

Impact Report



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Swim with Mike
FOUNDATION

42nd Annual Swim With Mike Campaign Kick-Off

Welcome to the Fall Edition 2022 of *The Wave*!

We kick off the 42nd Annual Swim With Mike this fall. As the season of thanks and giving approaches, we are grateful for all of you, our loyal volunteers, donors, and friends of Swim With Mike!

The mission of Swim With Mike was founded on the principles of friends, family, and community. We thank you for your connection to Swim With Mike and for sharing our mission with your friends and family. Over the years, this wave of impact has created The Ripple Effect.

We wish you a joyous holiday season with your family and friends!

We look forward to seeing you next year at the 42nd Annual Swim With Mike on April 1, 2023 at USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center.

In The News

Welcome to New Students

This fall, we introduce our incoming class of scholarship recipients from across the nation. 12 new recipients from 9 states and Australia join 37 returning recipients. Swim With Mike has now assisted 283 recipients attend 146 universities across 47 states.

Giving Tuesday- November 29

As we gather for Thanksgiving this fall, we celebrate the importance of community, family, and friends- the very essence of Swim With Mike's beginnings in 1981, over 41 years ago. Consider a donation to Swim With Mike on Giving Tuesday!

Stay Connected

Follow us to keep up with the latest news!

Instagram & Facebook:

@swimwithmikefoundation

Website: www.swimwithmike.org



A NATIONAL IMPACT Scholarship Recipients 2022-2023

Emma Bailey <i>Meredith College</i>	Parker Haller <i>George Mason University</i>	Misha Palla <i>Columbia University</i>
Brad Bauer <i>University of Missouri</i>	Nick Harris <i>University of California, Davis</i>	Matthew Parks <i>East Carolina University</i>
Josh Brewer <i>University of Texas at Arlington</i>	Ben Hulin <i>Grand Canyon University</i>	Joe Radanovich <i>Texas Christian University</i>
Corben Brooks <i>University of California, LA</i>	Matt Hysten <i>University of Tampa</i>	Krista Ramirez-Villatoro <i>University of California, LA</i>
Austin Brotman <i>Stanford University</i>	Ella Ivie <i>Louisiana State University</i>	Alex Ruiz <i>University of Southern California</i>
Nadia Burns <i>University of Georgia</i>	Jake Javier <i>Duke University</i>	Kelli Sakaguchi <i>University of California, LA</i>
Zack Collie <i>Cal State University, Fullerton</i>	Jonathan Jimenez <i>University of Southern California</i>	Teisha Shadwell <i>University of Arizona</i>
Dillon Connolly <i>University of Southern California</i>	Amanda Joens <i>University of Nevada, Reno</i>	Daniel Smuts <i>University of Missouri</i>
Abigail Curtis <i>University of Lynchburg</i>	Charles Kennedy <i>Hillsdale College</i>	Aaron Stant <i>University of Michigan</i>
Andrew Donnellan <i>University of Arizona</i>	Jackson MacTaggart <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>	Alex Torelli <i>Yale University</i>
Cor'Rales Dupree <i>University of Illinois</i>	Ian Malesiewski <i>Harvard Law School</i>	Thomas Venos <i>University of Alabama</i>
Gabriela Durgin <i>Southern Oregon University</i>	Alison McKernan <i>Gonzaga University</i>	Hayden Werdal <i>Seattle University</i>
Philip Evans <i>University of Lynchburg</i>	Nick Miles <i>Arizona State University</i>	Mark Wilbourne <i>University of Colorado, Boulder</i>
Kie Fujii <i>Hackensack School of Medicine</i>	Myles Molnar <i>University of Southern California</i>	Erica Wilson <i>Duke University</i>
Natalie Fung <i>University of Southern California</i>	Ignacio Montoya <i>California State University, LA</i>	McKenna Woodhead <i>Clemson University</i>
Hunter Garstin <i>Northern Kentucky University</i>	Rachel Norris <i>Texas Tech University</i>	
Alex Goldmeier <i>William James College</i>	Jack O'Neil <i>University of Wyoming</i>	



Dear Swim With Mike Family and Friends,

This past April we celebrated 41 years of supporting our physically challenged athletes. Let that sink in for a minute... 41 years! As I was sitting down to write this message, it struck me that having been at the very first event back in 1981, I've been a part of the Swim With Mike community for two-thirds of my life. What began as Ron's desire to help his teammate and friend through a local swim-a-thon has grown into a nationally recognized organization. That truly is "The Ripple Effect."

Over these past 41 years, I have been blessed with the opportunity to get to know so many of our amazing recipients. From Mike to Marianne, from Jennifer to Jeff, and from Austin to Annalee, the list goes on and on. And how have I been so fortunate? Because of the vision, dedication, and commitment of the thousands of volunteers and donors who choose to support Swim With Mike each and every year. Without you, none of this would be possible. Because of you, we are currently supporting 49 recipients with \$806,000 in scholarship support!

As we get ready to launch our 42nd campaign, presented by our good friends at Jersey Mike's, I am confident that you will renew your commitment to Swim With Mike. The annual support from our community of family and friends is what allows us to do the work we do to impact the lives of our recipients and their families.

At the same time, as we look to the future, I ask that you consider joining those who have made permanent their support for Swim With Mike through the creation of an endowed scholarship or a commitment through a bequest. It can be as simple as making a one-time endowment gift or adding a sentence to your estate plan. Please join me in securing the future of Swim With Mike. You'll be glad you did! If you're interested in learning more, please contact Ron Orr at 626-390-7675.

I look forward to seeing you on April 1st, 2023 for Swim With Mike 42!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Neil Macready". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Neil Macready
President
Swim With Mike Foundation

NEW SCHOLARSHIP

COR'RALES DUPREE
MBA, University of Illinois



Cor'Rales hales from Richmond, VA and is completing his MBA degree at the University of Illinois. When he was a teenager he was shot defending his mother from someone who was assaulting her. As a result of his wounds, he had to have his leg amputated at the age of 16. His injury detoured a promising career as an athlete for him and prevented him from being recruited to play football in college. In his own words, "I did not let the curveball life threw at me cause me to strike out." He has used this opportunity as a second chance at life to pursue his passion and purpose. In 2017, he founded an organization and started a business called "Protect My Brother" to raise awareness on violence prevention which has grown tremendously. As a young entrepreneur who has overcome adversity, he has learned how important it is to think out of the box and build connections to benefit great causes. He continues to serve as a mentor and program advisor to youth basketball teams.



GABRIELA DURGIN
BA, Psychology
Southern Oregon University

Gabriela started playing recreational (club) softball when she was 6 years old, and continued playing until around age 11 or 12. At that point, she moved on to competitive softball until a car accident in 2021 left her paralyzed from the waist down. Her current hobbies include coaching softball and crocheting where she enjoys making customized gifts for close family and friends. Prior to the car accident, Gabriela was planning on playing softball in college. She continues to participate in her passion, softball, as a catching coach for a travel softball team where she enjoys giving players pointers and leading catchers drills.



HUNTER GARSTIN
MS, Industrial Organizational
Psychology
Northern Kentucky
University

"Without Swim With Mike, my focus would be concentrated on how to pay for school rather than how to thrive in it."

Ever since he was a child, Hunter has had a strong drive to accomplish what he set out to do. He played basketball and was on his high school wrestling team. On December 7, 2013, of his freshman year, Hunter was catastrophically injured during a high school wrestling match. He tripped and as he was falling backward his opponent landed on top of him breaking his neck at C6-7. He not only lost his ability to walk but the injury brought his whole family to their knees. Being 15 is hard enough but needing help with combing his hair, writing or feeding himself was too much. The incredible support of others, many who he had never met pushed him to walk again. Over the next two years, he was in and out of school as he had to travel to Atlanta for rehab. He kept up with his school work and was able to graduate on time. The hard work has paid off and he is able to stand and take a few steps with assistance. Scholarship recipients Spencer Fox and Joe Hunsaker suggested that Hunter apply for a Swim With Mike scholarship. Hunter completed his bachelor's degree in Spring 2021 and is now pursuing his master's degree.



NICK HARRIS
BS, Psychology
University of California, Davis

On June 27, 2014, while spending time at a lake near his hometown of Sonora, CA Nick sustained a spinal cord injury. He dove into the water and hit a sandbar severing the C 6/7 vertebrae in his neck and paralysis from the chest down. Prior to his injury, Nick was a competitive athlete playing varsity baseball, and competing in motocross and mountain biking. Nick continues to pursue his passion for sports and outdoor activities where he enjoys riding his adaptive mountain bike on trails with friends and family, and fishing with his dad. He enjoys tackling challenges head on. In addition to his extracurricular activities, Nick actively volunteers as a peer mentor with the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. Though this organization, he provides mentorship to those facing various forms of adversity.

RECIPIENTS

MATT HYLEN
BS, Criminal Justice
University of Tampa

Matt has been an athlete his whole life and has had a passion for anything sports since he can remember. The summer before high school in July 2018, Matt was experiencing vertigo and nausea and was forced to sit out for basketball season. The symptoms became worse and in June 2020 he was diagnosed with Chiari Malformation and was rushed into the hospital for emergency brain surgery. After a near death experience and a subsequent diagnosis with ulcerative colitis, the amazing doctors at Boston Children's Hospital saved his life. To stay connected with his passion for basketball, Matt coaches kids and finds that they inspire him and truly demonstrate his belief that every person can have an impact on the world. A highlight of the start of his freshman year at the University of Tampa is being involved in The Bonner Program. Their motto is "Access to Education, Opportunity to Serve." Matt is a very service-focused young man and says, "I feel very lucky in so many ways, not just medically but the fact that so many people believe in me and have invested in my future."



NICK MILES
BA, Psychology
Arizona State University



In 2021 following a ski accident, Nick was diagnosed as a C4 quadriplegic leaving him paralyzed from the chest down. Prior to his injury, Nick was an active athlete playing a variety of youth sports including: baseball, soccer, basketball, golf, wakeboarding, and skiing/snowboarding. Nick graduated in the top 10% of his class from Blue Ridge High School. After high school, Nick attended BYU before transferring to Arizona State University to pursue his bachelor's degree in Psychology. Nick is active in his community including volunteer work where he has completed wood cutting for widows, visited nursing homes for the elderly, cleared green waste from elderly people's yards, collected food for Thanksgiving dinners for families in need, and wrapped gifts for children at Christmas. Nick's interests include snow skiing, scuba diving, wakeboarding/surfing, golf, watching professional football and basketball games, and hanging out with friends.

Visit our website for ways to give: www.swimwithmike.org

NEW SCHOLARSHIP

AMANDA JOENS

BS, Kinesiology

University of Nevada, Reno

On January 12, 2022, Amanda sustained a C5 spinal cord injury while in the middle of a wrestling match resulting in paralysis from the shoulders down. Following weeks of vigorous therapy, Amanda was able to regain strength and mobility in a short period of time. Prior to her injury, Amanda was an active participant of wrestling and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. As of today, she has regained mobility without the need of any assistive equipment. Daily, she follows a strict workout regimen to continue to work on regaining her muscle strength and flexibility. In her free time, she enjoys hobbies that fulfill her passion for physical fitness and creativity whether it be hiking, camping, reading, watching a good Ryan Reynolds movie, or painting with Bob Ross. She feels blessed to be part of the Swim With Mike family and looks forward to pursuing her dream of completing her college education.



TEISHA SHADWELL

BS, Nursing

University of Arizona

Teisha is a native of Australia and is attending the University of Arizona. In 2017, Teisha was diagnosed with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) in both her feet. CRPS is a dysfunction of the central and peripheral nervous systems that cause abnormal functioning resulting in an overreaction to pain signals that the nervous system can't shut off. She is limited in her range of motion and capacity to walk. Teisha is an active athlete, where she has competed in basketball, cross-country, and volleyball throughout her life. She attends the University of Arizona where she currently plays wheelchair basketball and wheelchair football (AFL). Aside from sports, she enjoys crafting with her Cricut machine and has a passion for animals.



RACHEL NORRIS

BS, Psychology

Texas Tech University

In 2019, Rachel was diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), a dysfunction of the autonomic nervous system that controls breathing, heart rate, blood pressure, and digestion. Rachel is an avid equestrian where she has won countless awards at the Miami County Fair each year, one being the Reserve Grand Champion of Horsemanship. She competed on the Frank Phillips College rodeo team for 2 years and the Ohio High School rodeo team for three years, qualifying for High School Rodeo National Finals in 2019.

In addition to her successes in rodeo, she competed on the varsity soccer team, varsity swim team, and varsity track team. Her interests outside of athletics and rodeo include travel where she hopes to one day visit Australia. Rachel is also active in her church.



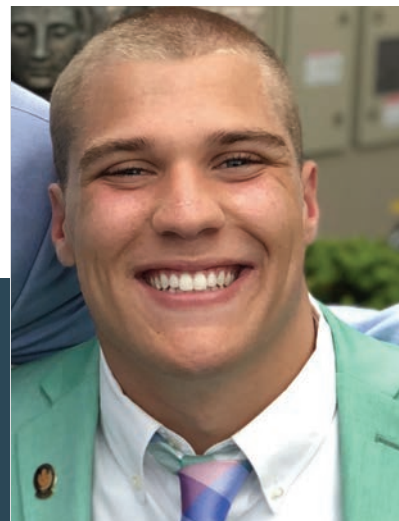
CHARLES KENNEDY
Hillsdale College

In 2013, at the age of nine, Charles suffered from a ruptured AVM (Arteriovenous Malformation), a type of cranial stroke. As a result of the pressure build up in his brain, he was left paralyzed on the entire left side of his body. After a month in the ICU and a second month in in-patient rehab, he was released from the hospital. Although he recovered miraculously, he still suffers from full paralysis from the knee down on his left leg. Charles has a variety of hobbies and plays violin, cello, mandolin, piano, and guitar. He enjoys outdoor activities including cross-fit competitions, varsity crew, boxing, swimming, hunting, and fishing. He manages 100-plus acres of hunting property and improves soil pH and the overall benefit of the natural habitat by carefully planning crops and fertilizer application.

RECIPIENTS

IAN MALESIEWSKI
Harvard Law School

On June 3, 2016, Ian suffered a traumatic neck/spinal cord injury while wrestling in the Cadet World Team Trials at the University of Akron. Ian was trying to earn a spot to represent the United States of America at the World Championships. This sporting accident left him paralyzed from the chest down with a shattered C4 vertebrae, making him a quadriplegic. Prior to his injury, Ian was a Division I football recruit where he played football at Cathedral Preparatory School as a linebacker and fullback. In addition to his success on the football field, Ian was a wrestling recruit, four-time Pennsylvania State Champion, National Finalist (freestyle) and National All-American third place winner. In March 2021, Ian was selected as a scholarship finalist by the Harry Truman Scholarship Foundation for his record in leadership, commitment to public service, and academic achievement. He is an active volunteer where he mentors and assists other students with disabilities. He led fundraising efforts to raise \$60,000 to support scholarships for the "DeflAnT Scholars Program" to support others who are committed to pursuing higher education. His hobbies include water sports, football, and music where he is an avid concert enthusiast.



HAYDEN WERDAL
BS, Psychology/BS, Human Biology
Seattle University



In October 2014, a few weeks into his 8th grade year, Hayden came down with a nasty cold. Following some debilitating symptoms, he was quickly rushed to the ER and diagnosed with Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) as a ventilator-dependent quadriplegic. Hayden attended Our Lady Star of the Sea elementary and middle school in Washington where he competed in track and field, competing in the 100m sprint, 400m relay, and 1600m relay at track meets. Hayden is a television and movie buff where he enjoys zombie and ghost stories, and tries to watch a new movie twice weekly. Hayden also enjoys playing adaptive video games with his two best friends and brother.

Visit our website for ways to give: www.swimwithmike.org

ALUMNI

YVONNE THOMAS

(MS, Education '16)

University of Southern California

Yvonne believes that teaching, service to the community, and motherhood are the passions that she was destined to fulfill. After graduating with a master's degree in education from the USC Rossier School of Education thanks to a Swim With Mike scholarship, she has been teaching children with a specialized focus on literacy. She believes that if a child learns how to read, the sky is the limit to their pursuits. This skill enables them to educate themselves, teach others, and opens up their world to new and exciting opportunities. Currently, she homeschools her three children, Clara (8), Michael (6), and Juliana (4), and works as a reading tutor. She also teaches science to a group of children.

Weaving reading into her curriculum, she looks for stories that demonstrate friendship, overcoming adversity, resilience, and service to others. This led her to begin writing a children's book about Swim With Mike. In Yvonne's own words, "It is a beautiful story; it is a story that has changed my life, and I hope to put it in a format that allows others to learn about the organization and the good it's done, but also inspires others to persevere and overcome their own difficulties by doing something that makes a difference in the world." She has started the writing process for her children's book and looks forward to sharing the unique story of friendship and perseverance with the community once it is published!

"Swim With Mike has shown me the importance of community, support, and service. I am touched at how people have come together to make the impact of the organization what it is. Swim With Mike has allowed me to pursue my passions."



SPOTLIGHTS



MARC LITTLE
(BA '87, JD '94)
University of Southern California

After receiving his bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from USC, Marc went on to complete his law degree from the USC Gould School of Law thanks to a Swim With Mike scholarship, and later completed a master's degree from Fuller Seminary. After sustaining a life-altering injury that led to the amputation of his right leg following a gunshot wound, Marc defied the odds and chose to spend the rest of his life fighting for the causes he believes in.

Marc has his own law firm and serves as host of The Marc Little Show podcast. In 2020, Marc launched CURE America Inc., a 501(c)(4) organization advocating for the sanctity of human life and promoting Christianity throughout the nation. A lifelong policy advocate, Marc is an ambassador to the America First Policy Institute and serves as the chair of the Center for Urban Renewal and Education located in Washington, DC with a mission to fight poverty and restore dignity through faith. For over 16 years, Marc led the Political Action Ministry of Faithful Central Bible Church in Inglewood, and co-founded the Interdenominational Action Network (IAN). From 2000 to 2012, Marc served as COO and General Counsel for The Forum Enterprises, the operational oversight of The Forum in Inglewood.

Marc is an active commentator for cable television, radio, and print media and is highly sought after for his leadership and expertise across multiple sectors: nonprofit advocacy, civic engagement, and government affairs.

"Swim With Mike provided the camaradery, support, and direction that I needed in 1988 at the toughest crossroad in my life at that time. It was a blessing to me. I owe my success to Ron Orr, Mike Nyeholt, and the Swim With Mike family of donors and supporters."

MAKE AN IMPACT

ENDOWMENT

An endowed scholarship may be created with a \$100,000 gift which can be payable over a five-year period. The principal of the gift enables the scholarship to remain in perpetuity.

CENTOFANTE FAMILY ANNIVERSARY CLUB

Started on the 10th Anniversary of Swim With Mike by the Centofante family, the fund was established to honor each anniversary with a \$100 gift. This year, the donation level is \$4,200 to celebrate our 42nd year.

LANE SPONSOR

Sponsor a lane at the event with a \$1,000 gift. Donations are recognized at the pool on event day and in our annual yearbook.

THE MILLER CHALLENGE

Through the generosity of Stephen Miller, the foundation matches all \$420 contributions, \$10 each year for 42 years.

BECOME A CAMPAIGN LEADER

Visit www.swimwithmike.org/fundraise for more information.

Swim With Mike By The Numbers

41 Years

\$27 Million Raised

283 Recipients since 1981

146 Universities Attended

47 States

Visit our website for more ways to give: www.swimwithmike.org



AMBERLEY SNYDER (BA '15) **Utah State University**

A lifelong athlete, equestrian, and rodeo star, Amberley Snyder was involved in a tragic car accident in 2010 which resulted in paralysis from the waist down. As part of her recovery, she resumed her love for barrel racing, horseback riding, and attending rodeos. Amberley made a cameo appearance in Paramount Network's hit series, *Yellowstone*. In Season 3, Episode 10 "The World is Purple" Amberley plays herself as an award-winning barrel racer. Dust flying and hair blazing, Amberley knows how to make a statement in the ring! Season 5 of *Yellowstone* premieres this fall, November 13 on Paramount Plus.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Amberley Snyder makes appearance in
Paramount Network's *Yellowstone*



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