

Christa & Saul Welger Foundation 2025 Annual Report



CHRISTA & SAUL
WELGER FOUNDATION

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Message from the Board

2025 was a standout year for contributions to the Welger Foundation. We sincerely thank the individual, business, and corporate donors for their generous donations, which have supported the ongoing growth and development of the Welger Foundation.

The Board focuses on building corporate partnerships while also nurturing support from both new and current donors. In 2025, the Foundation successfully secured a \$20,000 grant from the Arch Group Foundation (AGF).

This funding will be directed towards improving two initiatives in 2026: maintaining the success of the annual Big Shot Bootcamp and expanding the annual grant program. With the AGF grant included, the foundation received more than \$50,000 in contributions. This year, the grant program provided support to 14 athletes from the Mid-Atlantic region, showcasing a wonderful variety of sports including Swimming, Rock Climbing, Track & Field, Basketball, Triathlon, Tennis, and Wheelchair Racing. Each athlete represents a unique story and passion for their sport, contributing to the rich tapestry of athletic talent in the region.

The annual Big Shot Bootcamp brought together 40 athletes from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Delaware to experience a day of Drills, Skills, Games, Competition, and fun, led by Paralympians **Steve Serio**, **Pat Anderson**, **Trevon Jenifer**, and **Bailey Moody**, with the help of local wheelchair basketball coaches and advocates.



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.



Financial Statement

2025 Financial Statement: (January 1 – December 31)

Revenue	Contributions - \$52,765.74
Grants	14 Athletes - \$13,850
Programs Services	2025 Big Shot Bootcamp - \$15,444.10
Expenses	Management & General - \$5,580.93



Supporting Athletes

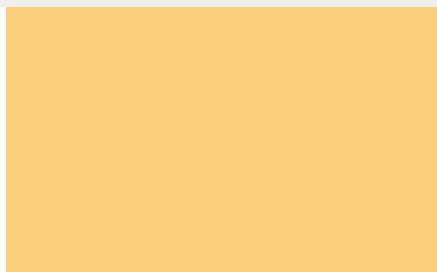
Few athletes inspire like **Anesia Glascoe**. In 2021, she was a 20-year-old community college student in Maryland, aiming for a career in social work while excelling on her school's basketball team. One fateful night, she became a victim of a random shooting that resulted in her being paralyzed from the waist down. "In the hospital, when I couldn't feel anything, the first thought that crossed my mind was, 'In the hospital, when I couldn't feel anything, the first thing I thought was, 'What am I going to do without basketball?' she recalled. "It was my life."

Through sheer determination and months of rigorous rehabilitation, she regained some mobility, allowing her to walk short distances with the aid of a brace. It was then that her rehab therapist encouraged her to explore wheelchair basketball. In the summer of 2024, she made the decision to enroll at Queensborough Community College, planning to continue her journey towards a social work degree. She thrived academically and became the leading scorer on CUNY's women's wheelchair basketball team in 2025.



In 2025, the Summer World University Games expanded to feature wheelchair basketball, a first for para-athletes worldwide. This development created a wonderful opportunity for CUNY's forward-thinking inclusive and adaptive sports program members to represent the United States in what is known as the Olympics of college athletics. Anesia was invited to join the team, with the understanding that all athletes must cover their own travel and expenses during the Games.

The Welger Foundation provided assistance with those expenses, enabling Anesia to take part in the Games. She topped the American team in both points and rebounds throughout the tournament, helping Team USA secure the bronze medal.



Supporting Athletes

Natalie Sullivan was born with cerebral palsy. This condition meant she couldn't take part in able-bodied sports alongside her siblings and friends, often finding herself watching from the sidelines. However, in high school, Natalie found adaptive sports, which changed everything for her, enabling her to compete fairly. The first time she got into a tennis wheelchair, she couldn't help but laugh, as she experienced the thrill of speed for the very first time.

She discovered paraclimbing (adaptive rock climbing) and truly loved it, as it was one of the rare sports where she could excel. She consistently takes part in 2-hour training sessions with the Catalyst adaptive group in Alexandria, Virginia. Despite having only climbed for around 3 years, she successfully earned a spot on the U.S. Paraclimbing National Team in 2025, with the goal of competing in the next level event, the IFSC Paraclimbing World Cup in Utah.



With unwavering determination, Natalie earned her spot on the U.S. National Paraclimbing Team after her performance at Nationals in California. However, only the top athlete in each classification category receives coverage for travel expenses. Unfortunately, her family faced financial difficulties due to recent job losses, making it hard for them to cover the costs of her travel to the competition.

Thanks to the assistance from the Welger Foundation, Natalie was able to engage in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and continue to develop her paraclimbing skills. “Getting a grant from the Welger Foundation allowed me to attend the 2025 Paraclimbing World Cup in Salt Lake City. It was truly a life-changing experience—it was my first time competing on an international level, and the first time I got to meet other adaptive climbers with similar disabilities like me,” Natalie shared. “It helped me bring my skills to the next level and renewed my enthusiasm for adaptive climbing. I wouldn’t have been able to do this without the Welger Foundation’s support— thank you so much!”

Grant Program

Motivated by the impact and achievements of Christa and Saul Welger within the adaptive sports community, the Foundation's grant program aims to assist and empower young athletes with disabilities to achieve their fullest potential—both in sports and in life.

The grant program is available for adaptive athletes up to 19 years of age and live in the Mid-Atlantic region, encompassing New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and who take part in adaptive sports. Applicants can receive grants of up to \$1,500 to assist with Travel expenses (covering transportation, flights, and accommodation for sporting events) and Training/Competition expenses (which include entry fees, team participation, and training camp costs).

This year, the grant program awarded a total of \$13,850 to support 14 athletes, highlighting a fantastic range of sports such as Swimming, Rock Climbing, Track & Field, Basketball, Triathlon, Tennis, and Wheelchair Racing. Each athlete brings their own unique story and passion for their sport, enriching the diverse tapestry of athletic talent in the region.

We are dedicated to expanding the Grant Program in 2026, with an emphasis on increasing the number of recipients and elevate the total value of grants awarded.



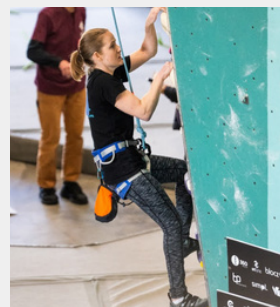
Alayna Ellis Jackson
Age 9, New York, NY
Wheelchair Basketball



Robert Deegan
Age 12, Mickleton, NJ
Swimming & Wheelchair Basketball



Willie Adames
Age 15, Warminster, PA
Wheelchair Basketball



Natalie Sullivan
Age 19, Washington DC
Paraclimbing & Wheelchair Tennis



Aaron Butler Rodriguez
Age 13 - Camden, NJ
Wheelchair Basketball



Samuel "Shades" Koehler
Age 17, Midlothian, VA
Triathlon



Zoey Rooney
Age 12, Springfield, PA
Swimming, Track & Field



Meredith Nagelin
Age 12, Vienna, VA
Swimming



Kenley Scout Teller
Age 14, Haymarket, VA
Swimming



Jorge Farro
Age 15, Brooklyn, NY
Wheelchair Basketball & Racing



Jacob Estes
Age 13, Terryville, CT
Swimming, Track & Field



Julia Mei Estes
Age 12, Terryville, CT
Swimming



Andrew Ringeisen
Age 16, Somerset, NJ
Swimming



Anesia Glascoe
Age 19, Washington, DC
Wheelchair Basketball

Future Goals

- Expand and enhance the Grant Program in 2025
- Identify nonprofit organizations that complement our mission for potential partnerships to enhance our outreach and program service initiatives.
- Develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy aimed at achieving consistent year-over-year growth and fostering sustainable sponsorship opportunities
- Evaluate the dimensions and structure of the Board of Directors in preparation for the Foundation's expansion

How to Get Involved

Introduce Us · Connect Us · Refer Us

Some ways to get involved with the Welger Foundation:

- Donate through our website - www.welgerfoundation.org
 - Utilize Corporate Donation Matching opportunities with your organization
- Volunteer to support our programs – contact jeff.welger@welgerfoundation.org
- Connect us with athletes, influencers, corporate donors

