



2025

US RUGBY FOUNDATION

YEAR IN REVIEW

Our Team Captains



Welcome, Shane Young

We are thrilled to welcome Shane Young as the US Rugby Foundation's new CEO. Shane's commitment to the sport began in 2012 when he co-founded Memphis Inner City Rugby (MICR) as a Teach For America educator, eventually reaching over 3,800 students and creating a national model for sports-based youth development.

As we look toward the 2028 Olympics and 2031/2033 World Cups, Shane's vision is centered on radical inclusivity and growth. His leadership will be vital as we scale our grassroots impact by ensuring every child has a pathway to excellence and a place in the future of American rugby.



Jon Hinkin

Now serving as COO, Jon Hinkin transitions from his role as CEO to lead the Foundation's internal operations.

As a former USA 7's Rugby team captain (1997-1998) who competed in the 1993 Rugby World Cup Sevens, he also spent 13 years (2006-2019) as VP of Competitions for United World Sports overseeing major rugby events. Hinkin possesses nearly three decades of experience building sales, marketing, and support teams across various organizations.

Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

It is an extraordinary honor to step into the role of CEO of the US Rugby Foundation at such a critical and promising moment in the American rugby story. Our sport is entering a new era—one shaped by the dedication, vision, and hard work of so many who have carried rugby forward in this country for decades. I am deeply grateful for the leaders, volunteers, donors, coaches, and athletes whose commitment has built the foundation for the opportunities now before us at US Rugby Foundation.

As we reflect on the achievements highlighted in this 2025 Annual Report, we also look ahead with excitement and ambition. In 2026, US Rugby Foundation will launch a major new initiative designed to revolutionize youth rugby development in the United States. This effort represents more than a program—it is a long-term investment in the future of American rugby, one that we believe will transform the trajectory of the sport for generations to come.

In the year ahead, I look forward to meeting and reconnecting with members of the American rugby community at events across the country. Your passion, your belief in what rugby can mean for young people, and your support of USRF's mission continue to inspire us every day.

Thank you for your time, your attention, and your ongoing commitment to the United States Rugby Foundation. Together, we are building something truly meaningful for the future of American rugby.



Shane Young

PRESIDENT & CEO
US RUGBY FOUNDATION

2025 Impact

Since 1963, the US Rugby Foundation has raised millions of dollars and awarded thousands of grants to support the growth of grassroots rugby.

\$509,496

2025 Total Grant Funding Provided

\$3.5 Million

Lifetime Total Grant Funding Provided

	In 2025	All Time
A Ball 4 All Rugby Balls	116	19,216
Match Day Tents	16	57
College Scholarships	22	201
Awarded Grants	9	44
Medical Kits	8	8
Pathways Of Excellence	5	30
Referee	2	19

Pillars of Support



Youth & Development

From ball grants to match day tents, we are helping to grow the game.



Pathways to Excellence

Sending players to develop their skills through rugby academies.



Coaches

Growing grassroots rugby starts with proper techniques provided by coaches.



Referees

Providing opportunities for referees to improve their skills on the pitch.



Health & Safety

Minimizing the risk of youth and high school rugby injuries.

Youth Rugby Initiative



In 2025, the US Rugby Foundation continued expanding the **Youth Rugby Initiative** Powered by **Imagine Rugby**, increasing access to flag rugby in physical education programs nationwide. Through partnerships with **Imagine Rugby**, **Major League Rugby**, and the **USA Youth and High School Rugby**, the initiative provides schools with free equipment and curriculum resources, making it easy for educators to introduce the sport in a safe, inclusive, and engaging way.

Initiative Milestones	Nationwide	Schools	Students
	2025	1,366	273,200



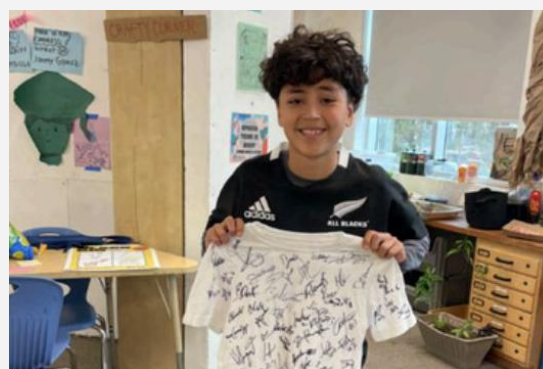
National Momentum at SHAPE America

Our presence at the National SHAPE Conference was another major highlight. Hundreds of physical education teachers attended our flag rugby demonstrations, learned about our curriculum, and signed up to receive equipment to bring rugby directly into their schools. This moment truly underscored the growing demand for innovative, engaging sports in PE programs nationwide.

Inspiring Students Through Rugby

Experiencing rugby at the highest level turns classroom participation into real-world inspiration and strengthens students' connection to the game.

We are planting the seeds of this Olympic sport in young men and women nationwide – creating opportunities for lifelong friendships, college aspirations, and a strong sense of inclusion through rugby.



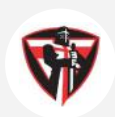
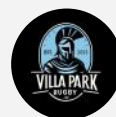
USA Youth & High School Grants



USA Youth & High School Rugby, in partnership with US Rugby Foundation, established a national program to provide seed funding to new high school programs in an effort to increase the number of high school rugby programs throughout the United States. **The US Rugby Foundation contributed \$100,000 of funding to the program.** These new programs must be on campus programs via full varsity status or an adopted club sport by the school's athletic department.

Since 2023, we have funded 20 new high school programs

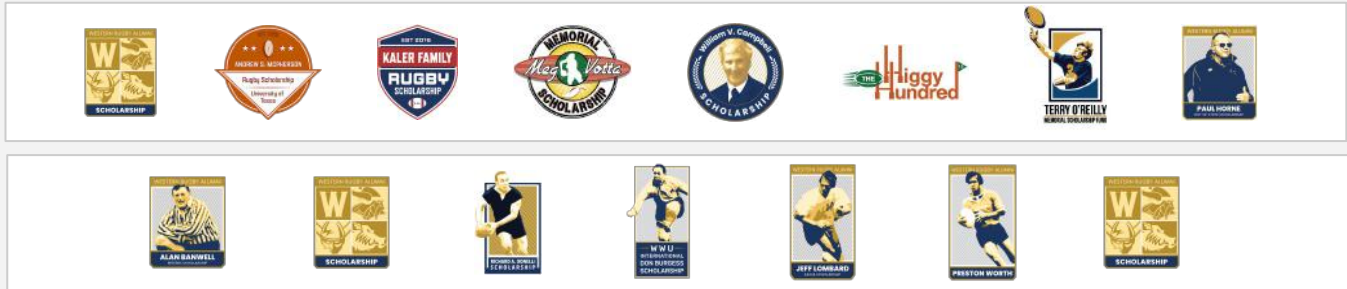
31 grant applications were received in 2025/2026

	Ascend Leadership Academy NC		Grove City OH		Orange Lutheran CA		St. Rita of Cascia High School IL
	Canton High School MA		Hudson Catholic High School NJ		San Juan RFC NM		Sun Valley High School NC
	Cumberland Valley PA		Junipero Serra High School CA		Scotland Chapel PA		Villa Park High School CA
	East Jefferson Warriors High School LA		Loyola High School CA		St. Ignatius College Preparatory CA		Warren Easton LA
	Great Hearts Forest Heights TX		Maui High School HI		St. John's College High School D.C.		Worcester HS MA

[Learn More →](#)

2024-2025 College Scholarships

Scholarships are open to incoming college freshmen who are pursuing their rugby career while continuing their education at the collegiate level.



Charlie Green
Dante Rivera
Emerson Callegari
Eric Ishekwene
Harvey Goodwin
James Rose
Lucas Miners
Mia Blocher
Renee Blazer
Rocco Pool
The Kevin Higgins College
Scholarship

Mia Blocker
The Terry O'Reilly Memorial
Scholarship

No Recipient
The Meg Votta Memorial
Scholarship

No Recipient
Richard A. Donelli Memorial
Scholarship

No Recipient
William V. Campbell Memorial
Scholarship

Paul Conley
Renee Blazer
Kaler Family
Rugby Scholarships

Brady McHugh
George Pritchard
Lyndon Bailey
Marc Jackson
Oliver Kelleher
Sam Schuver
Western Washington
University Scholarships

Brody Johnson
Miguel Solorzano
Dick Poulson
Scholarship

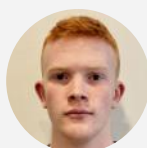
**Charles "Chuck"
Gehl**
**Jamison "Jamie"
Clegg**
**Kolomona "Kolo"
Kanhau**
Graham Downes
Development Fund

Graham Downes International Scholarship at Nelson College

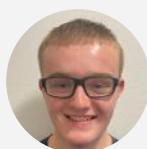


The US Rugby Foundation's Nelson College Rugby Scholarship sends male high school students to Nelson College in New Zealand for four and a half months over the spring and summer. The goal is to advance the personal, cultural, and academic development of the student athletes while also giving them the opportunity to become better rugby players and use their experience in New Zealand to influence and help elevate the play of their high school teammates when they returned.

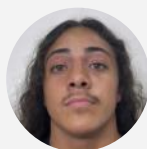
2025 Recipients



Jamison Clegg
Bozeman, MT

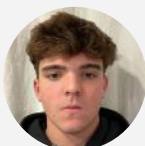


Charles Gehl
Missoula, MT



Kolomona Kahanu
Pahoa, HI

2024 Recipients

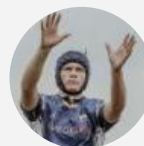


Connor Bender
Cleveland, OH



Joseph Walter "JW" Sarkees
Central, SC

2023 Recipients



Max Doerfler
Overland Park, KS



Oliver Kirk
Chicago, IL



Connor Bender, Oliver Kirk, Joseph "JW" Sarkees

Brotherhood Beyond Borders

In a testament to the transformative power of USRF's Nelson College Scholarship, the connections forged transcend continents. When 2023 recipients Connor Bender and Joseph "JW" Sarkees arrived in New Zealand, they found more than just a rugby opportunity — they discovered a global brotherhood. Welcomed by 2022 scholarship recipient Oliver Kirk, who returned to Nelson College for the 2024 season, the American athletes embraced the challenge, ultimately triumphing by winning both the Whangamoa Challenge Trophy and the Trustee Bank Cup. Their journey exemplifies the scholarship's core mission: developing athletes who grow not just in skill, but in character and international understanding.

Medical Bag Grant Recipients



The Medical Bag Grant program is designed to enhance safety in youth and high school rugby across the United States. This initiative provides fully-equipped field-side first aid kits to eligible programs, supporting our commitment to player health and safety. The comprehensive medical bags contain essential supplies for immediate, on-field care, including bandages, gauze, cold packs, and more.



Green Hornets Youth Rugby

Severna Park, MD



Middleton Rugby Club

Middleton, ID



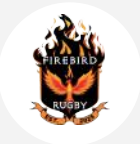
Mira Costa Girls Rugby SCO

Manhattan Beach, CA



Albuquerque Youth Rugby United

Rio Rancho, NM



Firebird Rugby

Baltimore, MD



Royal Rambler Force Rugby Club

Saint Charles, MO



Southern Pines Youth Rugby Club

Pinehurst, NC



Falcon Youth Rugby Club

Spring, TX

Without the support of Dr. Micheli and the Division of Sports Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, these medical kits would not be available for youth clubs across the US. We appreciate Dr. Micheli and his team for making this happen in hopes to provide rugby organizations with equipment and knowledge to keep players safe.

[Learn More →](#)



In memory of
Dr. Micheli

Awarded Grants



Women's Rugby Coaches & Referee Association

A grant supporting the Women's Rugby Coaches & Referees Association in expanding education, resources, and development opportunities for women's rugby coaches and referees across the United States.



NAI 7s Rugby

Funding supported the NAI 7s tournament referee development program, providing coaching and mentorship for 72 referees during the national youth and collegiate competition.



Collegiate Alumni Jumpstart Grant Program

The Foundation partnered with Madak to launch a program helping collegiate rugby programs activate alumni networks to strengthen long-term funding and sustainability.



The College Rugby Association of America

A grant supporting the East vs. West All-Americans Match, showcasing top collegiate rugby talent from across the United States.



2025 Boys High School Rugby National Championships

Support helped host the national championship tournament bringing together the top high school rugby teams in the country for elite competition.



2025 National Girls Club Rugby Championship

Funding supported the national girls club rugby championship, celebrating and advancing high-level competition for female high school players.



HSBC LA7s Youth Rugby Field Trip

The Youth Rugby Initiative sponsored a field trip allowing middle and junior high students to attend the HSBC 7s World Championship and experience international rugby.



Tropical Rugby 7s

A partnership grant supporting referee training and development for the Tropical 7s tournament.



2025 Urban Rugby Championships

Funding supported the Urban Rugby Championship, bringing together youth from under-resourced communities for competition and leadership development through rugby.



Together we exceeded our goal of **\$87,000**

On behalf of the Board, Governors, Ambassadors, and the entire rugby community, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support. Your contributions not only play a crucial role in our mission, but also inspire others to step forward and make a difference.

In 2025, we exceeded our fundraising goals, and it's all thanks to the dedication and passion of supporters like you. Your commitment allows us to continue our youth rugby development programs nationwide, college scholarships for promising young athletes, essential coach and referee training, critical health and safety initiatives, and more!

Together, we are creating lasting change and making a significant impact in the lives of those we serve. Your belief in our cause motivates us to keep striving for excellence. Thank you once again for your generosity and support. We are excited to see what we can accomplish together in the future!

Double Your Impact

A special thanks to those donors who doubled their impact through company matching! Did you know many employers offer matching gift programs? Want to learn more? Reach out to us at hello@usrugbyfoundation.com

Thank You to Our Donors!

- Adam Lejeunekopp
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- Tracey Higgins
- Will Brewington
- William Barbato
- William Sexton
- William Shrimpton

2025 US Rugby Hall of Fame

Presented by Major League Rugby

Celebrate the history, honor the heroes, inspire the youth, and preserve the legacy of rugby in the United States.



Barb Fugate

2025 Inductee



Bill Leversee

2025 Inductee



Danita Knox

2025 Inductee



Jillion Potter

2025 Inductee



Jone Naqica

2025 Inductee



Kort Schubert

2025 Inductee



Tony Ridnell

2025 Inductee

Special Award Recipients



Ken Daly

2025 Lifetime Achievement Award



Bob Davis

2025 Lifetime Achievement Award



Ray Lehner

2025 Sweeney Award



Aly Cunningham

2025 Prusmack Award



Manulua "Manu" Taula

2025 Prusmack Award

[Learn More →](#)

THE CLUBHOUSE

The Clubhouse is an annual giving membership comprised of individuals who are taking a personal responsibility to grow grassroots rugby in America.

2025 CLUBHOUSE MEMBERS

Andrea Morrell • Andrew Westfall • Blooming Expressions • Bobby Hacker • C Diane Poole • Caffè Gelato • Cassandra Law • Catharine Walker • Charles Hulne • D3 Sports Tech • Daniel Fordyce • Daniel Kirk • David Ballarotto • David Fee • David Pelton • Dennis Tominaga • Donna Stutzman • Eileen Scariano • Gary Bernstein • Grant Cole • Greg Stelluti • Hanoi Nelson • Hardwood Floors of Lancaster • Harry Clever • Henry Heim • Henry O Halloran • International Athletic • J Douglas French • James (LC) Dierker • Jason McVeigh • Jeff Marshall • Jeffrey Edmeades • Jennifer Mackay • Jill Giri • John Haudenshield • John Hickey • Jon Hinkin • Kevin Ballard • Kevin Flynn • Khader Rantisi • Kim Smith • Leversee Insurance Services, Inc. • Lorcan O'Connor • Louisa Weix • Matthew Moran • Matthew Wyckoff • Mechanical Systems Company, LLC • Michael Cressler • Michael Liscovitz • Mick Hogan • Mike Soderman • Nitesh Barry • Paul Yahnke • Peter Hamilton • Ray Green • Richard Rudolph • Rick Humm • Robert Knoepfel • Ron Bowers • Stephen Cohen • Stephen Gouthro • Tam Breckenridge • Thomas "Tank" O'Brien • Tony Poti • WadeB Photos • William Brewington • William DeMar • William Leversee • William Sexton • Zachary Doerfler

Join The Clubhouse

Becoming a member by making an annual donation, of any amount, is the most effective thing you can do to support rugby in the United States.

[Join The Clubhouse →](#)

The Board



Shane Young
CEO

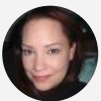


Jon Hinkin
COO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Anne Barry
CHAIR



Liz Goldenberg



David Skidmore



David Bruck



Ray Green



Robert Voth



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Don James Jr.



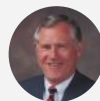
Jay Waldron



Bill Fraumann



Paul Kaler



Bob Watkins



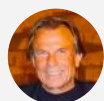
Barb Fugate



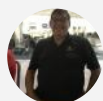
Denis Shanagher

The Board

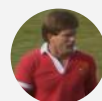
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Nick Fedorenko



Mike Purcell



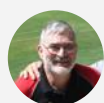
George Betzler



Steve Finkel



Blaine Scully



Phil Bryant



Jay Hanson



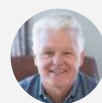
Dick Smith



Dr. John Chase



Robert Latham



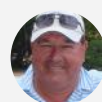
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Jim DiMatteo



Jim Perkins



David Yancey



Tim Du Val

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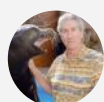
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Robert Erwin



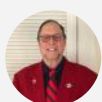
Don Haider



Brian Silkwood



John Decker



James Wolfinger

Get Involved

No matter how old you are, where you live, or whether or not you can give, you can help grow grassroots rugby - and you can start right now.



Make A Donation

There are a number of ways in which you can support the US Rugby Foundation. Starting with a donation, of any amount, is the easiest way to get involved.

[Donate Now →](#)

With You!
FOREVER

Create A Lasting Legacy

With your investment in the future of rugby you can make a profound and lasting impact on the US rugby community.

[Donate Now →](#)

Thank You!

We couldn't provide the opportunities we do without the generous support of the rugby community. Thank you to all of those who have made this year the best one yet! If you want to make a contribution, that would be great! If you want to volunteer to help, that would be great too!

Visit Our Website

www.usrugbyfoundation.org

Email Us

hello@usrugbyfoundation.com

Call Us

Contact Shane Young
973-975-6995

Send Us Mail

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*The US Rugby Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization (EIN: 81-5187776).
Our latest Form 990 is available for review on our website at usrugbyfoundation.org*



The US Rugby Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization, which has for six decades supported the growth and development of youth rugby in the United States. The Foundation accomplishes this by funding and promoting grassroots programs, college scholarships, coach & referee development, and health & safety.



Celebrating over six decades of lasting change