PLAY FOR GOOD Gala

Presented by thrivent®

GALA BROCHURE



20 YEARS athletes for hope

Celebrating 20 years of athletes creating impact

www.athletesforhope.org

PLAY FOR GOOD Gala

Presented by thrivent

Saturday
November 14, 2026
5:30pm – 10:30pm

Bender Arena
American University Campus

Event Honorees



Santana Moss
Morty Gudelsky
Community Hero Award

Katie Ledecky
Mia Hamm
Service Award

Alan Meltzer
Gordon & Llura Gund
Lifetime Hero Award



Katie Ledecky

Mia Hamm
Service Award

Katie Ledecky is a 14-time Olympic Medalist and 23-time World Championship Gold Medalist, the most decorated U.S. female Olympian and the most decorated woman in World Championships history. She holds the record for most career individual world titles of all time and is also the first swimmer in history to win seven consecutive world titles in an individual event (800m freestyle). In 2024, Katie became the first woman in Olympic history to win the same individual event at four-straight Olympics (800m freestyle). Katie has broken 17 World Records and 44 American Records.

Katie's 2024 memoir, Just Add Water, became an instant New York Times' Best-Seller. Katie is passionate about the importance of education, especially STEM and leadership programs for girls. Katie also serves on Athletes for Hope's Athlete Leadership Council, helping inspire the next generation of leaders through service and community engagement. She volunteers with AFH's CHAMPS program, which provides youth mental health, wellness, and leadership education and support to more than 400,000 young people each month nationwide.

The Mia Hamm Service Award honors an elite athlete who embodies Mia's commitment to utilizing their global platform to help others in need in the U.S. and beyond.



Santana Moss

Morty Gudelsky Community Hero Award

Santana Moss grew up in Miami, Florida, and rose from the streets of Carol City to the bright lights of the NFL. A first-round draft pick out of the University of Miami, Moss went on to play 14 seasons in the league, becoming one of the most electrifying wide receivers of his era. Best known for his decade with the Washington Commanders, he ranks among the franchise's all-time leaders in receptions and receiving yards, with unforgettable performances that cemented his place in team history.

Off the field, Moss has been equally committed to his community. Through his 89 Ways to Give Foundation — named after his jersey number — he has dedicated himself to youth development, mentorship, and fighting food insecurity across the DMV. From football camps and school supply drives to clinics for children with special needs, Moss remains a constant presence in the communities that matter most to him. In 2025, his impact both on and off the field was immortalized when he was inducted into the Washington Commanders Ring of Fame.

The Morty Gudelsky Community Hero Award recognizes an elite athlete who has demonstrated a commitment to giving back to underserved populations and/or causes in the Greater Washington, D.C. region.



Alan Meltzer

Gordon & Llura Gund Lifetime Hero Award

Alan Meltzer has dedicated his life to creating lasting impact through service, leadership, and philanthropy. A successful entrepreneur and civic leader, he and his wife Amy have made transformational investments at American University to support student-athletes, academic excellence, and leadership development, including funding major athletic and academic facilities that help students succeed on and off the field. Through the Alan and Amy Meltzer Family Foundation, he also supports youth sports, education access, health research, cultural institutions, and community nonprofits. His commitment to opening doors for future generations and strengthening communities reflects the spirit of the Gordon & Llura Gund Lifetime Hero Award.

The Gordon & Llura Gund Lifetime Hero Award honors individuals whose lives reflect an extraordinary commitment to service, resilience, and philanthropy. Named for Gordon Gund and Llura Gund, the award recognizes leaders who embody the same spirit of generosity and impact the couple has demonstrated throughout their lives—from Gordon's leadership of the Cleveland Cavaliers to the Gunds' co-founding of the Foundation Fighting Blindness and their enduring commitment to advancing research, the arts, and community initiatives.



Celebrating 20 years of athletes creating impact

20 YEARS athletes for hope

About 20th Anniversary Play for Good Gala

The 2026 Play for Good Gala is an inspiring evening celebrating the power of sport to make the world a better place for generations. In honor of the 20th Anniversary of Athletes for Hope, the event will highlight two decades of athlete-led impact through special storytelling and meaningful moments throughout the evening—while also looking ahead to the future we are building together. Guests will enjoy entertainment, food, drinks, and the opportunity to bid on an incredible assortment of live and silent auction items, all in support of expanding athlete-driven community change.

Impact of the Evening

All proceeds from the event will support the next chapter of AFH, focusing on three important impact areas:



Positively Impact 1 Million Youth Through CHAMPS



Expand AFH's Center for Wellbeing



Educate & Mobilize the Next Generation of Athlete Changemakers

Why Now

- Rising mental health challenges among youth, athletes, and the broader community.
- Growing demand from schools, universities, and communities.
- Increased athlete interest in using their platform for impact.
- A pivotal moment to scale what's working.

About Athletes for Hope

Athletes for Hope (AFH) is a national nonprofit organization that was founded in 2006 by a group of 12 high-profile and philanthropically-minded athletes, including Muhammad Ali, Mia Hamm, and Andre Agassi. As athletes who share a deep commitment to giving back, they joined forces to create an organization that educates, inspires, and empowers athletes at all levels to find their passions in community and then connects them to under-resourced communities and organizations to positively impact the lives of millions of individuals around the world.

AFH has grown to become the largest athlete-led sports philanthropy organization in the U.S., with a network of thousands of athletes. AFH recently launched its newly formed **Athlete Leadership Council (ALC)**, spearheaded by esteemed athletes Stephen Curry, Katie Ledecky, Elena Delle Donne, Nathan Chen, and Gabby Thomas. Our core programs focus on underserved youth physical activity, leadership, and mental health, positively impacting more than 400,000 underserved students every month.



Event Sponsorship

Sponsoring AFH's nonprofit fundraiser enables your organization to:

- Benefit hundreds of thousands of underserved children and hundreds of communities each year
- Help thousands of athletes positively impact and generate awareness for charities throughout the Washington, D.C. area and nationwide
- Gain exposure to regional business leaders, philanthropists, and former and current professional, Olympic, Paralympic, and college athletes

All contributions are tax-deductible. EIN: 20-4773044.

Corporate & Foundation Opportunities

**Custom packages tailored to specific sponsors are available.*

World Champion Sponsor $50,000

- Three complimentary tables of 10 tickets each (30 tickets total)
- Recognition during live speaking program
- Recognition in on-site event signage
- Recognition on event registration website
- Recognition on press releases and media interviews
- Recognition on AFH website
- Recognition through AFH social media channels
- One dedicated social media post highlighting sponsorship
- Recognition on thank you email
- AFH Founding Athletes Signed Jersey, including Muhammad Ali, Andre Agassi, and Mia Hamm
- Full program ad

Victory Sponsor $25,000

- Two complimentary tables of 10 tickets each (20 tickets total)
- Naming rights for one section of the event
- Recognition during live speaking program
- Recognition in on-site event signage
- Recognition on event registration website
- Recognition on AFH website
- Recognition through AFH social media channels
- One dedicated social media post highlighting sponsorship
- Recognition on thank you email
- AFH Founding Athletes Signed Jersey, including Muhammad Ali, Andre Agassi, and Mia Hamm
- Full program ad

Grand Slam Sponsor $10,000

- One complimentary table of 10 tickets
- Recognition in on-site event signage
- Recognition on event registration website
- Recognition through AFH social media channels
- Recognition on thank you email
- ½ page program ad

Game-Winner Sponsor $5,000

- One complimentary table of 8 tickets
- Recognition in on-site event signage
- Recognition on event registration website
- Recognition on thank you email
- ½ page program ad

Touchdown Sponsor $2,500

- 4 tickets to the event
- Recognition in on-site event signage
- Recognition on event registration website
- Recognition on thank you email
- ¼ page program ad

Family & Individual Opportunities

**Custom packages tailored to specific sponsors are available.*

National Champion Sponsor $10,000

- One complimentary table of 10 tickets
- Recognition in on-site event signage
- Recognition on event registration website
- Recognition on thank you email
- Full program ad

All-American Sponsor $5,000

- One complimentary table of 8 tickets
- Recognition in on-site event signage
- Recognition on event registration website
- Recognition on thank you email
- ½ program ad

All-Conference Sponsor $2,500

- 4 tickets to the event
- Recognition in on-site event signage
- Recognition on event registration website
- Recognition on thank you email
- ½ program ad

All-State Sponsor $1,000

- 2 tickets to the event
- Recognition in on-site event signage
- Recognition on event registration website
- Recognition on thank you email
- ¼ program ad

Rising Star Sponsor $500

- 1 ticket to the event
- Recognition in on-site event signage
- Recognition on event registration website
- Recognition on thank you email

Sponsorship Commitment Form

Corporate & Foundation Opportunities

- ☐ World Champion Sponsor - $50,000
- ☐ Victory Sponsor - $25,000
- ☐ Grand Slam Sponsor - $10,000
- ☐ Game-Winner Sponsor - $5,000
- ☐ Touchdown Sponsor - $2,500

Family & Individual Opportunities

- ☐ National Champion Sponsor - $10,000
- ☐ All-American Sponsor - $5,000
- ☐ All-Conference Sponsor - $2,500
- ☐ All-State Sponsor - $1,000
- ☐ Rising Star Sponsor - $500

Donor Name:

(Please print name exactly as you wish to be listed on promotional materials)

Contact Name:

Address:

City: **State:** **Zip:**

Phone: **Email:**

Payment Information

☐ **Invoice Me** ☐ **Check** (payable to Athletes for Hope) ☐ **Credit Card**

Credit Card Information

Name on Card:

Card Number: Exp.: CVV:

Please make checks payable to Athletes for Hope, 6006 Princeton Avenue, Glen Echo, MD 20812. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Diana Venezia at dvenezia@athletesforhope.org.

All contributions are tax-deductible. EIN: 20-4773044. Thank you for your support!











Moments from Play for Good 2025

A look back at the energy, community, and impact we created together.









GET INVOLVED.

BE INSPIRED.

athletes for hope

www.athletesforhope.org
contact@athletesforhope.org

@athletesforhope