



# ANNUAL REPORT

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Last summer the whole world watched as Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles courageously stepped back from competition, acutely aware of mental health and physical challenges she was facing. Even more encouraging was witnessing her team rally around her with support. As a sports psychologist who has spent over half of my life advocating for athlete wellness, in this moment I sensed a true shift in the culture of sport. I am proud of the work we at GSD are doing to be part of this transformation.

In 2021 we continued with virtual screenings and discussions of *At The Heart of Gold*, notably with the Sports Lawyers Association and at the UCLA Anderson School of Management's

Centre for Management of Enterprise in Media, Entertainment and Sport. We also created and hosted a 2-day virtual seminar on approaches to reducing harm in sport called "See It, Stop It," which we are happy to report drew global participation and recognition.

And while restrictions on gathering to train have been a significant added challenge to all athletes in these pandemic times, our support of elite level athletes continued undiminished in 2021 via our BOOST Athlete Grant Program. We continued to also support a diverse range of 501(c)3 youth sports programs, particularly those that are systemically underserved by other funders.

A highlight for me of 2021 was certainly the World Premiere of our documentary *Waterman* at the Hawai'i International Film Festival. The film recounts the life, struggles, and phenomenal achievements of native Hawaiian and 5-time Olympic medalist Duke Paoa Kahinu Mokoe Hulikohola Kahanamoku, the father of modern day surfing. The premiere was perfect timing given the inclusion of surfing at this year's Summer Games in Tokyo.

As we move into 2022, we will continue to be thankful for the flexibility, determination, and adaptivity our team has mastered and continue to display in advancing our goals. We are happy to share with you here a summary of what we accomplished in 2021.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Steven Ungerleider**  
Vice President, The Foundation for Global Sports Development



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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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## MISSION

The Foundation for Global Sports Development delivers and supports initiatives that promote fair play, education, and the benefits of abuse-free sport for youth. Our media division, Sidewinder Films, promotes this mission to a broader audience through groundbreaking films that celebrate the sport of life.

## VALUES

### TEAMWORK

The importance of coordinating efforts with organizations and athletes who share our dedication and commitment to promoting the positive benefits of sports.

### SPORTSMANSHIP

The importance of exhibiting and observing qualities that are highly regarded in sports - generosity, courtesy, pride, ethics, and fair play.

### INTEGRITY

All activities promote trust, respect, authenticity, and dignity.

### AGILITY

The commitment to rapidly adapt and grow in order to achieve our mission.

### EDUCATION

A belief in the positive impact of life-long learning and mentorship.



# CHARITABLE GIVING

**We know that sport has the power to influence positive social change. Sport unites youth from diverse cultures and economic backgrounds and in doing so helps them build self-esteem, mutual respect, and positive, constructive mindsets.**

**In 2021 we committed over TWO MILLION dollars in grants and other charitable contributions.**

We are pleased to offer funding that supports educational enrichment and youth sports programs here in the United States and also to international organizations that implement sports and educational development programs.

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
Angel City Sports	Los Angeles, CA	L.A.C.E.R. After School Programs -	Los Angeles, CA
The Arne Ljungqvist Anti-Doping Foundation	Stockholm, Sweden	The Lime Foundation -	Santa Rosa, CA
Avalon Healing Center	Detroit, MI	Nā Kama Kai	Waianae, HI
Challenged Athletes Foundation	San Diego, CA	Operation Jump Start	Long Beach, CA
Childhelp – Merv Griffin Village	Phoenix, AZ	Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation	Honolulu, HI
Corazón Healdsburg	Healdsburg, CA	Row LA	Los Angeles, CA
Culver City Education Foundation	Culver City, CA	Ready, Set, Gold!	Los Angeles, CA
Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra	Mammoth Lakes, CA	Students Run LA (SRLA)	Los Angeles, CA
Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA)	Los Angeles, CA	United States International Council on Disabilities	Stafford, VA
Hearts and Horses	Loveland, CO	Taking the Reins	Los Angeles, CA
Healthcare Foundation	Healdsburg, CA	Team Prime Time	Los Angeles, CA
International Surfing Association	La Jolla, CA	Thriving Not Surviving	New York City, NY
ITTF Foundation	Lausanne, Switzerland	World Archery	Lausanne, Switzerland
Kids Play International	Park City, UT	World Curling Federation	Perth, Scotland





**We'd like to highlight a few organizations that we helped in 2021.**

**1. International Table Tennis Foundation - Dream Building Fund**  
The ITTF's Dream Building Fund provides financial and knowledge support to organizations that can use Table Tennis as a means to improve some aspect of human welfare in their local communities, aligned with one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We were delighted to be able to financially support 6 such ventures (from many, many worthy applications) this year in Kenya, Uganda, Iran, India, Nepal and Indonesia.

More detailed information on these can be found at [globalsportsdevelopment.org/grant-recipient-highlights-from-2021/](https://globalsportsdevelopment.org/grant-recipient-highlights-from-2021/)

**2. Nā Kama Kai**  
Nā Kama Kai is dedicated to empowering youth by creating, conducting, and supporting ocean-based programs, specifically targeting ocean safety and conservation awareness. Their mandate is to increase the capacity of youth in the community through Hawaiian values, culture, and environmental education. The Foundation is pleased to support keiki in Oahu through this organization by providing funding to support the establishment of Hālau Nā Kama Kai, a clubhouse where youth can participate in afterschool and weekend activities. Hana maika'i!

**3. Challenged Athletes Foundation – High School Adaptive Sports Program**  
Challenged Athletes Foundation provides opportunities and support to people with physical disabilities, empowering them to pursue active lifestyles through physical fitness and competitive athletics. In addition to offering grants and equipment, CAF is host to numerous athletic enrichment programs. This year we supported the High School Adaptive Sports Program, which increases awareness of school parasport opportunities and competition, provides coaching and instructional resources and helps secure training and grant benefits for students with physical disabilities. The program is currently focused on track and field, with aspirations to develop additional resources to support other adaptive sports.

A complete list of our 2021 grant and award recipients can be found on our website at [globalsportsdevelopment.org/grant-recipient-highlights-from-2021/](https://globalsportsdevelopment.org/grant-recipient-highlights-from-2021/)

# BOOST ATHLETE GRANT PROGRAM

In 2020, high-performance athletes experienced training center closures, health safety concerns, job loss, relocations, and other financial challenges. All of this created difficulties for athletes training for the Summer Games. In recognition of the growing financial burdens that resulted from necessary public health measures, we offered ten one-time grants of \$10,000 to high-performance athletes.

*We thought it was one-time.*

An ongoing pandemic meant that many athletes continued needing a funding boost, so we renewed the program for 2021.

We know that athletes, even elite ones, struggle for funding at the best of times. This grant continued to support those who lost a job that funded their training, or lost benefits such as housing, meals, transportation or medical insurance provided by a training center. In many cases, this lost funding was what allowed the athlete to dedicate themselves to master their sport.

Final selections were guided by an Advisory Board, consisting of athletes and leaders in sport who are familiar with the training and competition demands elite athletes face.

## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

**Reynaldo Brown**  
(Olympian – High Jump)

**Karin Korb**  
(Paralympian – Wheelchair Tennis)

**Gabrielle Sabharwal**  
(Publicist and PR Director)

**Tracy Evans**  
(Olympian — Freestyle Skier)

**Darrell Ell**  
(Former Competitions and Development Officer for World Curling Federation)

## 2021 BOOST ATHLETE GRANT PROGRAM RECIPIENTS



**Tyler Carter**  
Para Alpine Skiing



**Brittani Coury**  
Paralympic Snowboarding



**Nathan Crumpton**  
Skeleton



**Steve Emt**  
Wheelchair Curling



**Joey Okesson**  
Snowboarding



**Megan Smallhouse**  
Freestyle Aerial Skiing



**George Steffey**  
Alpine Ski Racing



**Monica Walker**  
Curling



**Thomas Walsh**  
Para Alpine Skiing



**Kendall Wesenberg**  
Skeleton



# ATHLETES IN EXCELLENCE

**This Award recognizes exceptional athletes who demonstrate in their everyday lives away from sport the values of good sportsmanship and fair play both on and off the field.**

We believe that honoring and spotlighting these athletes and their acts is a way to encourage all athletes to use their sporting achievements as a catalyst to help inspire positive change in their lives, in their teammates and in their communities. Exclusively via peer nomination, these athletes receive \$10,000 to help them continue to be exemplary role models.

## 2021 Awardees



### Lisa Brieger Finegan

Lisa is known internationally for her achievements on the rugby pitch, both as a competitor and a coach. In 2020, Lisa received the World Rugby 7's Series USA Developmental Coach of the Year Award, in recognition of her innovative style of coaching that incorporates Social and Emotional Learning and a philosophy of inclusion. She has worked to incorporate leadership programs for student-athletes, striving to develop the whole person through positive coaching.

*Nominated by Stuart Krohn.*



### Rudy Garcia-Tolson

Rudy's athletic achievements in the pool – he has garnered five Paralympic medals – are as impressive as his mentorship efforts. As an ambassador for Challenged Athletes Foundation and athlete mentor for Ready, Set, Gold!, Rudy is a role model for young people, particularly those who also have physical disabilities and are encouraged to see Rudy making a splash in sports and the world.

*Nominated by [Challenged Athletes Foundation](#).*



### Kym Crosby Hightower

Kym is a competitive sprinter and Paralympic Bronze medalist known as “The Flash” for her speed. She is an ambassador for Challenged Athletes Foundation, sharing her experiences of being a blind athlete with audiences of all abilities. Kym has volunteered as a coach to middle and high school students through the High School Adaptive Sports Program, bolstering CAF's efforts to go virtual during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Nominated by [Challenged Athletes Foundation](#).*



### Cody Michael Jones

Cody is an athlete mentor with *Ready, Set, Gold!*, teaching students in Southern California and beyond about the importance of healthy habits around nutrition, sleep, and being active. He also volunteers with Angel City Sports, providing virtual and in-person coaching to young people with disabilities. Cody recently wrote a children's book titled, “Henry Makes It On Top,” which can serve as an aid for teachers and parents in their conversations about disabilities and how to treat people with respect.

*Nominated by [Ready, Set, Gold!](#) and [Angel City Sports](#).*



### Linnell Jones-McKenney

Linnell is highly active in her local community of Flint, Michigan, with decades of community service experience. She has worked to bring clean bottled water to Flint residents, provide school supplies and clothing to underserved students, connected with youth through mentorship and sport, and worked to prevent youth violence, teen pregnancy, gang violence while encouraging students to graduate high school and become leaders in their community.

*Nominated by Shan Buckley.*



#### Amanda McGrory

Amanda is highly active in promoting the Paralympic Movement. She volunteers as a coach for the University of Illinois wheelchair basketball and wheelchair racing camps, is working with the Chicago Marathon to establish a mentoring program for local wheelchair racers, and visits schools to educate youth about adaptive sports and disability.

*Nominated by Dr. Anjali Forber-Pratt.*



#### Carissa Moore

Carissa founded “[Moore Aloha](#),” a non-profit organization which engages young women through surfing to be strong, confident, and compassionate individuals. Through “Moore Aloha,” Carissa runs camps and events that promote self-confidence, positive body image, healthy living, and mindfulness. Carissa recently won the first-ever gold medal in women’s surfing at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo.

*Nominated by [Na Kama Kai](#).*



#### Stewart “Stu” Pimblett

Stu founded the [Northern Ice Wheelchair Curling Club and Charity](#), spending countless hours fundraising to connect other people with disabilities to curling. His efforts have resulted in the team being able to travel to international competitions. Stu’s commitment to the sport and serving as a curling ambassador have positioned him as a role model to curlers and disabled athletes.

*Nominated by Angie Malone.*



#### Cyrille Fagat Tchatchett II

Cyrille was a member of the Refugee Team at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. After experiencing trauma, homelessness, and food insecurity, Cyrille earned a degree in Mental Health Nursing from Middlesex University. He now serves patients facing mental health challenges and is a spokesperson for athletes who are refugees.

*Nominated by Lawrence Bottinck.*



#### Wellington Zaza

Wellington was born in Liberia, and after living in refugee camps in the country, he immigrated to Philadelphia, PA. He has connected with his community through his organization No Lack in Lifestyle. Wellington uses sport to engage young people to focus on academic success and physical fitness. His positive attitude and drive to create tangible change influence all around him.

*Nominated by Sam Effah.*



# EXCEPTIONAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

Education is one of our core values, and we believe in the positive impact of life-long learning and mentorship. Our Exceptional Youth Scholarship is just one of the ways we support youth as they embark on their own life-long learning journey. This scholarship is awarded to high school seniors who have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to both academic achievement and community service.

Each student receives a one-time scholarship of \$10,000 to offset the cost of education at a four-year university or college.



**Nikola Desnica**  
MAST at FIU Biscayne Bay  
(Miami, FL)  
*Columbia University*



**Alexis Faucette**  
Bowie High School  
(Bowie, MD)  
*University of Maryland,  
College Park*



**Diana Guzman**  
Healdsburg High School  
(Healdsburg, CA)  
*Cal Poly Pomona*



**Ali Hashim**  
Santa Monica High School  
(Los Angeles, CA)  
*Williams College*



**Camila Rimoldi**  
Sebring High School  
(Sebring, FL)  
*Florida Atlantic University*



**Jasmine Zendejas**  
Canoga Park Senior  
High (Los Angeles, CA)  
*University of California,  
Los Angeles*

# WATERMAN



Through our film production company, Sidewinder Films, we completed in 2021 a very special documentary film on the life of Hawaiian legend and Olympic swimmer Duke Paoa Kahanamoku.

Narrated by Jason Momoa, *Waterman* recounts how Duke shattered records and overcame a lifetime of personal challenges, exploring his journey and legacy as a legendary swimmer, trailblazer, and undisputed father of modern-day surfing.

Featuring commentary from surfing’s biggest stars, including newly crowned Olympic gold medalist, Carissa Moore, the film documents his personal successes, struggles, and humanitarianism through rare footage, contemporary visuals, and incisive interviews.

### Beyond the Films

As with all of our documentary productions, we went beyond simply screening the film and are helping make a positive impact in Duke’s home state of Hawai’i and in the broader surfing community. As an example, COVID forced the *Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation* to cancel their annual ‘Duke’s Oceanfest’ fundraiser; we at GSD donated \$25,000 to the non-profit organization to ensure they were able to continue supporting the development of individuals and organizations that perpetuate the spirit and legacy of Duke Kahanamoku.

In addition, our team worked with Pohaku Media to create a discussion guide that complements the film and allows viewers to delve deeper into the history and culture of Hawai’i, how they both shaped Duke and to learn more about this extraordinary man.

### Film Festivals and Awards

*Waterman* premiered at the Hawai’i International Film Festival (HIFF) to an audience of 400 people. Mahalo to the festival goers for voting for *Waterman* to receive the Audience Award for Best Documentary! After HIFF, *Waterman* won Best Documentary Feature at the Florida Surf Film Festival, the Wave Maker Award at the Coast Film Festival, and the Audience Award for Best Hawaiian Narrative.

Visit [watermanthemovie.com](http://watermanthemovie.com) to learn more about the film, read the discussion guide, and sign up to receive news about screenings, festivals, and more!





# AT THE HEART OF GOLD – GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Continuing our efforts to create a multiplier effect from our film productions, 2021 saw a disciplined effort to increase exposure and discussion around our 2020 production, *At The Heart Of Gold: Inside the USA Gymnastics Scandal*. Two events are of note:

We held a virtual screening in partnership with the UCLA Anderson School of Management’s Center for Management of Enterprise in Media, Entertainment and Sport (MEMES). Afterwards, we produced a live discussion on the issues around abuse in sports called “Finding Courage: Dismantling the Culture of Abuse in Sport.” The discussion included panels on the culture of athletics and enablers and their institutions. A link to a brief summary, the Q&A sessions, and a recording of the entire event can be found on our site. A review of it is, we strongly believe, time well spent.

We also hosted a two-day virtual symposium titled “See It, Stop It: Ending Abuse in Amateur Sports,” which featured leading thinkers in this sphere. These discussions offered practical tips on key issues, such as abuse prevention, safe environments, positive coaching, team cultures, enablers/bystanders, and institutional inertia.

We also used *At The Heart of Gold* in event/discussion collaborations with groups like the Sports Lawyers Association, Western Michigan University Cooley School of Law, ShePower Sport, and the International Federation of Sports Medicine.



If 2021 taught us anything, it’s that we and our partners are well positioned to continue with our objectives in the continuing face of a global pandemic. I could not be prouder of the work all have done in difficult circumstances and look forward to continuing to learn as we go in 2022.

We accomplished some great things in 2021. The launch of *Waterman* was a particularly high note of this past year. An as yet untold story of someone who had such an oversized impact on sports as a whole and the legacy of Hawai’i was an inspiration to all who must overcome the same types of challenges and obstacles. We think the awards *Waterman* won at several film festivals were well earned, and we look forward to sharing the film with more audiences in 2022.

The films that we produce shed light on important issues in sport, and that is only half the battle. It’s equally important to engage communities to help spur the social and systemic changes that are needed and which those films raise. Our ongoing outreach efforts in support of *At The Heart Of Gold* via virtual workshops and seminars continued to shine a light on the systemic problems that plague athletics, with the goal of involving all stakeholders to help build and implement solutions.

In our ongoing efforts to lift up athletes who are role models on and off the field, we became acquainted with 10 outstanding Athletes in Excellence Award recipients. We also extended our BOOST Athlete Grant Program to provide critical financial aid to 10 high-performing athletes as they overcame COVID-19 challenges in training for the Winter Games.

This was, however, only a small part of over \$2 million in total grants and awards we funded over the course of the year, helping to make sport safer, more accessible and more equitable for all athletes. Of note, we were thrilled to support the International Tennis Federation’s ‘Advantage All’ strategy, which works to ensure that tennis becomes an equal advantage sport with respect to gender participation all around the world.

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual summary, and if you don’t already, please join us where you can in any of our programs, as the sport of life will continue in 2022.

David Ulich  
President





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## **The Foundation for Global Sports Development and Sidewinder Films**

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