

United States
Wheelchair
Sports Fund

2023

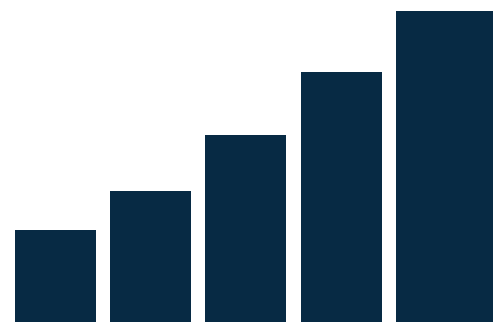
Annual Report



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Message from USWSF

This annual report reflects on the accomplishments and progress of the past year, yet it is with a heavy heart we acknowledge the passing of our esteemed President, Richard Traum, Ph.D., on January 23, 2024. As we honor his legacy, we are committed to carrying forward his lifelong mission under the leadership of former VP, Mary Bryant McCourt.

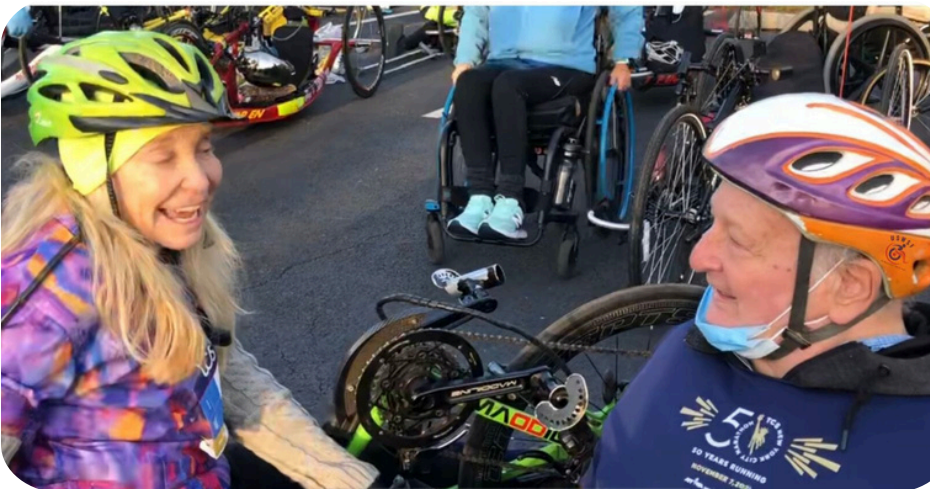
Our organization remains steadfast in its dedication to empowering physically challenged athletes to compete in mainstream sports and empower them to surpass the limitations imposed by their disabilities. Inspired by our past president, who triumphed as an above-the-knee amputee and shattered numerous barriers, we look forward to expanding our efforts and witnessing even greater achievements in the years to come.

About USWSF



United States Wheelchair Sports Fund, where passion meets empowerment, determination and fuels achievement, has been an official 501(c)3, since 1987. Founded with a steadfast commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, we are dedicated to uplifting physically challenged athletes across the nation. Our mission is simple yet profound: to provide resources, support, and opportunities that enable athletes with disabilities to compete, excel, and inspire.

Through programs, adaptive equipment, and specialized training, we aim to break down barriers and create a more accessible sports community for all. Together, we strive to inspire resilience and foster a sense of belonging and independence among physically challenged athletes, enabling them to reach their full potential.



Meet Our Team



Richard Traum, PH.D.
President & CEO *



Mary Bryant McCourt
Vice President, Treasurer



Joe Traum
Vice President of Operations

|Our Mission



United States Wheelchair Sports Fund is dedicated to educating, supporting, and empowering physically challenged athletes by providing them with the resources, training, and opportunities to compete in mainstream sports and inclusive community events across the United States.





Letter from the President & CEO

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE



As I reflect on the past year, I am pleased to share the progress and impact USWSF has achieved in supporting physically challenged athletes. This journey is deeply personal to me, as someone who has experienced firsthand the daily obstacles and triumphs of being physically challenged. Having lost my leg above the knee at a young age, I embarked on a remarkable journey that led me to become a passionate advocate for inclusivity in sports. Over decades, I have had the privilege of competing in numerous marathons, defying the odds, and inspiring others to pursue their dreams regardless of physical limitations.

This past year, there has been a tremendous amount of work put into a documentary ***“Never Surrender”*** about my life, success in sports, and the global impact we’ve made on the physically challenged community in over four decades. Noting the extraordinary achievements of these inspired athletes, we honor my “Heroes” who have overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles, many who returned wounded from Iraq and Afghanistan.

We are taking significant strides in expanding access and opportunities for physically challenged wounded and ill veterans. We have established **“Patriots in Motion”** a program which aims to provide training to physically challenged, wounded and ill veterans to compete in mainstream sports with a focus on participating in marathons. We understand the unique challenges faced by veterans who have bravely served their country and have subsequently endured life-altering injuries, including limb loss and traumatic brain injuries. **“Patriots in Motion”**, with the use of adaptive equipment, and specialized coaching offers a specialized marathon training program, providing the tools, guidance, and support needed to excel.

As we look ahead, I am filled with optimism and excitement for what lies ahead. Together, we continue to push boundaries, defy expectations, and empower physically challenged athletes to achieve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Traum'.

Richard Traum PH.D.

President & CEO - United States Wheelchair Sports Fund

“Never Surrender”



Docu-series about
Richard “Dick” Traum and his legacy of
inspiring physically challenged athletes to
achieve in mainstream sports.

“Never Surrender” - sizzle reel trailer - <https://bit.ly/4dxyKTV>

“Never Surrender” introduces you to the remarkable legacy of Dick Traum, an extraordinary individual whose life has been dedicated to empowering disabled athletes and transforming perceptions about disability in sports. It celebrates Dick’s journey and the countless lives he has touched through his unwavering commitment to inclusivity and perseverance.

Dick’s story is one of triumph over adversity. As an above-the-knee amputee, he defied the odds and made history by becoming the first amputee to complete the grueling New York City Marathon in 1976 on a prosthetic leg. This monumental achievement not only showcased his indomitable spirit but also laid the foundation for a movement that would change the landscape of adaptive sports forever.

In 1983, Dick founded Achilles Track Club (now known as Achilles International), an organization dedicated to enabling people with disabilities to participate in mainstream athletics. Through his vision and leadership, it empowered thousands of athletes globally to push beyond their limits and achieve their dreams. He retired from Achilles in 2019 but he didn’t stop there.

Dick continued to inspire as President of the US Wheelchair Sports Fund, with his passion extending far beyond the world of sports. He championed the rights of disabled athletes and advocated for greater accessibility and inclusivity in all aspects of society.

Through this USWSF documentary, we will share Dick’s inspiring story and celebrate the incredible accomplishments of disabled athletes around the world and inspire future generations to believe in the power of the human spirit.

Donor Roll

Based on donations from January 1
through December 31, 2023



\$10,000- \$25,000

**THE BULOVA STETSON FUND
C/O BESSEMER TRUST FOM
FOUNDATIONS**

**SPEYER FAMILY
FOUNDATION
NORTHERN TRUST CO**

\$5,000 - \$9,999

**THE LANDEGGER CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION, INC**

**ANDREW & ANN TISCH
FOUNDATION, INC**

\$1,000 - \$4,999

DONN SHARER

STEVEN STEINBERG

\$250 - \$999

ROBERT W. BAIRD

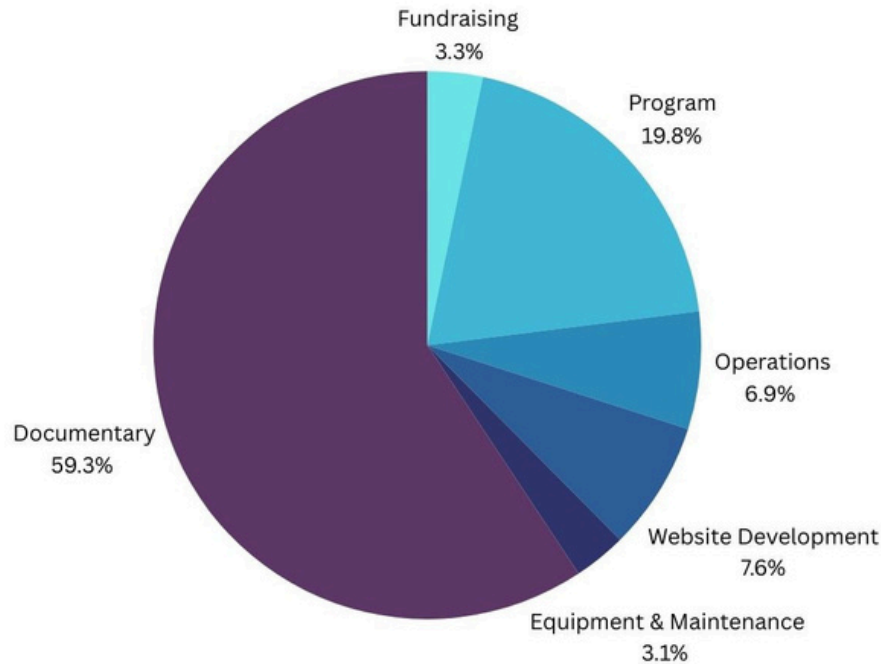
ELIZABETH BARLOW ROGERS

KEN PODZIBA

IN-KIND GIFTS

HELENE HINES

| One Year Review



In 2023, USWSF began a big step into the digital world with a website presence which enables us to reach more athletes with disabilities than during one on one coaching. VP of Operations, Joe Traum, along with Paralympian athlete Tom Davis put together a handcycle and wheelchair marathon training program. The website also enables USWSF to gain additional funding via PayPal donations directly into the charity's bank account. Now with an official site, proper email addresses, an office and phone number, USWSF is getting up to speed.

Thanks to the support of The Bulova Stetson Fund, Dick's story was edited and enhanced through additional filming, interviews, graphics, and structural improvements to our digital deck and sizzle reel. While the documentary initially started off with intensive progress, we found ourselves challenged with the working title, "**Never Surrender**" yet possibly the format of the series that would stem from the initial documentary. Research was done and more than a "feel good" story that documents the incredible impact Dick Traum has had around the globe, yet also looks to modern day life transitions, and what technology lies ahead for those dealing with severe cases of paralysis, amputation, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis and other incredibly life-altering circumstances.

Work was also completed to develop a new logo complimenting our history going forward into 2024. The new logo relays the forward movement of USWSF and all those who benefit from us. Going forward, in addition to our increased training, we plan to continue our marketing and promotional efforts for the documentary, ensuring Dicks story is completed and distributed, available for all to continue their daily fight in this life.

Going Forward



In 2024, with our **“Patriots in Motion”** program, we will need to purchase additional equipment, and allocate for storage and maintenance on a higher level. Work has already begun in restructuring the board and creating a manageable infrastructure for program execution. Never should anyone feel "less than" others, yet be able to develop their best self, as part of a supportive "family" amongst the teams, and through USWSF, find the opportunity to learn, train, advance and succeed.

US Wheelchair Sports Fund would not be able to complete the tasks necessary in achieving our mission without the dedicated support of our loyal donors, big and small. We trust that those who can give more, do, and those who can't give much, give what they can. Basically, we operate as a volunteer organization, yet like everything, we have expenses necessary for day to day operations, as well as specific needs for education, equipment, training and event fees.

If you know anyone who might want to support us through time, resources, skills, grants, or even mileage/points donations for travel and hotels, please have them reach out to Joe Traum, at jtraum@uswsf.org. For sponsoring our uniforms, T-shirts and marketing materials available in our digital store, contact Josie Traum at jatraum@uswsf.org.





Freddie De Los Santos - Wounded Army Staff Sergeant
2020 Tokyo Paralympics Bronze Medal winner
USWSF Ambassador/Handcycle Coach

“Patriots In Motion” - a program aimed at empowering wounded and ill veterans. Understanding the unique challenges faced by veterans who have bravely served their country and have subsequently endured life-altering injuries, including limb loss and traumatic brain injuries, the program offers a specialized marathon training program, providing the tools, guidance, and support needed to excel in marathons and other races.

Our Program includes:

- **Marathon Training:** Specifically designed to cater to the needs of wounded veterans, focusing on individualized coaching, adaptive techniques, and injury prevention strategies. Whether our participants aim to run, handcycle, or use a racing chair, our training plans suit their abilities and aspirations.
- **Adaptive Equipment :** We embrace the power of adaptive equipment, including handcycles and pushrim, and racing chairs, enabling wounded and ill veterans to not only participate but excel in marathons, harness the full potential of adaptive sports equipment transforming obstacles into opportunities for athletic achievement and personal triumph.
- **Mental Health and Well-Being:** We recognize the integral connection between physical activity and mental health. Our programs not only focus on physical fitness but also prioritize mental resilience and emotional support. Through camaraderie, mentorship, and community engagement, we foster an environment where veterans can thrive both on and off the racecourse.
- **Community and Camaraderie:** Our program fosters a supportive community where veterans can connect with peers who understand their experiences and share their passion for sports. Together, we form a tight-knit network of athletes, coaches, and supporters united by a common goal: to empower veterans to thrive in sport and in life.

Contact Joe Traum - jtraum@uswsf.org for more information.

|Contact Us



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US Wheelchair Sports Fund

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