



For the past several years, the Foundation for Global Sports Development has supported **International Table Tennis Federation Foundation** (ITTF Foundation)'s **Dream Building Fund**, which provides financial and knowledge-centered support to organizations that bring local solutions to humanity's problems through table tennis.

The Dream Building Fund has touched the lives of individuals across the globe, allowing them to access training, education, and resources that would otherwise be out of reach. Through this initiative, ITTF Foundation aims to advance the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and foster a new generation of table-tennis-for-development champions who will inspire others and become change makers within their communities.

We're proud to announce the **five selected projects** of the 4th edition of the Dream Building Fund. Thank you to all the applicants, and congratulations to all the recipients.



Ping Pong for Peace in Somalia

Somalia Table Tennis Federation, Somalia

**Shaping the Future through
Table Tennis**

Promoting Life-Time Activities
for the Youth (PLAY), Malawi



**Smash Barriers – Every Table is a
Playground**

Kapadwanj Kelavani
Mandal, India

**Table Tennis against
Alzheimer's – the Art of
Inclusion**

Foundation Compassion
Alzheimer Bulgaria,
Bulgaria



**Utilizing Table Tennis to
Improve Integration and Social
Skills of Students with Learning
Disabilities in a Mainstream
Elementary School in Palestine**

The Comprehensive Model
University School Hebron,
Palestine

Uncle Bully's Surf Skool

We're delighted to have partnered with the **Uncle Bully's Surf Skool** documentary team at **Inflatable Film** to increase their film's impact through community screenings and educational guides.

The short film, which premiered in October 2023, shows the power of Bull "Uncle Bully" Kotter's mentorship, nurturing, and aloha upon the lives of keiki (children) from Lahaina, Maui, Hawai'i - all through surfing.

Earlier this month, the film won **Best Short Film at the Key Biscayne Film Festival**. We're touched to see the outpouring of support for Lahaina, Uncle Bully, and the sport that brought everyone together.



Sidewinder Films Completion Funds Award



Last year, we launched the **Sidewinder Films Completion Funds Award** in partnership with **Decentralized Pictures**. The award, which was open to inspiring films that tell a captivating factual story, offers \$200,000 in completion funding and mentorship from Sidewinder and DCP.

We received submissions from 36 amazing filmmakers, and are excited to announce the winners soon. Up to two projects will be awarded the option to enter into financing and collaboration agreements, and up to 10 finalists will be considered for networking opportunities.

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.

Natalia Mayara Azevedo Da Costa

Brazil – Paralympian – Wheelchair Tennis



Ranked top twelve in the world, top ten for doubles, and number one in Brazil for wheelchair tennis while actively competing, Natalia qualified for the 2012 and 2016 Paralympic Games. She won a silver medal at Les Petit As, Wheelchair Tennis Junior Masters, and gold medals at the Juniors South American Games and the Para Pan-American Games in both singles and doubles, giving Brazil its first gold medal in tennis. Now retired from competition, Natalia has been spreading awareness of adaptive sports and the Paralympic movement. She has promoted wheelchair tennis by hosting clinics, conducting school assemblies, and creating and sharing content. She has volunteered for Brazilian Paralympic Committee (CPB) and Paralympic APC campaigns, advocating for the empowerment of Paralympic athletes and the importance of inclusion. Natalia also had the honor of representing all Paralympic athletes at the United Nations in Switzerland.



Amobi Okugo

US - Retired MLS Player

A first-generation Nigerian American from California, Amobi Okugo played over 200+ matches across multiple teams during his soccer career. While he was active in Major League Soccer (MLS), he represented his teammates as Team Captain and Player Representative, successfully negotiating improved player rights, and winning the Open Cup Championships (2015), Western Conference Winners (2017), and Copa de Tejas (2019). Okugo is a prolific volunteer, directly engaging with approximately 1,200 youth per year in a mentorship role, as well as an average of 25 community-based programs per year. His mission is to “help others understand their unique

opportunities and create excellence through exposure.” He is the founder of Frugal Athlete, a business that helps athletes through financial education and athlete empowerment, as well as the creator of the Ok U Go Foundation, a non-profit supporting BIPOC youth.



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