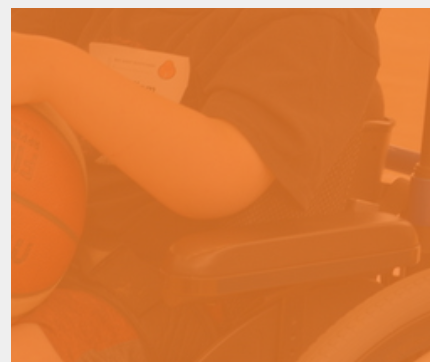
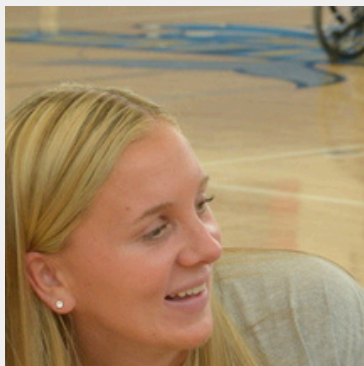


# Christa & Saul Welger Foundation 2023 Annual Report



CHRISTA & SAUL  
WELGER FOUNDATION



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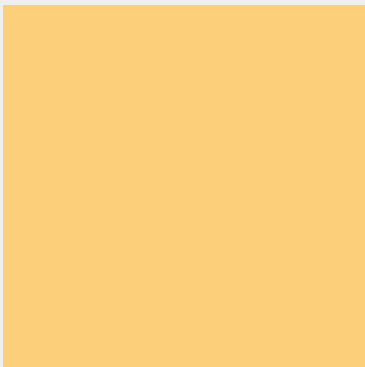
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# Message from the Board

In 2023, the Welger Foundation achieved continued growth, recording its most successful year thus far with over \$40,000 in contributions from generous donors and a grant from The Arch Foundation. This ongoing support enabled the Foundation to accomplish several objectives established in 2022.

This year was highlighted by the successful realization of a goal established in 2022: the inaugural Big Shot Bootcamp. This one-day clinic focused on wheelchair basketball drills and skills, catering to regional youth athletes, of varying experience levels interested in wheelchair basketball, and was led by several current Paralympians.

The Foundation's Board prioritizes the pursuit of corporate partnerships and support. In 2023, the Foundation successfully applied for and received a \$20,000 grant from the Arch Group Foundation (AGF). This funding will be utilized to enhance two initiatives in 2024: ensuring the continuation of the successful annual Big Shot Bootcamp and initiating an enhanced and larger grant program.

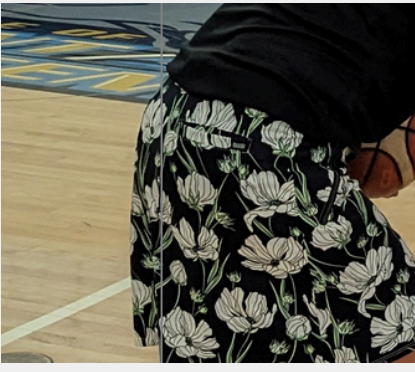
The board remains dedicated to honoring the legacy of Christa and Saul by staying closely connected with the athletes. We offer a support network that extends beyond just family and friends. Our commitment goes well beyond financial help; we focus on fostering strong, meaningful relationships with the athletes. They are encouraged to seek advice on academics, social interactions, adaptive resources, coaching, mentoring, or even daily choices. The Welger Foundation firmly believes that true support lasts long after the initial assistance is given.





# 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.



# Big Shot Bootcamp

The Welger Foundation proudly hosted its Inaugural Big Shot Bootcamp on Saturday, May 6, 2023. This one-day wheelchair basketball clinic, held at St. Vincent College in Riverdale, NY, welcomed youth athletes aged 5 to 18 from New York, New Jersey, Washington D.C., Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

With over 50 participants, the event focused on enhancing wheelchair basketball skills and techniques through a series of dynamic drills and activities. The clinic was led by an esteemed team of Paralympians, including Steve Serio, Patrick Andersen, and Trevon Jenifer, alongside Ryan Martin, CUNY Wheelchair Basketball Coach and Director of Inclusive and Adaptive Sports.

Additionally, the clinic was supported by Crystal Jones, Isaiah Moore, and Malkeet Singh-Gill, all of whom are CUNY athletes and beneficiaries of the Welger Foundation. This impactful day not only honed athletic skills but also celebrated the inclusive spirit of adaptive sports.





# Stories of Change

Molly Feighan, a recipient of the prestigious *Gatorade Play It Forward* grant, generously donated the funds and dedicated her time to support the Welger Foundation. The Gatorade Play It Forward program empowers Gatorade Player of the Year athletes to give back to their communities by providing vital resources to youth-focused sports organizations and programs.

As a 2023 recipient of the Gatorade Play It Forward Grant, Molly Feighan—daughter of Welger Foundation Board Member Stacy Vaughn—selected the Welger Foundation as the beneficiary of a \$1,000 grant. This contribution aims to support the Foundation's mission of helping the next generation of athletes experience the transformative benefits of sports.



Continuing the Welger Foundation support of the CUNY Adaptive sports program, the Foundation provided an unrestricted Grant to Isaiah Moore, a member of the CUNY Adaptive Sports Wheelchair Basketball Team. The grant has facilitated his transportation to and participation in team practices, games, and tournaments.



# Future Goals

- Expand the Big Shot Bootcamp into the Foundation's flagship annual event.
- Design and implement an annual grant program aligned with the Foundation's core mission.
- Develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy emphasizing consistent year-over-year growth and sustainable sponsorship opportunities.

# 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](http://www.welgerfoundation.org)
- Connect us with [athletes](#), [influencers](#), [corporate donors](#)
- Explore Corporate Matching Donation programs
- Contact us at [info@welgerfoundation.org](mailto:info@welgerfoundation.org)

