



## 2022 ANNUAL GRANT DISTRIBUTION

A FUTURE IGNITED THROUGH SPORT





CAF ENCOURAGES 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

- 19%** Amputation
- 12%** Spina Bifida
- 10%** Cerebral Palsy
- 9%** Spinal Cord Injury
- 8%** Paraplegia
- 4%** Visual Impairment
- 2%** Quadriplegia

3,256

GRANTS AWARDED  
in 2022

27%

YOUTH GRANTS  
Under age of 18

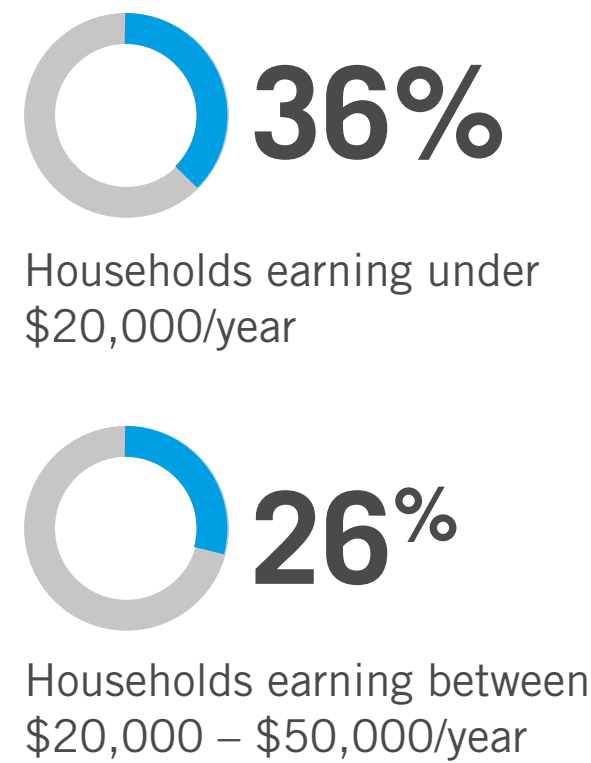
83

# OF SPORTS

33%

FIRST-TIME  
GRANT RECIPIENTS

INCOME BREAKDOWN



GRANT REQUESTS BY SPORT

- ▶ Wheelchair Basketball | **294**
  - ▶ Track & Field | **143**
  - ▶ Beep Baseball | **128**
  - ▶ Cycling | **128**
  - ▶ Sled Hockey | **111**
  - ▶ Wheelchair Tennis | **84**
  - ▶ Hiking | **82**
  - ▶ Triathlon | **71**
  - ▶ Swimming | **69**
  - ▶ Surfing | **63**
  - ▶ Handcycling | **61**
- ▶ Wheelchair Rugby | **61**
  - ▶ Wheelchair Racing | **44**
  - ▶ Personal Training | **43**
  - ▶ General Fitness | **43**
  - ▶ Power Soccer | **42**
  - ▶ Equestrian/Dressage | **38**
  - ▶ Alpine Skiing | **31**
  - ▶ Golf | **27**
  - ▶ Basketball | **26**
  - ▶ Rock Climbing | **22**
  - ▶ CrossFit | **21**



## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



**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.



## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



**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.

## THANK YOU TO OUR ADAPTIVE SPORTS EQUIPMENT PROVIDERS





## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



### 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.



### 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.

## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



### 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

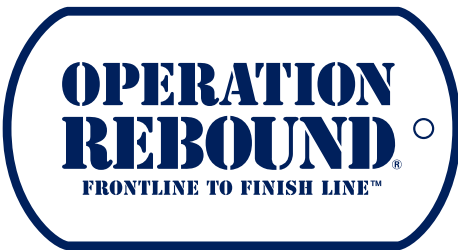
**Physical Challenge:** Spina Bifida

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.







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.

295

Grants Given

32%

First-Time Grant Recipients

\$535K

In Total Funding

34

Purple Heart Recipients

- ▶ 14% Air Force

▶ 17% Marines

▶ 1% Border Patrol

▶ 2% Paramedic
- ▶ 42% Army

▶ 16% Navy

▶ 3% Fire Fighter

▶ 4% Police



**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

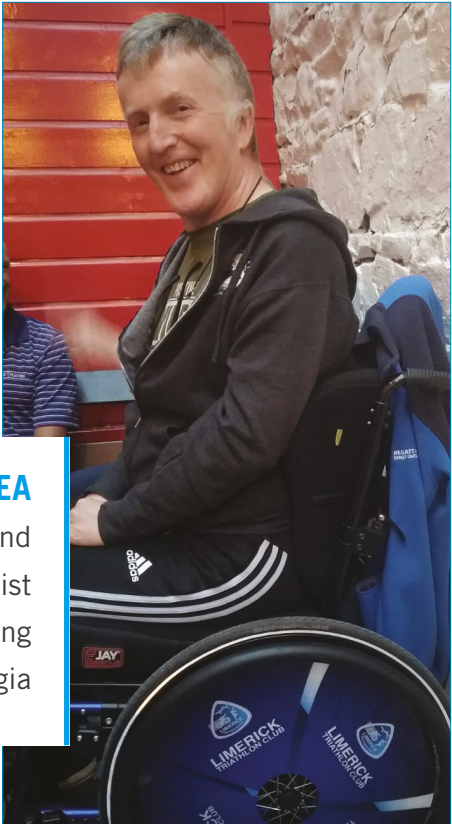
Powered by the partnerships CAF has with companies like Össur, GRIT, Toyota, and J&L Pie, we're able to bring innovation and empowerment to even more athletes. The latest in prosthetic advancements, custom engineered off road wheelchairs and electric-assist technology for cycling are some of the advancements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



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  
 Craig H. Neilsen Foundation | FedEx Cares | Goodwin Family Memorial Trust  
 Ironman Foundation | The JEM Project | Yellowstone Club Community Foundation  
 The Foundation for Global Sports Development | David C. Copley Foundation  
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## THANK YOU TO OUR GLOBAL SPONSORS + CAF ENDOWMENTS



CAF ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF ROBIN WILLIAMS | CAF ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF ROBERT SPOTSWOOD



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