2022 ANNUAL GRANT DISTRIBUTION
A FUTURE IGNITED THROUGH SPORT
CAFencourages athletes to ignite their futures through sport

Sport ignites commitment and purpose in kids, teens, and adults. That’s why the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) provides life-changing access to adaptive sports equipment, coaching, and competition expenses. This year, we ignited more futures through sport.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, CAF awarded **3,256** grants in 2022 (valued over $6.2 million) to individuals with physical challenges.

**General Facts & Figures**
- **50** States + Puerto Rico
- **29** Countries
- 2 Years old - youngest
- 78 Years old - oldest
- 36% Female
- 63% Male

**Physical Challenges**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amputation</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spina Bifida</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral Palsy</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinal Cord Injury</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraplegia</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Impairment</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadriplegia</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Incomes Breakdown**
- **36%** Households earning under $20,000/year
- **26%** Households earning between $20,000 – $50,000/year
- **27%** Youth Grants Under age of 18
- **83** Number of Sports
- **33%** First-Time Grant Recipients

**Grant Requests by Sport**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Requests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Basketball</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beep Baseball</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sled Hockey</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Tennis</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triathlon</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfing</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handcycling</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Rugby</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Racing</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Training</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fitness</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Soccer</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian/Dressage</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Skiing</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Climbing</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CrossFit</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CEDRIC DUNN / Euless, TX
Grant: Top End Pro-2 All Sport Wheelchair
Sport: Baseball, Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Tennis
Physical Challenge: Paraplegia
Cedric, who was born with Hereditary Spastic Paraparesis 4, loves sports. It’s apparent from the number of sports he’s already tried and the level of commitment he’s taken with each one. Baseball at age 4, wheelchair basketball at age 8, track & field, and now wheelchair tennis! His goal? To be a Paralympian of course! And with his new Top End Pro-2 All Sport Wheelchair, he’ll be able to tackle all the sports he loves playing in a chair that fits.

REBECCA SPRINGSTEAD / Lutz, FL
Grant: Funding Towards Equipment
Sport: Cycling
Physical Challenge: Amputee
In January of 2019, Rebecca had an unexplainable massive heart attack and died 3 times before being revived and placed in a coma. When she woke up, she discovered that she had lost her left leg above the knee due to complications. Playing sports has been her motivation in life - to test herself and improve her physical and mental strength. She loves competition and always strives to compete amongst the best. With that motivation lifting her up, she would like to train for a triathlon. And with the help of CAF, she will be able to tackle her training on a new recumbent bicycle.

MATTHEW RUSSELL / Phoenix, AZ
Grant: Melrose Warrior American Football Chair
Sport: Wheelchair Football
Physical Challenge: Paraplegia
When Matthew was 20 months old, he contracted polio and as a result, became a paraplegic. He has played adaptive sports since he was a child and keeping active has been a focus of his life. Matthew’s whole life revolves around sports; most of his friends are his teammates or competitors. This Melrose Warrior American Football Chair will allow Matthew to improve his football skills and help his team become more competitive.

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

THANK YOU TO OUR ADAPTIVE SPORTS EQUIPMENT PROVIDERS
CHRISTOPHER MORGAN / Douglasville, GA

Grant: Sport Expense  
Sport: Beep Baseball  
Physical Challenge: Visual Impairment

Christopher was born missing a right eye and a smaller underdeveloped left eye. With two older athletic brothers, he was exposed to sport at an early age and his parents made sure that he had opportunities to exercise and learn sports that were adapted for him.

With the additional funds a CAF grant provides to help support Christopher’s sports journey, he will have the ability to purchase specialized and adaptive equipment so that he can continue to grow in the sport that he loves.

STEVEN AMBROSE / San Francisco, CA

Grant: Össur Sports Prosthetic  
Sport: Running  
Physical Challenge: Single Below Knee Amputee

Stephen acquired his disability after suffering from compartment syndrome resulting from a hiking accident in 2019. Since his amputation, he has resumed low impact aerobics and weightlifting, but he would like to perform higher impact aerobics, jogging, running and jumping. Aerobic activity gives Stephen a sense of well-being and fends off depression. It also helps with his weight and cholesterol levels. His fitness activity is currently limited and running is not possible on his existing prosthesis. With an Össur Sports Prosthetic, Stephen can expand his exercise opportunities and improve his physical and mental health.

DAKOTA NESBITT / Lancaster, PA

Grant: Top End Pro Basketball Chair  
Sport: Wheelchair Basketball  
Physical Challenge: Spina Bifida

Dakota recently started playing wheelchair basketball with the Bennett Blazers. It wasn’t until her first practice that her parents realized that in all the sports Dakota has ever tried, she was chasing the game or the play - never close enough to be part of it.

This experience was so different; now that she was in a basketball wheelchair she got the ball, she won her first game of tag, she shot the basketball 3 times in one scrimmage. She wasn’t behind anyone. She was in it. Having her very own Top End Pro Basketball Chair will allow her to not only continue improving her self-confidence both on and off the court but allow her to practice anytime – even at home.

AMELIA DITTMAR-MAGGS / Denver, CO

Grant: Funding Towards Equipment Grant  
Sport: Snowboarding  
Physical Challenge: Below Knee Amputee

After hitting a patch of ice, Amelia managed to pull herself out of a near-fatal car accident where she lost her right foot and sustained other major injuries. She was extremely active growing up and only a few days after her amputation she had already exceeded her rehab goals. A year later, Amelia continues to push the boundaries of running and training with a sharp focus on racing at an elite level.
From frontline to finish line, we’re igniting the futures of our injured military and first responders so they can get back in the game.

**GRANT PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT ➤ OPERATION REBOUND**

- **295** Grants Given
- **32%** First-Time Grant Recipients
- **$535K** In Total Funding
- **34** Purple Heart Recipients

**GRANT PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT ➤ INNOVATION**

Powered by the partnerships CAF has with companies like Össur, GRIT, Toyota, and J&L Pie, we’re able to bring innovation and empowerment to even more athletes. The latest in prosthetic advancements, custom engineered off road wheelchairs and electric-assist technology for cycling are some of the advancements in adaptive equipment.

**MATTHEW “MATT” FREITAS**
Weymouth, MA
Grant: Össur Sports Prosthesis
Sport: Lacrosse, American Ninja Warrior
Physical Challenge: Single Below Knee Amputee

**SOFIA JONES**
San Diego, CA
Grant: GRIT Freedom Chair Jr.
Sport: Hiking
Physical Challenge: Cerebral Palsy

**CONOR O’DEA**
Limerick, Ireland
Grant: Adventure Trike with E-Assist
Sport: Cycling
Physical Challenge: Paraplegia

**PAUL COLAVINCENZO**
Kettering, OH
Grant: Bike Trainer
Sport: Triathlon
Physical Challenge: Amputee

**DIANA ROMERO**
Bound Brook, NJ
Grant: Sports Expense Grant
Sport: Archery
Physical Challenge: Spinal Cord Injury

**JOSUE BARRON**
Temecula, CA
Grant: Sports Expense Grant
Sport: Handcycling
Physical Challenge: Visual Impairment, Amputee
Investing in athletes on their way to gold for the past 28 years, CAF has supported over 50% of Team USA. Our grants, camps, clinics, community, and mentorship are vital to the overall progress of the Paralympic movement.

BEIJING ATHLETES

THOMAS WALSH
Vail, CO
Paralympic Games: 2018, 2022
Grant: Sports Expense Grant
Sport: Alpine Skiing
Physical Challenge: Ewing's Sarcoma

SPENCER WOOD
Pittsfield, VT
Paralympic Games: 2018, 2022
Grant: Sports Expense Grant
Sport: Alpine Skiing
Physical Challenge: Hemiplegia

DANI ARAVICH
Eagle, ID
Paralympic Games: 2020
Grant: Sports Expense Grant
Sport: Nordic Skiing & Biathlon
Physical Challenge: Limb Difference

TOKYO ATHLETES

JUSTIN PHONGSAVANH
Des Moines, IA
Paralympic Games: 2020
Grant: Sports Expense Grant
Sport: Javelin – Track & Field
Physical Challenge: Spinal Cord Injury

SHELBY JENSEN
Salt Lake City, UT
Paralympic Games: 2020
Grant: Eagle Fencing Chair
Sport: Wheelchair Fencing
Physical Challenge: Traumatic Brain Injury

AMANDA DENNIS
Peachtree City, GA
Paralympic Games: 2012, 2016, 2020
Grant: Sports Expense Grant
Sport: Goal Ball
Physical Challenge: Visual Impairment
THANK YOU TO OUR GRANT PROGRAM FUNDERS

American Securities Foundation  |  Charles and Ruth Billingsley Foundation
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Ironman Foundation  |  The JEM Project  |  Yellowstone Club Community Foundation
The Foundation for Global Sports Development  |  David C. Copley Foundation
PNC Charitable Trusts  |  SWITCHFOOT BRO-AM Foundation
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THANK YOU TO OUR GLOBAL SPONSORS + CAF ENDOWMENTS

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