



# WINGS

*Giving wings to youth*

SEPTEMBER 2020



*Helping youth sports get up  
and running again*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



**"If you run into a wall, figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."**

- Michael Jordan

First, a final "thanks and farewell" to our wonderful outgoing Executive Director, Rebecca Figone. We will all miss her welcoming personality, and her unwavering passion and dedication to the kids that has helped propel our Foundation to become a cornerstone for Bay Area youth sports. Please therefore welcome our new Executive Director, John Ring. We could not be more excited to help John accelerate this next phase of our mission.

I am happy to report that youth sports are alive and resolute in our communities in these challenging times. It may come as no surprise that our grantee programs — led by coaches and former athletes — have shown incredible resilience, confidence, and determination to the great benefit of the kids...all qualities learned and ingrained through a lifetime of athletic competition.

We are truly inspired by the way our coaches and kids have adapted to this new reality to continue to train, play and compete, just when they need it most. They are Zoom-learning, social distancing, small-group training, masking, disinfecting and doing just about anything you can imagine to stay engaged and enriched in sports in a COVID-safe way.

Make no mistake — Bay Area youth sports have run into a wall in 2020, a brick wall. All of these adaptations amount to serving fewer kids at a greater expense. It comes at a time when positive outlets for kids are few and stress at home, especially in less fortunate communities, has never been higher. Plus, with jobs lost and childcare uncertain, funds are scarce. Olympians, these kids truly need our help more than ever. Whether you have given in the past or are considering it anew, please join me in making this the year of your greatest support.

If the post-pandemic world is a brick wall for youth sports, then The Olympic Club Foundation intends to be a sledgehammer. Please join us and let's knock out some bricks!

For the kids!

**Tony Scuderi**

*President, The Olympic Club Foundation*



### PIVOTING DURING COVID

### GRANTEE STORY: GIRLS ON THE RUN

To prepare for their fall programs, Girls on the Run has created tentative in-person and virtual plans. Should in-person meetings be allowed, their teams will hold 90-minute practices outdoors before or after school with the option of holding their sessions virtually. Teams that choose to have in-person practices will be trained to transition to virtual programming, 40-minute Zoom practices, should it become unsafe to meet in person. In addition, their fall program will include journaling activities and their end of season celebratory 5k run.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE



Kevin Restani was a bit of a folk hero to kids who grew up in the City in the 1970s. He was a dominant force at Riordan High School, a college star at USF, and we always knew when his NBA team would be in town to play the Warriors. He was simply the greatest

player from San Francisco to come out of the WCAL and we followed his every move.

So, when Riordan High School hired me to renovate their gym in memory of Kevin in 2015, it was a tremendous honor. It was during that time that I learned that Kevin was a better person than player and that he was part of a very special community at the Olympic Club. I also had the pleasure of meeting Rebecca Figone from the Olympic Club Foundation. Working with Rebecca and OCF President Brad Solso, the Olympic Club Foundation served as the lead donor as we were able to raise more than \$800,000 to install "Kevin Restani Court" at Riordan.

This project was a testament to why our community is so great. Club members Bob Sarlatte and George Noceti served as the Masters of Ceremony at the events, Bill Cartwright

and Jim Brovelli sat on the honorary committee, alumni of all the local schools (Riordan, SI, SH, Mercy, Presentation, Serra and St. Rose) got involved, Mark Farrell made his first public appearance as Mayor to honor Kevin, and dozens of Kevin's high school and college classmates stepped up to help us get it done.

And Rebecca led the Olympic Club Foundation's involvement, as more than 200 club members gave \$220,000 to the cause. Today, the best high school gym in the City bears Kevin Restani's name and features the OCF's logo, serving thousands of boys and girls annually.

None of it would have happened without Rebecca Figone and the Olympic Club Foundation. As I take on this important position, I look forward to building upon her good work as we "level the playing field" for kids who need our support.

Sincerely,



**John J. Ring**

*Executive Director, The Olympic Club Foundation*

### PIVOTING DURING COVID

#### GRANTEE STORY: CITY SURF

City Surf Project moved its 3rd Annual Surf-a-thon to a virtual format to follow COVID guidelines. Their summer programs were altered to keep participants safe while still achieving their mission. Instead of holding six one-week sessions, they held two three-week sessions in addition to having virtual community-building activities. City Surf has also temporarily suspended its volunteer program in order to limit personnel in contact with participants.





# FIGHT NIGHT 2020

**CANCELED**

This year's Fight Night and other 2020 Olympic Club Foundation events have been canceled. If you have supported Fight Night in the past, please consider using the enclosed envelope to continue to help us provide critical funding to more than 50 Bay Area youth sports programs.

## PIVOTING DURING COVID

### GRANTEE STORY: TRIPS FOR KIDS MARIN



Trips for Kids Marin has partnered with the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California chapter for their Learn it, Fix it, Shred it program. The program is entirely virtual, consisting of hour-long classes that have been well attended and very popular amongst the girls. After completing a class, the girls are encouraged to bike five miles and practice the bike maintenance skills they have learned. Completing these tasks earns them the Good Sportsmanship Merit Badge.



## OCF BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM

Become an Olympic Club Foundation Business or Community Partner by Supporting **the 2020 Annual Campaign for Kids!** Business and Community Partners will be recognized in online and print materials, at 2021 OCF Events, and will be listed on the Foundation's website. For more information, please contact John Ring at [jring@ocfkids.org](mailto:jring@ocfkids.org).