



EMPOWERING LIVES THROUGH SPORT



2022 // 2023

April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER OF REFLECTION AND GRATITUDE

Dear Friends,

I have always been moved by the power of the human spirit and our instinctual ability to survive and thrive. Over the past 30 years, I have seen individuals face some of life’s most difficult circumstances and find their way to a place of joy and hope; however, that journey to fulfillment can only happen with opportunity, and that is where the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) has played a vital role. It is why we exist.

Creating opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities to grow, become more independent, and experience life to the fullest is the reason we started CAF after our friend Jim MacLaren’s second accident. Looking back on nearly 30 years of work, I’m profoundly grateful for the thousands of lives we have had the opportunity to be a part of along the way. During life’s most critical moments, at the crossroad of what is known and unknown, support from CAF made the difference, re-igniting passions and changing life’s trajectory through access to sport.

Each page of our annual report demonstrates the power of movement. I am continuously inspired by how our community has used their passions to build stronger connections and empower others, especially the next generation. In the year ahead, as we celebrate CAF’s 30th anniversary, we also honor and celebrate this movement. If you are reading this today, you are undoubtedly part of this movement and the CAF family as well.

Since 1994, CAF has distributed **43,996 grants** to athletes globally and raised **\$154M**.

Reflecting on the past, I am enthusiastic about the future. My deepest hope for all who have found or will one day find healing and strength through sport will always have hope knowing that CAF will be here when we are needed most.

Jeffrey Essakow
CAF Co-Founder, Board President

Jeffrey Essakow (left), Bob Babbitt (right), and Rosalie Parker (center)



ANNUAL GRANT DISTRIBUTION

3,996
Grants Distributed

\$7,000,000
in funding support



In March of 2023, CAF distributed 3,996 grants, totaling \$7M in support – the most extensive single-year distribution in the history of our organization. The athletes who received grants this year are not only achieving great things in sports at all levels of recreation and competition, but they are also making a significant impact in the community, advocating for others with physical disabilities, and moving us forward into a world where everyone has an equal chance to be active and thrive.

DISTRIBUTION FACTS AND FIGURES

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 50 States + Puerto Rico | 35% Female |
| 39 Countries | 64% Male |
| 02 Years Old Youngest | 28% Youth Grants (Under 18) |
| 88 Years Old Oldest | 101 Different Sports |
| | 36% First Time Grant Recipients |

INCOME OVERVIEW

- 33%**
Households earning under \$20,000/year
- 26%**
Households earning between \$20,000 – \$50,000/year

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: MARLENE MORAN

In a touching moment during the 2022 Toyota Auto Show and Sports Festival in Los Angeles, six-year-old Marlene Moran received a sports expense grant to participate in one of her favorite activities, wheelchair dance. Marlene gives credit to sports for increasing her confidence and strengthening her connection to a supportive community. Her goals are to be as active as possible, and try everything at least once.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
2023 ANNUAL GRANT DISTRIBUTION**

SPORTS CLINICS

1,300
Athletes
Empowered

55
Clinics

CAF's sports clinics offer a safe and supportive environment to learn directly from professional coaches at no cost.

Bringing the joy of sport and community from coast to coast with clinics in ten different states, athletes not only advanced their skills in the activities they know and love but tried new ones in new locations, creating opportunities for growth and exploration at all experience levels. CAF's goal of expanding the types of sports we offer to include more lifestyle activities proved successful and impactful.

“

I enjoy being able to give back what was given toward me - the generosity and the patience to learn a new sport. Getting outdoors, having fun with other people, and removing the barriers that make it difficult to have good experiences in the outdoors is huge.”

Jordan Valentine
CAF 2023 Nordic Ski Coach
and CAF Athlete

COACHING SPOTLIGHT



In 2019, Jordan Valentine was in a helicopter crash that resulted in a spinal cord injury. As she worked hard in therapy to improve her walking mobility, she found joy skiing with CAF-Idaho. Returning as a CAF clinic coach, Jordan uses her experience and talents to empower others in the snow.



FLY FISHING



BEACH VOLLEYBALL

ROCK CLIMBING



SURF



SKATE

GOLF » CHALLENGED ATHLETES FOUNDATION
FIRST GOLF CLINIC

SPORTS CLINICS

RUNNING + MOBILITY

222
Athletes
Empowered

6
Clinics



Each year, CAF and Össur support athletes of all ages with lower limb differences through nationwide running and mobility clinics.

Led by world-renowned expert coaches in mobility and gait mechanics, clinic participants learn to move more confidently with their prosthesis(es). CAF and Össur's long-time partnership has not only empowered athletes to live life without limitations through in-person programs, but through the 1,500+ athletic prosthetics distributed through CAF's grant program totaling \$2M in support.



San Diego, CA
at Mission Bay
70 Athletes
50 Volunteers



Houston, TX
at Rice University
23 Athletes
30 Volunteers



Atlanta, GA
at Georgia Tech
41 Athletes
34 Volunteers

Coaching Spotlight: Eric McElvenny - U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and Team USA Paralympic Athlete



Washington, DC
at Nationals Park
33 Athletes
34 Volunteers



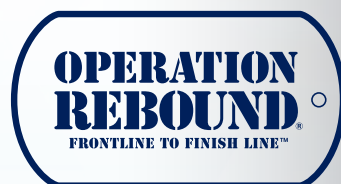
Fort Wayne, IN
at Turnstone Center
25 Athletes
20 Volunteers



Manchester, NH
at Northeast Delta Dental Stadium
30 Athletes
25 Volunteers



OPERATION REBOUND



SERVING OUR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Established in 2005, Operation Rebound is an exceptional program that uniquely answers the growing need for those looking to center their healing journey around healthy activities and building community.

Led by Nico Marcolongo, a former Marine Officer and Iraq conflict veteran with over 20 years of professional experience supporting the needs of veterans and first responders with physical disabilities, Operation Rebound has served 1,687 athletes since its inception. This individualized support model has proven to help veterans and first responders feel like team members again – from the front line to the finish line.

448

Grants Distributed

46

Purple Heart Recipients

50

VA Adaptive Sports Clinics



SPORTS CLINICS

New Paltz, NY was the site of the second Operation Rebound Outdoor Adventure experience which welcomed 10 athletes from the region. Participants rock climbed, hiked, practiced yoga, and cycled in and around the beautiful Shawangunk Mountains - many for the first time. The event was supported by the RAW Endurance team who conducts triathlon camps in the area, believing strongly in Operation Rebound's mission.

GRANTS

CAF's Operation Rebound distributed 448 grants to veterans and first responders totaling \$661,082 throughout the fiscal year. Of those, 216 athletes were first-time grant recipients and 46 were purple heart recipients. Shawntina is a U.S. Army veteran who enjoys being active and participating in sports. She was first introduced to Operation Rebound in 2022 through her blind rehabilitation services coordinator at the Alexandria VA Hospital in Louisiana.

Shawntina, who participated in her first triathlon during CAF's San Diego Triathlon Challenge last October, will use her grant to continue training at her local gym and pursue her athletic goals.



VA COLLABORATIONS

Operation Rebound's regular clinic programming supports the US Department of Veterans Affairs biopsychosocial-based therapy for veterans. While CAF takes the lead in providing recreational activity, the VA practitioners focus their efforts on experiential therapy's clinical aspect. Clinics included surf, rock climbing, horseback riding, and golf in San Diego, CA; bocchia in Atlanta, GA; blind bowling in Charlotte, NC; and hockey in Dallas, TX.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



CAF-IDAHO MAKES DREAMS A REALITY

Thanks to generous support from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, CAF-Idaho athletes experienced new sports, created new friendships and community, and enjoyed every seasonal sport the state offers. CAF-Idaho also continues to make dreams a reality through partnerships with adaptive sports organizations throughout the state who are making an impact in the community.



SPORTS CLINICS

CAF-Idaho hosted 12 sports clinics (with six being multi-day events) in nine different sports, including mountain biking, cycling, baseball, rock climbing, sled hockey, nordic ski, alpine ski, adaptive workouts, and sitting volleyball. In total, clinics welcomed 153 participants throughout the year.



GRANTS

CAF-Idaho awarded 153 athletes grants throughout the year to those living within the state. One of those athletes was Ally Mauck, a member of Idaho's first wheelchair basketball team. Ally is not only a CAF-Idaho grant recipient but frequently attends clinics as both a participant and an athlete mentor.

IDAHO OUTDOOR FIELDHOUSE

The Idaho Outdoor Fieldhouse (opening November 2023) is the future headquarters of CAF-Idaho and Mission43. The 7-acre campus in Boise is a place for athletes to physically, mentally, and professionally live up to their full potential with an accessible design that will become a premiere destination for generations to come.

EQUIPMENT INNOVATION

CAF-Idaho Program Manager and Nordic Development Team Coach Wilson Dipppo combined his passion for skiing and experience working with athletes to engineer sit-skis for two youth CAF athletes, Vivian and Eliza, who received their new equipment at the Boulder Mountain Tour.

PARA NORDIC DEVELOPMENT

The 2023 Para Nordic World Cup at Soldier Hollow was the first in the U.S. since 2002. The event debuted a new sit-ski course and updated Biathlon range, bringing 180 athletes from 15+ countries to compete for the largest-ever financial prize. CAF provided \$18,500 in travel grants to top international competitors in eight countries, who brought home one gold, one silver, and six bronze medals.

MISSION43

CAF and Mission43 served veterans and families in Idaho through sports clinics, community events, volunteer opportunities, and the fabrication of new adaptive sports equipment. A few of these activities included the Purple Heart Run, 9/11 Miles of Remembrance Run, Sled Hockey Clinic, Nordic Skiing at Bogus, Sitting Volleyball Clinics, and CAF's Winter Sports Weekend.



CAF-NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTINUES TO THRIVE

With the addition of Eva Kristof, our new Programs and Community Relations Manager dedicated to athlete outreach and program implementation, the region is flourishing in new ways through community outreach and increased program opportunities. From cycling to golf to wheelchair basketball to skiing to curling, there was always a new sport to learn and new friends to make.



CELEBRATION OF HEART

CAF's 2022 Celebration of Heart presented by the Golden State Warriors was held at the spectacular Chase Center in San Francisco. More than 350 Bay Area CAF community members came together to support CAF's mission and recognize our regional impact, **raising \$650,000 throughout the heart-filled evening.**



CAF'S FIRST GOLF CLINIC

CAF hosted our very first golf clinic at the world-renowned Olympic Club in San Francisco. The clinic welcomed 24 local golfers of all ages with varying physical disabilities, a United States Adaptive Golf Association certified coaching staff, and World Champion Blind Golfer Jeremy Poincenot.



LAKE TAHOE SKI AND BIATHLON CLINIC

In collaboration with local adaptive sports organization Achieve Tahoe, CAF welcomed 15 athletes of all ages to the snow for a Nordic Ski and Biathlon clinic at the Tahoe Donner Ski Resort. Because so few coaches specialize in Para Nordic ski, this clinic was a unique opportunity for people to try a new sport while learning from experts in the sport.



CAF + GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS + BORP WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CLINICS

Working closely with the Golden State Warriors and the Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP), CAF proudly hosted a wheelchair basketball clinic series as part of an exciting new program initiative with the Warriors Basketball Academy to grow sports opportunities for youth in the Bay Area.



SLED HOCKEY + WHEELCHAIR CURLING

CAF's sled hockey and wheelchair curling clinic welcomed athletes of all ages to learn directly from Paralympic curling coaches and Paralympic sled hockey gold medalists and the chance to meet San Jose Barracuda players. The Barracuda also generously offered every participant tickets to a game the night before the clinic.



LANDIS SIMS + DAVE DRAVECKY + SAN FRANCISCO JUNIOR GIANTS

The San Francisco Giants welcomed Landis Sims to throw out the first pitch at a game over the summer. While in San Francisco, Landis also participated in a Junior Giants practice and joined former Giant's player Dave Dravecky at a youth baseball clinic on Treasure Island.



CAF-NORTHEAST DEFINES COMMUNITY

CAF-Northeast grew rapidly last fiscal year through increased athlete community engagement. Welcoming a new Programs and Community Relations Manager, Kelly Worrell, CAF's work geared up, providing more clinics, more grants, and more opportunities to come together. With a strong focus on offering new sports and engaging new athletes, CAF-Northeast is the true definition of community.



HEROES, HEART, AND HOPE

On a stunning summer evening at Ludlow Farms in Southampton, NY, over 350 supporters, athletes, business leaders, and donors celebrated the transformational power of sports at the 2022 Heroes, Heart, and Hope Gala. Hosted by chairman and gala founder Scott and Emily Stackman and honorees Richard and Christine Mack, **the extraordinary evening raised \$2.2M.**



EMPIRE STATE BUILDING RUN-UP

CAF was the official charity partner of the Empire State Building Run-Up, an iconic race that has become the ultimate test of endurance. Six athletes represented TeamCAF this year including Christian Metzler, Anthony "A-Train" Smith, Roosevelt Morring, Billy Davis, Chris Provenzano, and CAF's own Kelly Worrell.



DEVILS YOUTH FOUNDATION

Thanks to support from the Devils Youth Foundation, CAF welcomed approximately 25 participants to a sled hockey clinic. Paralympian Andy Yohe shared his expertise on the ice, creating moments of mentorship and guidance for the next generation. Additionally, funding provided 18 youth athletes from New Jersey with grants through CAF's Grant Program.



RIVERDALE COUNTRY SCHOOL CAF CLUB

The CAF Club at Riverdale Country School is a student-led effort dedicated to supporting our mission. The club hosted its first annual CAF Field Day, where high school students had an inclusive sports experience and presented a new basketball wheelchair to William Zhumi Hidalgo, of the New York Rolling Fury.



CAF AT THE ABILITIES EXPO

CAF participated in multiple community events to introduce new athletes to CAF, which included the Abilities Expo in Edison, NJ held at the NJ Convention and Exposition Center. Volunteers for the day included athletes from wheelchair basketball team, Katie's Comets, and the Navigators Adaptive Sports Club.



SWIM CLINIC

CAF's Swim Clinic welcomed 24 athletes from Pennsylvania and New Jersey through the joy of swim. Coach Alan Voisard created programming to meet the experience levels of all participants, focusing on swim strokes and techniques.

SIGNATURE
EVENTS



MILLION
DOLLAR
CHALLENGE



EVENT OVERVIEW

130

Riders

27

Riders with
Physical Disabilities

620

Miles

\$1,919,000

Raised

CAF's 2022 Million Dollar Challenge, presented by Sully Entertainment, brought together our inclusive peloton of supporters and cyclists, demonstrating the power of sport to unite and inspire, traveling over 620 miles of the California coast from San Francisco to La Jolla. From start to finish, each mile brought to fruition months of training and fundraising while connecting each person through the love of cycling and CAF's mission.



San Francisco

Santa Cruz

Big Sur

Pismo Beach

Santa Barbara

Santa Monica

Dana Point

San Diego

Pictured above: CJ Howard on Day 3 of MDC. After being diagnosed with osteosarcoma during his freshman year of college, he vowed to maintain an active and competitive lifestyle. He has gone on to thrive while running, skiing, rock climbing, and cycling. In 2022 he represented Team USA in the Para-Cycling World Cup.



SIGNATURE
EVENTS



EVENT OVERVIEW

CAF’s 2022 Community Challenge Weekend, powered by Strava featured the San Diego Triathlon Challenge presented by Dan + Geof and Tour de Cove presented by EōS Fitness. This powerful weekend continues to bring the community together through the love of sports and is a place where all athletes can achieve their goals, make new friendships, and thrive.

925
Participants

1,000
Volunteers

47
Sponsors

\$1,526,178
Raised



12
SPORT CLINICS
& EXPERIENCES
with 193
PARTICIPANTS



ATHLETE-FIRST ACTIVATIONS

09 SUPRISE GRANTS

01 TOYOTA ATHLETE LOUNGE

As Community Challenge Weekend’s Official Mobility Sponsor, Toyota hosted the first-ever Athlete Lounge to celebrate all athletes competing in events throughout the day on Sunday.

CAF + SMOOTHIE KING + DREW BREES

Thanks to our global partnership with Smoothie King, NFL legend Drew Brees visited CAF's headquarters office. World-record holder and Paralympic hopeful Zion Clark shared his skills as a professional wrestler and mixed martial artist; Bethany Zummo, two-time Paralympic gold medalist, gave lessons on the sitting volleyball court; and two-time Paralympic gold medalist Steve Serio made each 3-point shot look easy during a game of wheelchair basketball. Drew also presented a grant to Albee Granillo for his first WCMX skate wheelchair.

ACCENTURE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

CAF's global partner Accenture selected our organization as their Accenture Innovation Challenge beneficiary. The challenge was a unique opportunity for a group of undergraduates to present their ideas on how CAF can expand our digital reach and build community as they competed for a coveted employment opportunity with Accenture.

CAF IN ANTARCTICA WITH JOE MUSGROVE

The stage was set on Antarctica's stunning continental landing site when MLB All-Star pitcher Joe Musgrove threw an 86 mph four-seamed fastball to teammate Sean Manaea, setting the record for the fastest pitch ever thrown on the continent. Three CAF athletes joined him for the experience of a lifetime, Roderick Sewell, Justin Phongsavanh, and Landis Sims, who showed the world the kind of adventures that are possible with the right equipment.

NIKE GIVES FLYEASE TO CAF GRANTEES

Our partnership with Nike dates back to the start of our organization when Nike donated shoes to the first-ever CAF San Diego Triathlon Challenge. Now, almost 30 years later, Nike continues to support our mission in new and innovative ways. Last year, they gave 1,600 pair of accessible Nike FlyEase Revolution shoes to the first athletes to submit their grant applications through our annual Grant Program.

TOYOTA AUTO SHOWS AND SPORTS FESTIVALS

The Toyota Sports Festival was born from Toyota's mission to create meaningful experiences that inspire mobility for all, bringing interactive sports opportunities to communities nationwide. CAF was proud to join and distribute 18 grants during three auto shows in Los Angeles (four grants), Chicago (four grants), and New York (five grants) last year.

CAF + BRO-AM FOUNDATION

CAF is grateful for our long-time partnership with the SWITCHFOOT BRO-AM Foundation, which provided travel grant funding to five female youth athletes to attend a surf clinic in San Diego and to compete in an expression session during the BRO-AM Beach Fest. The Foundation's generous gifts toward our Grant Program continues to impact youth in San Diego.



LANDIS: JUST WATCH ME

The Landis: Just Watch Me documentary chronicles the journey of an Indiana teenager who strives to make his varsity high school baseball team. CAF joined Landis and film Director/Producer Eric Cochran on a nationwide movie and press tour. This tour welcomed Landis to various baseball stadiums and included several inclusive baseball clinics, offering opportunities for mentorship and connection.

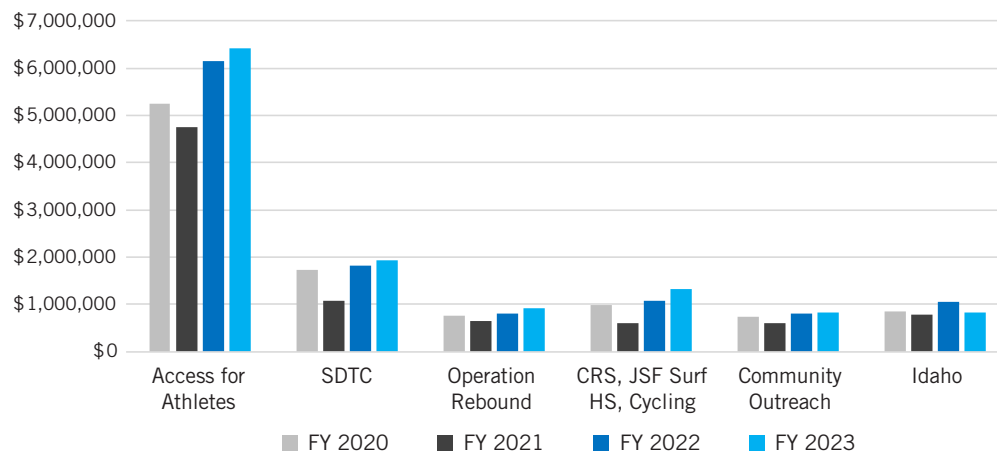


**LANDISMOVIE.COM STREAM THIS
POWERFUL DOCUMENTARY**

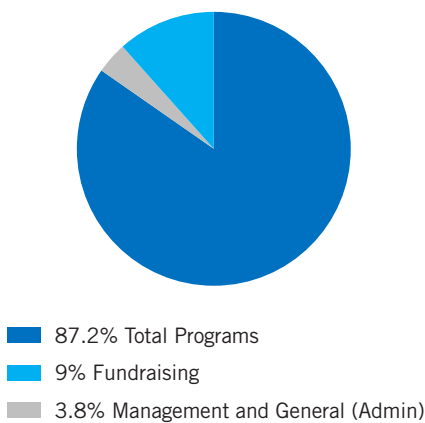
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: APRIL 1, 2022 - MARCH 31, 2023

CAF is committed to being thoughtful and responsible stewards of your support, demonstrated through the transparency of our audited financials. For a detailed financial report, please visit www.challengedathletes.org/financials

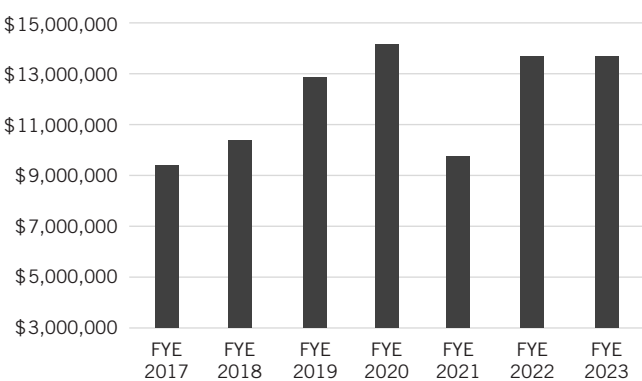
CAF Spending by Program



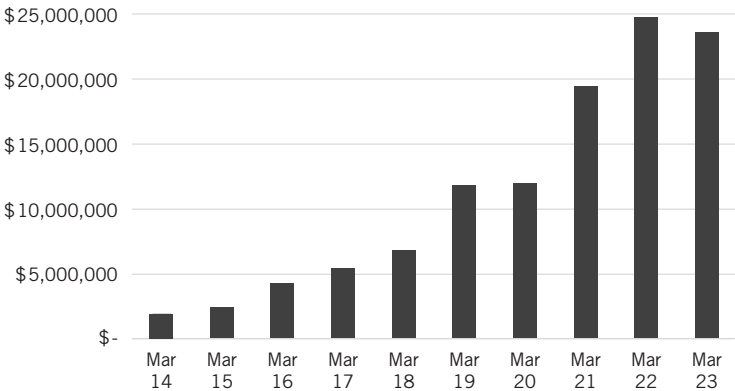
CAF Spending Breakdown FYE 2023



CAF Revenue



Total Endowment



ENDOWMENTS AND FAMILY FUNDS

CAF Endowment in Memory of Robin Williams
The Rose Fund
Kate Steinle Memorial Endowment

Gail and Howard Stackman Memorial Fund
Maguire Family Fund
Robert Spotswood Memorial Fund

PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving with CAF creates a legacy that ensures your passion for empowering people with physical disabilities continues for generations. If you would like to make CAF part of your long-term philanthropic goals, we can work with you to help you achieve your financial, tax, or estate planning objectives. For more information contact:

Kristine Entwistle, Chief Executive Officer | kristine@challengedathletes.org



WE ARE THE MOVEMENT CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CAF

CAF's fiscal year 2023-2024 marks an organizational milestone that honors three decades of empowering lives through sport. In each moment, CAF hopes you join us in celebrating thirty years of movement toward creating a more inclusive world where everyone has an equal opportunity to play and thrive.

30K CLUB April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

CAF's 30K Club is for those who fundraise or give a gift of \$30,000 between April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024 and includes some exciting and exclusive benefits.



CELEBRATION OF WILL February 24, 2024

An event deeply rooted in the heart and history of CAF, this night will honor the achievements we have made over the past thirty years.



MDC // THE FINAL RIDE October 13-20, 2023

As we say goodbye to our beloved Million Dollar Challenge coastal ride, we prepare to usher in a new era where exciting adventures in unique locations await your arrival.



30 YEARS OF SDTC October 22, 2023

Be a part of the iconic event that started it all! Celebrating its 30th year, the San Diego Triathlon Challenge presented by Dan and Geof will be back in Mission Bay alongside a full day of inclusive events.



FROM ONE, CAME MANY

From one came many is a phrase we often use to exemplify the heart of CAF's mission. What started as an effort to help one person experience greater freedom and independence has resulted in the development of a beloved organization that became part of a global movement toward inclusivity and equality. That person was Jim MacLaren, one of the first to show the world all that was possible for people with physical disabilities through sport, using his talents as an athlete and speaker to change perceptions around the world. Thirty years later, CAF's growing impact is genuinely Jim's legacy.

MISSION

The Challenged Athletes Foundation's mission is to provide opportunities and support to people with physical disabilities so they can pursue active lifestyles through physical fitness and competitive athletics. CAF believes that involvement in sports at any level increases self-esteem, encourages independence, and enhances quality of life.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeffrey Essakow

Board President,
CAF Co-founder

Bob Babbitt

Board Vice President,
CAF Co-founder

Rick Kozlowski

CAF Co-founder

Secretary

Dean Roeper

Members

Danny Gabriel

Jeff Jacobs

David Jochim

Tabi King

Nicole Ludwig

Chad Merriweather

Swan Paik

John Pizzi

Roger Quarles

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David Samson

Alan Shanken

Scott Stackman

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Advisory Committee

Clive Essakow

Sari Levy-Schorr

Justin Model

Meet Our CAF Staff: challengedathletes.org/staff

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