

C.A.S.T For Kids Foundation

May 5th, 2023

*Rebecca Mabe
2755 Commercial St. SE, Suite 101
Salem, OR 97302*

Dear Academy sport and outdoors,

The C.A.S.T for kids Foundation , requests \$10,000 to fund the ongoing financial needs of the organization to help with ongoing operations costs.

The C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation (C.A.S.T. = Catch A Special Thrill) is a public charity that was formed in 1991 to join volunteers who love to fish with children who have special needs and disadvantages for a day of fishing in the outdoors. The Foundation became an official 501(c)3 in 1994 and currently hosts two programs: C.A.S.T. for Kids and Take a Warrior Fishing. Between both sides of the organization, over 7,700 people nationwide got the opportunity to participate in events held by C.A.S.T

With the help of Academy Sport and Outdoors, the C.A.S.T For Kids Foundation will be better prepared to continue ongoing operations, helping children with disabilities and vetrans through the sport of fishing. For any other information, feel free to contact me at (541) 992-0441.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Mabe

Chief operating Officer
C.A.S.T For Kids Foundation

Project Description

Running this organization requires continuous donations from the community and cooperation's. Donations contribute to ongoing costs to continue operations and continue serving the community through the joy of fishing. All donations and grant funds help to fund ongoing costs such as gas for boats, renting boats, fishing supplies needed for the trip etc. without the donations from the community, grants, and current partnerships with other organizations, The C.A.S.T for kids foundation would not be able to continue operations.

Organizational Information

The C.A.S.T for kids foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization that has two programs they run within the organization. This is C.A.S.T For kids, and Take a Warrior Fishing. C.A.S.T For Kids aids children with special needs (ages 6 and older) and their caretakers come together with community volunteers for a fun day of fishing they may not otherwise experience. These

events provide a refreshing break from their daily challenges. Spreading a positive message that kids with disabilities can accomplish anything, we include all children, despite their limitations.

C.A.S.T for Kids Foundation hosts annual fishing and boating events across America to provide children with special needs a quality outdoor recreational experience. Participants are hosted at a local lake, or body of water, supplied with a fishing rod & reel, t-shirt, hat, and tackle box, partnered with an experienced volunteer angler and escorted onto a boat or onshore where, with the supervision of a parent or guardian, they are shown proper fishing techniques and receive natural resources education. Participants and volunteers all then return from their morning fishing excursion to a BBQ lunch and an awards ceremony.

Take A Warrior Fishing is the other program run by the organization. The Take a Warrior Fishing program was established in 2011 and events are designed to support military personnel, first responders and their families, specifically targeting persons assigned to Warrior Transition Commands, by creating an adaptive, community-based outdoor recreation experience through the sport of fishing. Numerous studies have shown that traumatic events not only affect the psychological structures of the self, but also the attachment and meaning that link individuals and community. This program seeks to restore those disconnects. Each event will have the capacity to accommodate up to 150 families and brings in numerous community partners.

The Need

C.A.S.T For Kids and Take a warrior fishing combined served 7,710 participants and families in 2022. As well as 3,576 volunteers, together that means over 10,000 people were able to participate in an event put on by the foundation. The foundation is solely funded by local and national sponsors and requires donations as well as grant funds throughout the year to operate events.

The foundation has seen continuous increase in the number events held every year since the foundation was started. With the number of events being held increasing every year the program costs have increased significantly every year as well. According to the annual expense report in 2021 the program expenses totaled in at \$339,733 not including the administrative costs or fundraising costs. In years since this annual report from 2021 the foundation has only continued to grow. C.A.S.T is expected to host more events this year than they have in past years, requiring funding costs to raise. Events range from small groups to very large groups up to over 100 people. Due to this each event varies in cost but requires fund for food, gas, fishing supplies etc.

Goals and Objectives

Goals

- Expose children, who may not otherwise get the opportunity, to the sport of fishing and the enjoyment of the outdoors
- Encourage continued participation in fishing by developing skills in the children along with their parents
- Spread a positive message that all kids are capable despite their disabilities. We include all children and give them the opportunity to feel like any other kid.
- Provide education and understanding to children about fish as a natural resource
- Strengthen local communities through a positive relational experience between local groups, parents and kids

Conclusion

A grant of \$10,000 from Academy Sports and Outdoors will ensure that the C.A.S.T foundation can aid in continuing current operations and future events. This grant will aid in paying for event costs including but not limited to fishing supplies, gas for boats, food for the event, awards for the children, etc.