



## **American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP) Receives \$6,000 Grant from Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation for Team Sport Expansion**

**Atlanta, June 23, 2016** – The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) is proud to announce that it has received a \$6000 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. The award was one of 107 grants totaling over \$735,482 awarded by the Reeve Foundation to nonprofit organizations nationwide that provide more opportunities, access, and daily quality of life for individuals living with paralysis, their families, and caregivers. Conceived by the late Dana Reeve, the program has awarded over 2,600 grants totaling over \$19 million since 1999.

AAASP requested the grant to help assist school districts in Georgia with starting and/or expanding adapted team sports for students with physical disabilities. The grant will be used to help schools with the start up costs associated with the program. The schools will become part of the AAASP/GHSA statewide infrastructure and compete against other school district adapted sport teams in regular and post season competition throughout the school year.

“The American Association of Adapted Sports Program is grateful to the Reeve Foundation for this Quality of Life Grant,” said Bev Vaughn, Executive Director, Adapted Sports. “Our Clayton County School system has wanted to expand their programming to include Wheelchair Handball, and this grant will now give them the means to add (4) additional sports wheelchairs to expand their program and allow more athletes to participate.”

“The Reeve Foundation is committed to supporting programs and resources that foster independent living, improved health and community engagement,” said Donna Valente, Director, Quality of Life Grants, Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. “The recognized grantees are instrumental to our work at the Reeve Foundation as we strive to serve the disability community with a roadmap of resources and programs to enhance their quality of life.”

Awarded twice yearly, grant requests were evaluated and scored based on a rigorous review process to determine funding for organizations that improve daily life for those living with paralysis, as well as their families and caregivers. This cycle, the Reeve Foundation strategically focused on projects that address the needs of people with paralysis living in underserved areas, designated as groups or county or civil divisions in which residents have a shortage of personal health services or face economic, cultural or linguistic barriers to healthcare.

[The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program](#) was created to address the myriad needs of children and adults living with paralysis, as well as provide assistance and education to their families and caregivers. Funded programs serve individuals living with paralysis caused by injuries, diseases or birth conditions, including but not limited to, stroke, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The grants support innovative initiatives that aim to increase quality of life by improving physical and emotional health, broadening community engagement, and increasing independence. Quality of



Life grants are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living (cooperative agreement number 90PR3001-01-00).

### ***About the Reeve Foundation***

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. We meet all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's standards for charity accountability and hold the BBB's Charity Seal. The Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) is a program of the Reeve Foundation, and is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (cooperative agreement number 90PR3001-01-00). For more information, please visit our website at [www.ChristopherReeve.org](http://www.ChristopherReeve.org) or call 800-539-7309.

### **About AAASP**

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP), headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, is a not-for-profit association dedicated to developing interscholastic adapted sports programs in partnership with national, state, and local educational agencies. It represents a standardized approach to extracurricular adapted team sports and has developed one of the nation's most comprehensive school-based athletic programs for students with physical disabilities attending grades 1-12. Rules, teaching guides and other resources for educators are free and downloadable at [www.adaptedsports.org](http://www.adaptedsports.org). Join our conversations on Facebook or on Twitter at: @AdaptedSports.

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