed **3,260** individual grants this past year, providing the critical resources for challenged athletes to be empowered through sport.



CAF-IDAHO WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

With support from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, CAF-Idaho was formed to empower challenged athletes in Idaho and build a **thriving adaptive sports community**.



HIGH SCHOOL ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAM KICKED OFF

The program provides students, families, athletic departments, and school administrators with essential coaching, equipment, resource materials, and access for **youth challenged athletes** to be part of their high school sports teams.



A CELEBRATION OF WILL GALA IN SAN DIEGO TO CELEBRATE OUR 25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We raised a **record-setting \$4.4 million** at a historic evening featuring musical performers with physical challenges. This incredible donor support set the stage for 2019.



THE WOMEN'S HANDCYCLING TEAM WAS FORMED

This elite team was born from the need to get more women involved in handcycling and compete at the highest level. CAF's goal is to raise the profile of the growing sport in the US through training, competition, and teamwork and **inspire women in all sports** to set goals and support each other.



CONTINUED SUPPORT IN ADAPTIVE SURFING

CAF is a world leader in the rise of adaptive surfing as a competitive sport. As we work toward its inclusion in the Paralympic Games, CAF is developing elite athletes and the next generation of adaptive surfers. Since 2016, the Junior Seau Foundation Adaptive Surf Program presented by CAF has introduced **over 360** kids to the sport!

SERVING THE MISSION: GRANT SUPPORT

CAF's annual Grant Program awards essential funding for adaptive equipment, sports prosthetics, training, and competition expenses. Through Operation Rebound, discretionary grants, and partnership grants, we also reach athletes throughout the year to ensure they have support when they need it most.

2018-2019 OVERALL GRANT IMPACT



ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAM

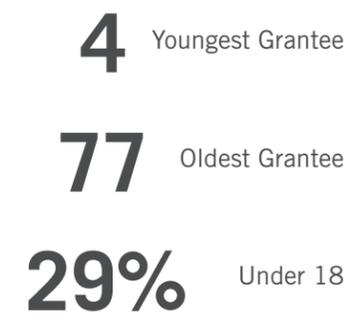
TOP 10 SPORTS BY GRANT

Wheelchair Basketball.....	343
Track & Field.....	161
Sled Hockey.....	119
Beep Baseball.....	110
Swimming.....	101
Triathlon.....	85
Cycling.....	82
Running.....	81
Handcycling.....	77
Surfing.....	76

DISTRIBUTION BY PHYSICAL CHALLENGE

Amputation.....	22%
Paraplegia.....	15%
Spina Bifida.....	14%
Visual Impairment.....	13%
Cerebral Palsy.....	11%
Quadriplegia.....	5%
Limb Difference.....	5%
Other.....	15%

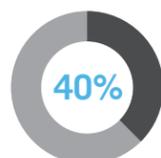
DISTRIBUTION BY AGE



DISTRIBUTION BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME



\$20k - \$50k
Per Year



Under \$20k
Per Year

Since 2015, 730 memberships to the YMCA of San Diego County have been provided to local challenged athletes.



HEROES OF SPORT SPOTLIGHT



LUCA WATKINS – HENRICO, VA

Grant: Basketball Wheelchair

Luca's mother had never seen her four-year-old son's eyes widen like when he watched the Rio Paralympics two years ago in 2016. Luca was born with Spina Bifida and has used a wheelchair since he was 18 months old. His parents have always committed to raising him as a normal and active boy and began taking him to adaptive sport expos at a young age. Soon enough, he was right at home among other adaptive athletes and fell in love with wheelchair basketball and swimming. A CAF grant for his own basketball wheelchair is giving Luca more independence, as well as the confidence that comes with sports participation.

Physical Challenge: Spina Bifida



ISABELLA MATOS – WINTER GARDEN, FL

Grant: Competition Travel Expenses

At 13 years old, Isabella was the first high school adaptive athlete in Boward County in over twenty years. She joined the track and field team with just a regular wheelchair, unsure how competitive she could be alongside her able-bodied peers. Fast forward four years – now 17 years old – Isabella is a three-time state champion and a junior nationals champion. She credits her prior CAF grant for a racing chair with helping her reach these impressive milestones, and now with a 2019 grant to be able to travel for competitions, there will certainly be more achievements to add to the list.

Physical Challenge: Cerebral Palsy



WENDY BELK – SAN DIEGO, CA

Grant: Össur Athletic Foot

After Wendy graduated college, she and her family began the adventure of off-road desert racing. Wendy was the driver, navigator, and logistics manager for the team. During the Norra Mexican 1000 off-road race in 2018, she was hit by a car and suffered injuries that ultimately resulted in the loss of her right leg below the knee. Wendy's goal before the accident was to work with high-level water-sport athletes with her partner in Australia. With her CAF grant for an Össur athletic foot, she's determined to pick up her life plan once again and pursue kite boarding, scuba diving, ocean swimming, paddle boarding, and surfing.

Physical Challenge: Below-Knee Amputee



WAYNE ATKINSON – UNION, NJ

Grant: Össur Running Foot

Wayne is a lifelong athlete who grew up playing basketball, football, and running. He excelled and continued with the sports through adulthood until 2015, when a motorcycle accident resulted in the amputation of his left leg above the knee. Since the accident, Wayne hadn't been able to participate in the sports he loved alongside his friends. In 2018, he attended his first Össur Running and Mobility Clinic presented by CAF and learned to run with his everyday walking leg. Now with a grant for his own running leg, Wayne can apply the skills he learned while running with much greater energy, motion, and speed.

Physical Challenge: Above-Knee Amputee

SERVING THE MISSION: CAMPS AND CLINICS

CAF camps and clinics support athletes of all ages by introducing adaptive sports, providing individualized support, developing skills, and creating connection. They are led by recognized coaching professionals and experienced athletes who serve as mentors and role models to inspire and encourage those learning – many for the first time. Using sports as a vehicle, each clinic creates a place

where athletes can feel understood, supported, and confident in their own abilities.

These camps and clinics provide fun, interactive, and instructional experiences at no cost to the participants. Across 11 different cities and 11 different sports, more than 700 athletes attended CAF camps and clinics in 2018!



29 CAMPS AND CLINICS FY18-19

BY SPORT

Running & Mobility.....	7
Surfing.....	5
Swimming (Pool + Open Water).....	5
Adaptive Cycling.....	2
Inclusive Track Workouts.....	2
Paratriathlon (Women's Wheelchair + Youth).....	2
Sit Volleyball.....	2
Wheelchair Fencing.....	1
Wheelchair Racing.....	1
Wheelchair Tennis.....	1
Wheelchair Skateboarding (WCMX).....	1
TOTAL	29

BY CITY

San Diego, CA.....	13
Beaverton, OR.....	5
San Francisco, CA.....	3
Anaheim, CA.....	1
Chicago, IL.....	1
Fort Wayne, IN.....	1
Nashville, TN.....	1
New York City, NY.....	1
Oceanside, CA.....	1
Tucson, AZ.....	1
Washington, DC.....	1



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

WCMX Clinic In Boise, Idaho

Our inaugural clinic for CAF-Idaho introduced local challenged athletes to the fast-growing sport of WCMX (wheelchair skateboarding). Boise-area youth just starting out got the chance to learn from the pros and experience CAF's community firsthand.



Junior Seau Foundation Adaptive Surf Camp presented by CAF

Our adaptive surf camp makes it possible for kids from across the country to experience the stoke of surfing and try things they never thought possible. At the annual camp in conjunction with the SWITCHFOOT BRO-AM Beach Fest, participants improved technique and ended the camp with an awards celebration on stage in front of 7,000+ spectators!



Adaptive Cycling & Paratriathlon Camps

CAF has continued leading the way in the sport of paratriathlon through our Adult and Youth Paratriathlon Camps. The three-discipline sport of swim-bike-run is one of the top sports supported by CAF, and our unique camps provide expert instruction and inspiring community for triathletes of all levels. With the generous support of the J&L Pie company, our adaptive cycling clinics provide comprehensive and in-depth technical cycling instruction for paracyclists of all abilities with a focus on the beginner cyclist.



Össur Running & Mobility Clinic presented by CAF

The renowned clinic was bigger and better than ever under the lights at San Francisco Giants Stadium as Bay Area athletes got to train and develop their skills on the same field as their favorite major league baseball players. The clinic made its way to seven cities this past fiscal year to bring expert instruction to amputee athletes around the country.





A large number of service members and first responders are injured in the line of duty. Many return home with severe injuries – loss of multiple limbs, paralysis, and brain injuries. CAF's Operation Rebound program strengthens the mental and physical well-being of veterans, military personnel, and first responders with permanent physical injuries by providing them opportunities to use sports and fitness to reintegrate into our communities and by empowering them through sports.

2018-2019 IMPACT

- ▶ **\$501,981** in FY grant funding for adaptive sports equipment, training, and competition expenses
- ▶ **37%** first-time grantees
- ▶ **18%** female
- ▶ **334** grant recipients

Service members and first responders are trained in resiliency, discipline, and teamwork, making adaptive sports an ideal form of rehabilitation. Operation Rebound's tailored support allows our Heroes of Sport to determine their own course towards healing, promoting independence and self-reliance in other aspects of their lives.

HEROES OF SPORT SPOTLIGHT



Chele Teabout – Albany, NY

Grant: Training + Competition Travel

Chele set out to become a triathlete after her first introduction to CAF. A previous injury as a corrections officer ultimately led to the amputation of her left leg in 2014. One year post-amputation at 345 pounds, in excruciating pain, and without the resources to make a change – Chele attempted suicide.

At her lowest point imaginable and feeling lost as to what was next, Operation Rebound introduced Chele to a community of athletes and other amputees like her who are cycling, swimming, and running in triathlons. With the support of Operation Rebound, she has since completed two triathlons, lost 150 pounds, and wholly transformed her own self-perception.

Physical Challenge: Below-Knee Amputee



Nico Marcolongo Senior Manager of Operation Rebound

Presented by KPBS and the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC) in March 2019, Nico was recognized as a Community Hero for his success in bringing hope and opportunity to injured veterans through sports.



James Moreno – San Diego, CA

Grant: Bike

While on patrol as a Marine Corps rifleman in Afghanistan in 2011, James stepped on an IED and severely injured his left foot. He didn't want to live with the injury for the rest of his life and made the decision to amputate his leg below the knee.

Running and cycling had always been a big part of his life before the injury; James wanted nothing more than to reclaim his active lifestyle and share those sports with his three-year-old daughter. With an Operation Rebound grant for a new bike, James can attach a second seat for his daughter and cycle with his family.

Physical Challenge: Below-Knee Amputee



Sammi Tucker – Costa Mesa, CA

Grant: Triathlon Bike

Sammi is a US Air Force Veteran and Paralympic Archer transitioning to the sport of paratriathlon. Sammi lost her arm below the elbow in a car accident in 2010, and started competing in archery in 2015.

She was selected for the US para-archery team the following year, leading up to the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. Through Operation Rebound and the generous support of the Maguire Family Foundation, Sammi received her first triathlon bike. She is currently training for the 2020 IRONMAN 70.3 Oceanside.

Physical Challenge: Below-Elbow Amputee



Andrew Pike – Kuna, ID

Grant: Competition Travel

Andrew is a retired Army soldier and Purple Heart recipient. While on a routine foot patrol in Iraq in 2007, a sniper's bullet struck Andrew in the abdomen below his body armor. The bullet severely damaged his left kidney and cut off blood flow to his spinal cord, resulting in permanent paralysis from the waist down.

He was introduced to Operation Rebound two years later and got involved in track and field and archery. With the continued support of Operation Rebound, Andrew is competing in archery competitions across the nation.

Physical Challenge: Paraplegia

TRANSFORMATIONAL MOMENTS

As a result of CAF's partnership and media reach, CAF athletes have had life-changing experiences in the spotlight. From pursuing their sport with a professional athlete to being surprised with adaptive sports equipment, these moments have significant impact in the lives of our challenged athletes and our community at large.



MATTHEW WALLACE was surprised with a new basketball wheelchair in the first quarter of the New Orleans Pelicans NBA game.



IZZY TURKINGTON was surprised with new running legs and got the opportunity to run alongside NFL linebacker and hand amputee, **SHAQUEM GRIFFIN**.



LUZI CASTILLO shot hoops with NBA champion **KOBE BRYANT** as he saluted challenged athletes as the true heroes of sport.



CAMI WOOD was introduced to adaptive surf at CAF's three-day camp and caught waves with pro surfer **ROB MACHADO**.



ALEX RUIZ was surprised with a new sports prosthetic leg by NFL quarterback **DREW BREES**, getting Alex back on the field with the sport he loves and the encouragement of the pros.

THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP

CAF connects young and newly injured athletes with mentors who have had similar life experiences and can shine a guiding light on the path forward. These mentoring relationships provide impactful support that continuously inspires, develops skills, and builds confidence.



TRAVIS RICKS, Associate Programs Director, shares cycling tips with **CHRISTIAN METZLER** at the Paratriathlon camp.



Paralympian **SCOUT BASSETT** and High School Track Athlete **ELLA RODRIGUEZ** spend a week training together at the Chula Vista training center.



CAF Ambassadors **RUDY GARCIA-TOLSON** and **RODERICK SEWELL** support Youth Athlete **LOGAN PASSE** at the Annual Kids Run.



LERA DOEDERLEIN and four-time Paralympian and multiple world-champion **OKSANA MASTERS** race together on the CAF Women's Handcycling Team.



Competitive Adaptive Surfer and WCMX Athlete **CHRISTIAAN "OTTER" BAILEY** mentors and motivates youth athlete **HUNTER POCHOP** and others.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

CAF signature events drive our mission forward by raising funds and creating impactful moments for challenged athletes and supporters alike.



A CELEBRATION OF WILL

We culminated our 25th anniversary with a historical night of the most funds CAF has ever raised in a single evening. The \$4.4 million impact of the San Diego gala went directly to expanding our grant program, increasing access to high school sports, and securing the CAF endowment.



A CELEBRATION OF HEART

For the second year, CAF and the San Francisco community came together for a night of celebrating heart. Funds raised at the gala helped to expand our reach, grow our local community, and ensure athletes in Northern California have the support they need.



YMCA OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY TOUR DE COVE

A highlight event of the San Diego Triathlon Challenge weekend, this high-energy 4.5-hour stationary cyclethon showcased our incredible partnership with the YMCA of San Diego County by raising funds and providing access to sports and fitness through lifetime YMCA memberships to local challenged athletes.



A CELEBRATION OF HEROES, HEART AND HOPE

The 13th annual New York gala put incredible challenged athletes center stage as they shared uplifting stories of bravery, determination, and achievement in sport – and in life. The event creates community while providing access to sports for individuals in the Northeast region.



MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

Every year since 2006, cyclists with and without physical challenges have joined together to ride 620 miles down the California coast and raise over \$1 million annually for CAF's mission. In 2018, a record 12 challenged athletes and 140 supporters joined the fundraising peloton for the community-building, seven-day journey.



ASPEN MEDICAL PRODUCTS SAN DIEGO TRIATHLON CHALLENGE

In celebration of CAF's founding event, the 25th annual Aspen Medical Products San Diego Triathlon Challenge was an inspirational weekend that transformed lives and changed perception of what people with permanent physical challenges can accomplish. Nearly 300 challenged athletes and hundreds more fundraisers participated in events throughout the weekend, including the title triathlon, challenged athlete kid's run, 5k fitness walk, inclusive yoga, and more!



STRATEGIC REGIONS

CAF's goal is to create robust, engaged communities of challenged athletes, families, donors, volunteers, and partners. We've expanded regional initiatives across three major areas – the Northeast, Northern California, and Idaho – to impact more athletes through grants, adaptive sport clinics, and community events. By creating a pathway to be part of a social network through sport, CAF helps athletes grow while feeling connected to each other and to their community.



NORTHEAST



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



IDAHO

LET'S CONNECT

Contact our Regional and Development teams to get involved in a local area or learn more about partnership opportunities.

- ▶ **Jennifer Skesick** / jennifers@challengedathletes.org
Idaho Regional Director
- ▶ **Nancy Reynolds** / nreynolds@challengedathletes.org
Senior Director Business Development
- ▶ **Doug Olson** / doug@challengedathletes.org
Senior Development Director, Northeast Region
- ▶ **Susan Butler** / susan@challengedathletes.org
Development Director Northern California
- ▶ **Jason Karavidas** / jasonk@challengedathletes.org
Senior Business Development Manager



WE APPLAUD OUR PARTNERS

CAF partners with innovative brands, companies, and funders who care about our work and who look to make the world a better place for years to come. Together, we create a shared value and a culture that threads CAF's mission in the activation, experience, and message shared out to others. We are so grateful for the many partners who support our athletes and events, fund our programs, share resources, donate products, and engage their employees to do more in the world. CAF recognizes our key partners in 2018-2019 for their dedicated support. Thank you!



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

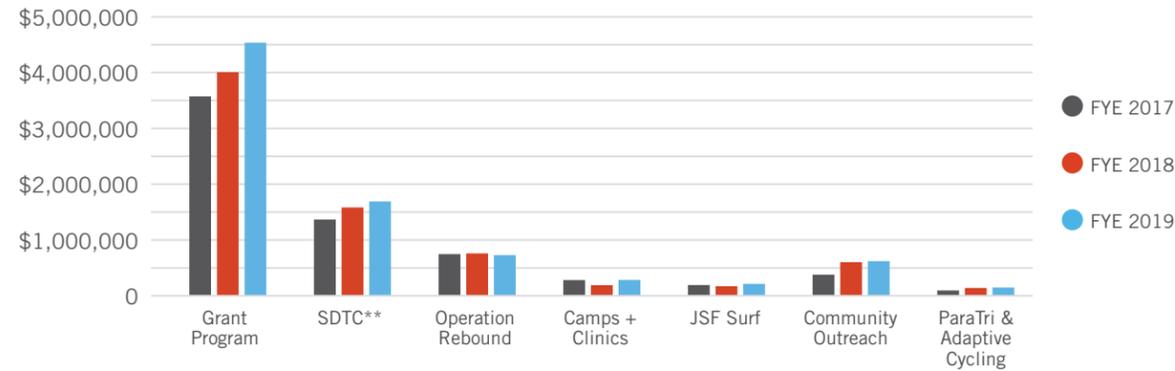
There have been countless individuals, organizations, volunteers, and athletes who have selflessly and generously dedicated themselves to our cause. We are beyond grateful to each and every person who has supported CAF and helped create our incredible community!



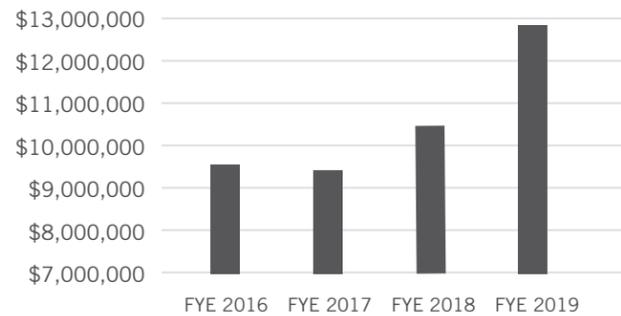
FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

Our commitment to CAF stakeholders, partners, and the overall community is to provide the greatest impact, stay true to our mission and remain accountable throughout all initiatives. CAF's efficient operations ensure that 81 cents of every dollar spent goes towards our Programs that directly serve our mission. For detailed financial reporting of the fiscal year 2018-2019*, visit <http://www.challengedathletes.org/financials/>.

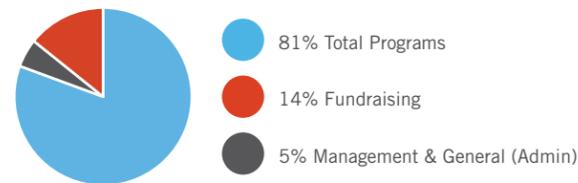
CAF Spending by Program



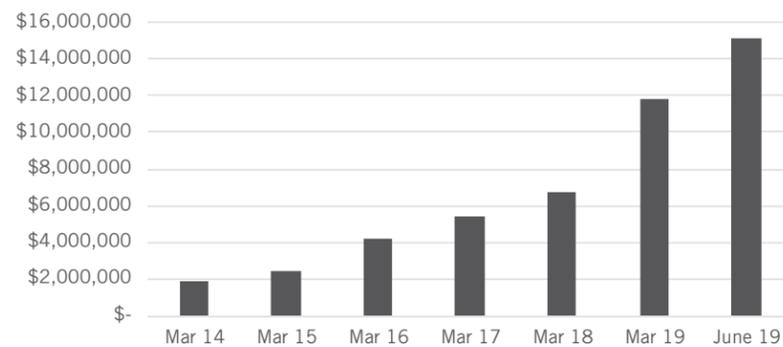
CAF Revenue



CAF Spending Breakdown FYE 2019



Endowment Funds



About Our Endowment

While CAF looks to help as many challenged athletes as possible on an annual basis, we also strive to secure our future and ensure long-term financial viability. As our community grows, so does the anticipation of future needs for grants, clinics, mentors, community outreach, and other vital programming. For over two decades the CAF Board of Directors has been following a consistent and committed effort to build CAF's endowment with a goal of generating meaningful income to continue our work.

We are grateful to the many donors who have chosen to help us reach toward our goal of \$20 million by designating their gifts or including CAF in their estate planning decisions, all to help secure our future. Your contribution to the CAF endowment ensures that your gift lives on permanently and ensures the mission of serving challenged athletes will continue for future generations. Whether through a gift of cash, stock, or a bequest, these funds give us confidence that we will meet the needs of future challenged athletes.

If you are interested in planned giving or learning more about our endowment please contact **Virginia Tinley**, Chief Executive Director, at virginia@challengedathletes.org.



*Challenged Athletes Foundation's Fiscal Year begins April 1 and ends March 31.

**Program spending for SDTC is for the challenged athlete participation, travel and clinics offered during the event weekend.



CONTINUED NEED

- ▶ **21 million** people are living with a physical disability in the US.
- ▶ **50%** of adults with a physical disability get no aerobic activity.
- ▶ **18%** of wheelchair users are employed. This number rises to 58% over time for those who participate in wheelchair sports.
- ▶ Obesity rates for children with a disability are **38%** higher than for children without.
- ▶ Youth with a disability are **4.5 times** less physically active than their peers without a disability.

Sources available on request.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeffrey Essakow
Board President,
Co-Founder

Dean Roeper
Secretary

Julie Franklin
Jeff Jacobs
Chad Jerdee

Advisory Committee
Clive Essakow
Sari Levy-Schorr
Justin Model
Alan Romick

Bob Babbitt
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Co-Founder

Tommy Knapp
Treasurer

Tabi King
Lotte Moore
Swan Paik

Rick Kozlowski
Co-Founder

David Samson
Alan Shanken
Scott Stackman



MISSION

To provide opportunities and support to people with physical challenges, so they can pursue active lifestyles through physical fitness and competitive athletics. We believe that involvement in sports at any level increases self-esteem, encourages independence, and enhances quality of life.

challengedathletes.org

EMPOWERING LIVES THROUGH SPORT

