



APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH



Every year, **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** serves to shine a spotlight on the prevalence and impact of sexual violence. It highlights initiatives that champion prevention, aid survivors, and advocate for policies and programs aimed at combating sexual assault.

GSD is committed to ending all forms of abuse and invite you to join us in that mission

In 2019, our media division – **Sidewinder Films** – released *At the Heart of Gold: Inside the USA Gymnastics Scandal*. The documentary examines how an osteopathic physician for the U.S. Women's Olympic gymnastics team and Michigan State University (MSU) was able to sexually abuse young women and girls for decades while ostensibly providing them medical care. The institutions charged with protecting these athletes did nothing to stop him even in the face of mounting evidence of abuse. It took the collective power of the survivors for him to finally face justice in what would become a landmark case. We all owe these brave women a debt of gratitude for having come forward and changing the world.



AT THE HEART OF GOLD

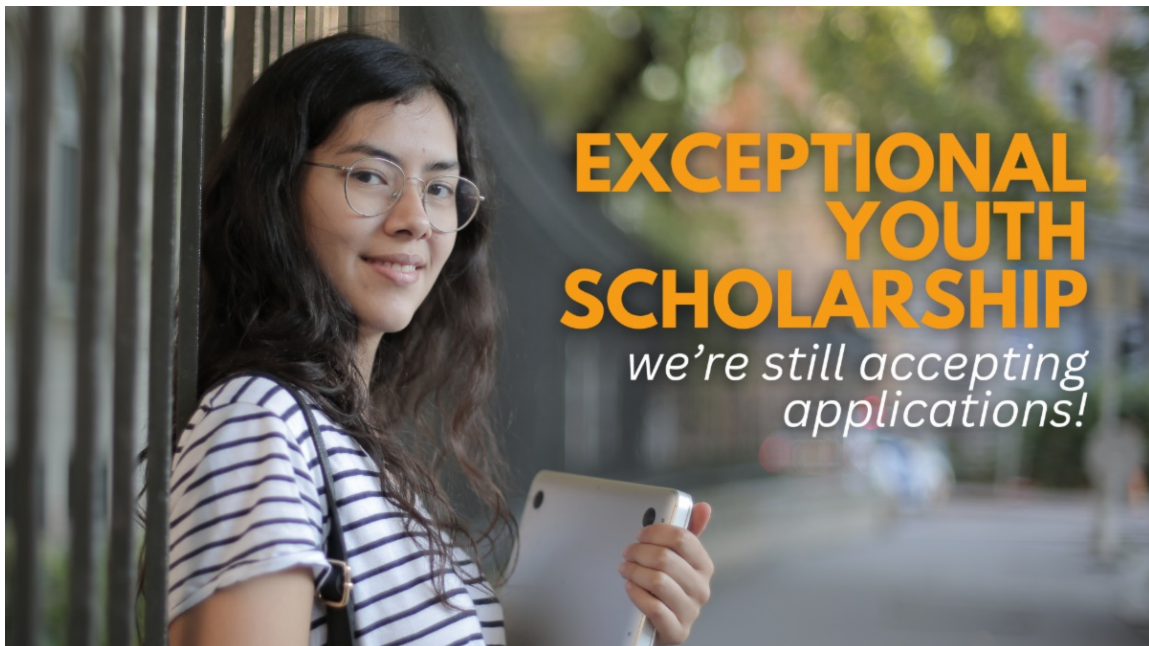
INSIDE THE USA GYMNASTICS SCANDAL

STREAM AT THE HEART OF GOLD ON
HBO

We were so moved by the survivors' courage to go public with their stories to help others, that we pledged funding for abuse prevention education and survivor support in their honor.

The **Courage First Athlete Helpline** is a direct result of that pledge. This month and throughout the year, the free service is available to help athletes navigate the unique power dynamics and lack of independent oversight inherent in sports. Staffed by trained counselors specializing in athlete-related issues, the helpline offers emotional support, crisis intervention, athlete-focused resources, and guidance on reporting suspected abuse for both children and adults involved in sports. Available in the U.S. and Canada, it serves as a confidential platform for current and former athletes, families, coaches, administrators, and allies to seek assistance regarding any form of abuse in sports.

If you or someone you know needs help, reach out via phone, text, or online chat. You're not alone.



The **Exceptional Youth Scholarship** offers ten (10) students the chance to receive a one-time scholarship of \$10,000 each to support their journey at a four-year accredited university or college in the United States.

If you're applying, please make sure to include a FAFSA-generated Student Aid Index (SAI) in your submission to be considered for the scholarship. [Applications submitted without the SAI will be automatically disqualified.](#)

Applications are being accepted until **May 17th, 2024, at 11:59 PM ET.**

APPLY NOW

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.



Jeff Williams was ranked #2 in the U.S. and #3 in the world in the 200-meter dash from 1994 to 1998. He earned a spot on the USA Olympic team in 1992 and 1996. In response to Southern California school budget cuts eliminating physical education classes in the late '90s, Williams co-developed the Psychomotor program which features activities that build agility, coordination, endurance, and cognitive development in children. Jeff was also an early participant in the Ready, Set, Gold! program, where he continues to spread the joy of sport to youth. Today, Jeff coaches high school track and is the National Director of Track and Field for Student Athlete International (SAI), a USATF Level II Certified Coach, and a USATF Athletics Official.



Shane Young founded Florida Gulf Coast State University's rugby team after leading his high school rugby team to three state championships and being named MVP his senior year. In 2012, Shane co-founded Memphis Inner City Rugby (MICR). He leveraged the power of social media and funds from his teaching job to provide equipment, registration costs, rides, academic support, and case management to youth from the poorest zip codes in America. Over the next 5 years, MICR grew to serve hundreds of students and partner with six schools. Today, the program — which has been recognized as a best-in-class model of Sport-Based Youth Development — partners with 14 schools and counts professional rugby players as alumni.



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