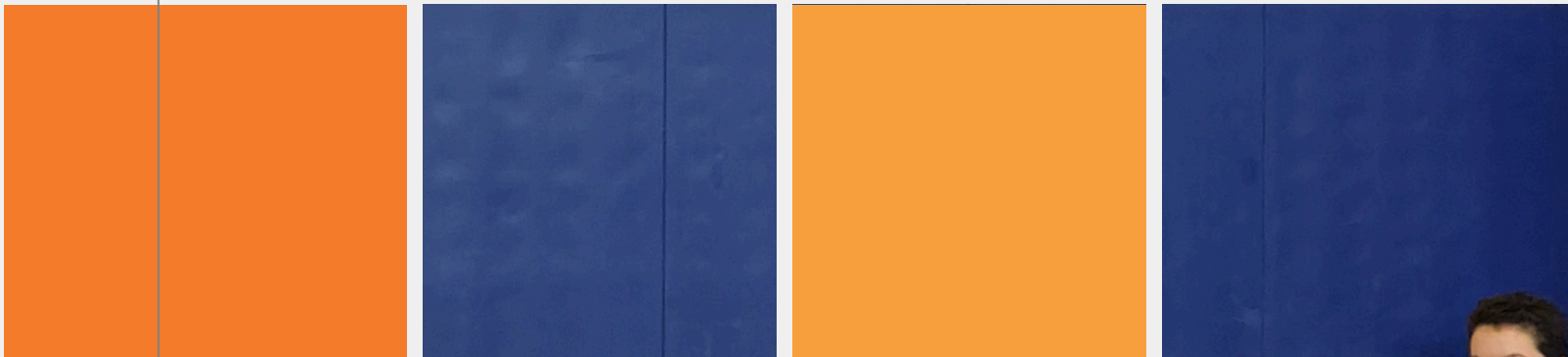


Christa & Saul Welger Foundation

2022 Annual Report



CHRISTA & SAUL
WELGER FOUNDATION

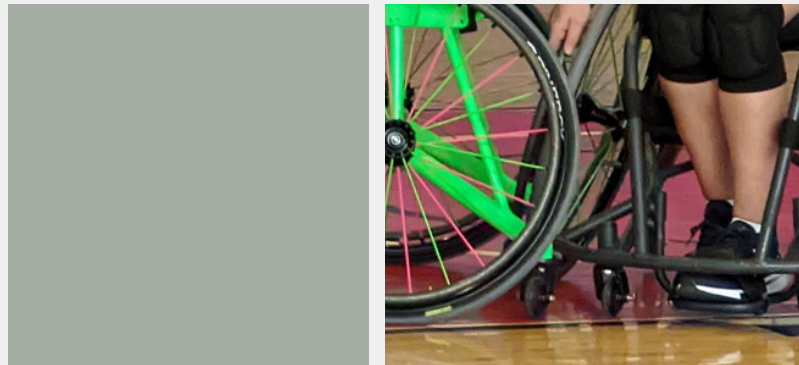


Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP	03
<hr/>	
MISSION AND VISION	04
<hr/>	
IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS	05
<hr/>	
BOARD GROWTH	06
<hr/>	
STORIES OF CHANGE	07
<hr/>	
FUTURE GOALS	07
<hr/>	
HOW TO GET INVOLVED	08
<hr/>	

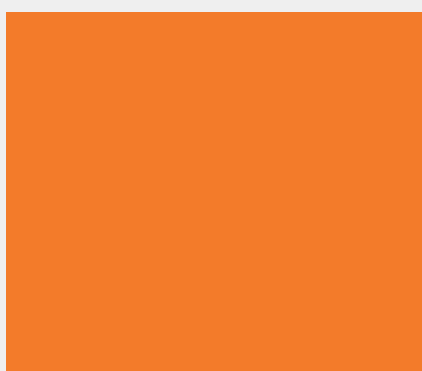


Message from the Board

We extend heartfelt gratitude to the individual and corporate donors for their generous support, which helped us raise over \$14,000 in donations.

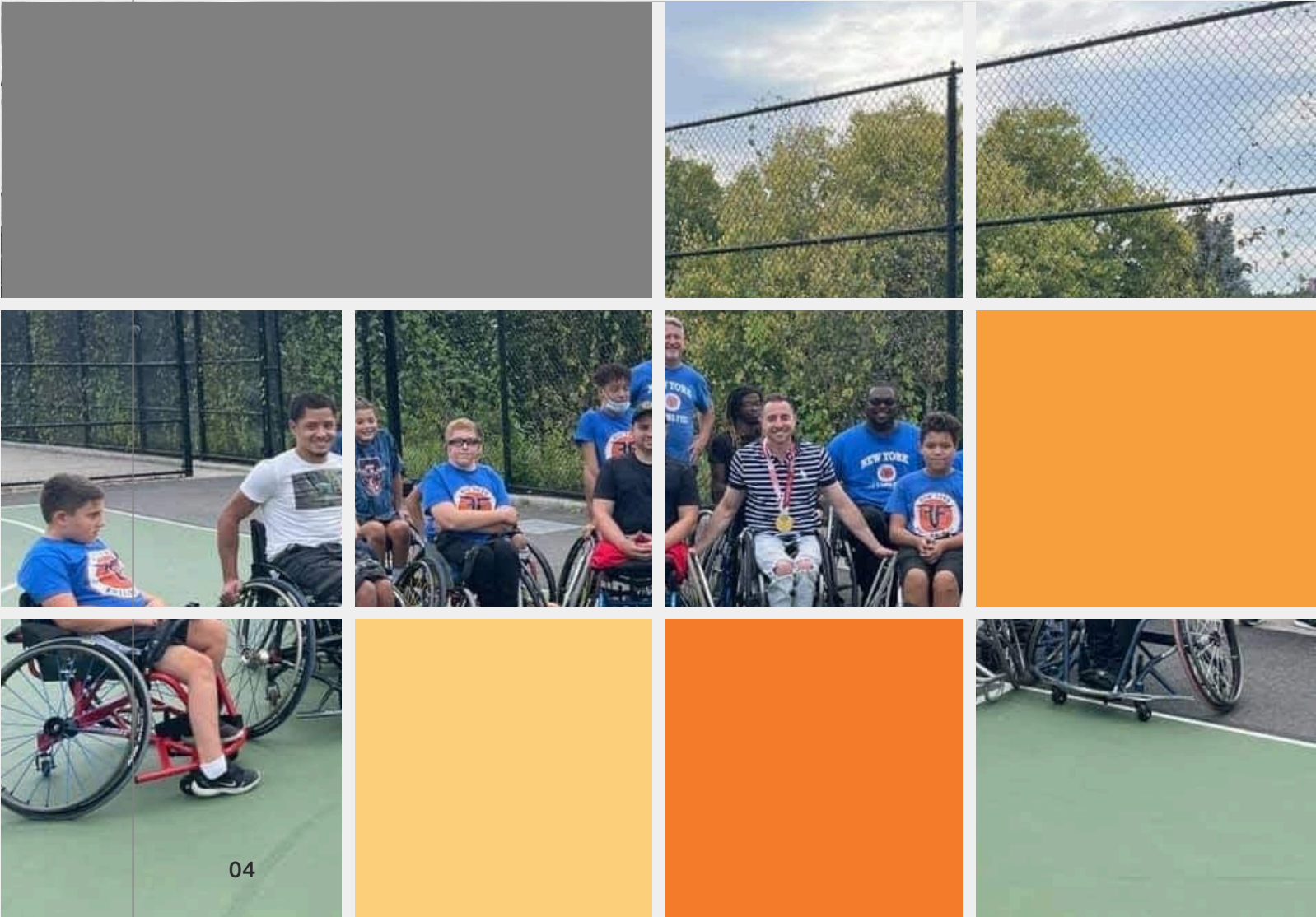
In our second full year of operations, we are inspired and energized by the support, advocacy, and assistance we provided to local adaptive sport youth athletes. In 2022, several board members visited the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs to view exhibits featuring memorabilia from Christa and Saul and to experience the museum's unique and interactive elements.

Honoring the legacy of Christa and Saul, the board remains deeply engaged with the athletes, providing a support network that goes beyond their family and friends. Our commitment reaches far past financial assistance, building strong, meaningful relationships with the athletes. They are encouraged to seek guidance for academics, social connections, adaptive resources, coaching, mentoring, or even everyday decision-making. The Welger Foundation is dedicated to the belief that genuine support endures long after the initial aid is provided.



Mission and Vision

- **Mission:** Our mission is to provide support and opportunities to physically impaired youth to encourage participation in, increase awareness of, and reduce barriers to competing in team sports.
- **Vision:** Inspired by the stories of Christa and Saul Welger, the Foundation's goal is to help, motivate and support disabled, young athletes reach their highest potential—in sport and in life.



Board Growth

2022 saw the growth of our Board of Directors with the additions of Steve Serio and Stacey Vaughn. Their experience in the adaptive community and with fundraising is an incredible asset to the Welger Foundation.

Steve Serio is a four-time Paralympian (2008, 2012, 2016, 2020) winning his first medal, a bronze in London 2012. For those games, Steve was a three-time co-captain of the USA Men's National Wheelchair Basketball Team, he led the American men to their first Paralympic gold medal, since 1988, at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. He followed up with another Gold medal win in Tokyo in 2021.



Steve grew up in Westbury, New York. At age 11 months old, he had surgery to remove a spinal tumor, which resulted in the compression of his spinal cord. Consequently, he was left paralyzed and is classified as an incomplete paraplegic. Steve began playing wheelchair basketball at the age of 14 as a sophomore in high school and led his high school to a Junior division national title culminating in being awarded MVP of the national tournament. After high school, Steve played for University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and led his college team to 2 national championships, winning championship game player of the game, NWBA tournament MVP, and NWBA 31st NIWBT player of the year in the process. In 2010, Steve graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign with a degree in Exercise Physiology and went on to play professionally in Germany.

When Steve is not training or on the court, he enjoys reading, exercising, and traveling. In addition to public speaking engagements with Fortune 100 companies, Steve's passion is to work with local athletes in the NYC area. He wants to continue to spread the impact adaptive sports can have for all in the disabled community.

Stacey Vaughn has known the Welger Family for over 30 years. Stacey attended Hamilton College with Jeff Welger. Stacey worked for the Muscular Dystrophy Associate as a Regional Coordinator before starting a financial planning company and raising her four kids. Stacey played soccer, basketball and softball and took this love of sports to the coaching level. Stacey's major focus as a coach was instilling a love of the game with an emphasis on learning life skills, the importance of teamwork and giving back to the community.

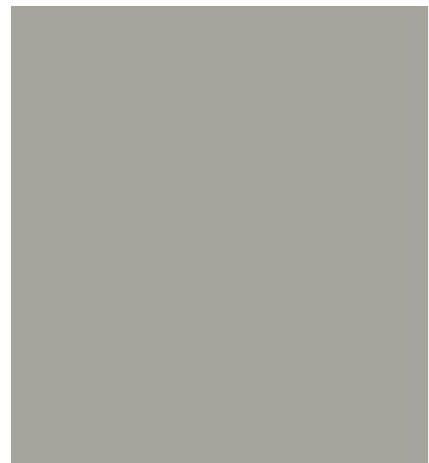


Inspired by Christa and Saul's life achievements, Stacey is honored to be part of the Welger Foundation mission of providing support, opportunities, awareness and reduction of barriers so that young adaptive athletes can realize their dreams. Currently Stacey works in development for Grace Place for Children and Families.

Stories of Change

Your generosity made it possible for us to support the CUNY Adaptive Sports Wheelchair Basketball team. Among the remarkable athletes were Crystal Jones and Malkeet Singh-Gill (below), who joined the team as freshmen.

The Welger Foundation played a crucial role in supporting both Crystal and Malkeet by covering transportation costs for practices, games, and tournaments. Furthermore, the foundation provided additional support for Malkeet to acquire a new sports chair, enabling him to participate more regularly in sanctioned games.



Future Goals

- Launch First Annual Big Shot Bootcamp - a one-day skills and drills clinic for youth athletes interested in and involved in wheelchair basketball
- Develop and initiate an annual grant program
- Broaden our donor population to include corporate sponsorship and increase donations to support expansion of our programs and grant distribution

How to Get Involved

Introduce Us · Connect Us · Refer Us

Some ways to get involved with the Welger Foundation:

- Volunteer to support our sports programs
- Donate through our website - www.welgerfoundation.org
- Connect us with athletes, influencers, corporate donors
- Explore Corporate Matching Donation programs
- Contact us at info@welgerfoundation.org

