



Happy 2024! GSD is looking forward to sharing new projects and inspiring stories all year long - stay connected so you don't miss a thing.



## A Tribute to the Remarkable Life of Steven Ungerleider

Last year we lost our founder and dear friend, Dr. Steven Ungerleider. We invite you to watch this **heartfelt tribute** of his extraordinary life as a visionary leader, philanthropist, and champion of positive change. We're honored to keep his legacy alive every day through the many programs he launched.



Looking for more inspiring stories? Follow us on our **YouTube channel** to

explore stories of resilience, triumph, and social impact.

Watch exclusive clips of our films, bonus footage of our awards and awardees, and discover resources and information to help make the world of sports a better place.

## Meet our 2023 Athletes in Excellence

Established in 2015, GSD's **Athletes in Excellence Award** recognizes exceptional athletes who uphold the values of good sportsmanship and fair play.

Since then, we've been proud to celebrate those who use their achievements in sport as a catalyst to inspire positive change by giving each recipient a \$10,000 grant to support their commitment to enriching the lives of others.

### JACOB HEILVEIL

*US – Paralympian – Wheelchair  
Racing*



Jacob lost the use of his legs as an infant when he contracted polio. He became interested in wheelchair racing around age twelve and has been a competitor ever since, participating in ninety marathons, three Paralympics, and two World Championships. Jacob has coached wheelchair athletes and co-created the Exciting Programs Adventures and New Dimensions program (EXPAND), Colorado's first Paralympic sports club, operated through the city's Parks and Recreation Department. He's currently developing an initiative to supply adapted equipment to existing mainstream community sport programs.

He regularly volunteers in Vietnam, Thailand, and Japan conducting wheelchair racing clinics. Jacob is an advocate of providing people with experiences and exposure to expand their perceptions of what is possible.

## ANTON JACKSON



US - Deaflympics Gold Medalist -  
Basketball

After passing up Division I offers to attend Gallaudet University, Anton, a Deaf basketball player, went on to win Rookie of the Year at the university, a bronze medal at the 2007 World Championships and a gold medal at the 2009 Deaflympics. Returning to Gallaudet as an assistant basketball coach, Jackson led the school's team to one of its few conference championships, before attending Trainer University to obtain an I'm Possible certification. In 2021, he founded AdroitBucket to provide access to elite basketball training and inspire Deaf youth to achieve their athletic dream. Some of his alumni are well on their way having been selected to represent Team USA!



Although abuse prevention initiatives have made great strides in the past few years, it's important to acknowledge that many individuals continue to be impacted by physical, emotional, or verbal abuse.

Please help us raise awareness about the resources available to those who may need them. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, don't hesitate to reach out to the **Courage First Athlete Helpline**. **The helpline offers a confidential and compassionate space where trained professionals can provide assistance, guidance, and resources to those in need.**

Call or Text **888-279-1026** or chat live on **[athlethehelpline.org](https://athlethehelpline.org)**

GSD is committed to abuse prevention. Let's make the new year a time of renewal and solidarity, ensuring that everyone has access to the support they deserve. We hope you'll join us in fostering safe environments for everyone in 2024 and beyond.

Chat Live



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