



We are very proud of our athletes and what they have accomplished these past twelve months. At the 2015 World Championships in Aiguebelette, France the US qualified ten boats out of the fourteen Olympic events for Rio, and three out of four Para-Olympic. As a result, the US was one of the top Olympic qualifiers by country. Yet we still have more to do.

Four boats will compete in Lucerne, Switzerland at the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta on May 22nd to 24th to qualify for a chance to go to Rio. We know each athlete will race hard to qualify the remaining four events for the Games. We know this because each is a US National athlete and that is what they do – they strive to be the best.

We at the National Rowing Foundation salute and applaud that drive. We are working diligently with your support to that drive and make their dreams happen. The funds we raise through your generosity support the athlete development both on and off water, providing funds for training and coaching, fees and expenses for international racing, full time medical and nutritional advisors, equipment purchases, and more. And there is always more we can do to ensure our athletes can be successful,

and these final months leading up to the Games are crucial to our team's success. We also are looking forward to 2020 and the Tokyo games, and are focused on ensuring that we have a strong group of athletes ready to compete.

As the last Olympic quadrennial came to a close in London, we set out an ambitious goal of doubling the NRF fundraising from \$1 million to \$2 million in four years, with your continued contribution we can make that goal. As you consider your gift to the NRF this year we hope you will think about our athletes sitting on the Olympic starting line in Rio and how important it is for them to know they have a team of folks cheering them on and willing to support rowing and Olympic dreams... Thank you.

Go USA!

James W. Koven
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# TO ALL NRF DONORS:

On behalf of the NRF staff and more importantly the athletes of our 2015 national teams, thank you for your generosity, good will, and support of the National Rowing Foundation. I am pleased to report that 2015 was a highly successful year. The NRF saw substantial growth in our fund raising efforts and our support of the Senior, U23 and Junior national teams. Highlights include:









Increasing 2016 grant eligible cash and accounts receivable by \$205,000 to \$317,000.

The one disappointment, a product of the stock market decline, was the \$161,000 reduction in the value of our endowments \$5,475,000; this despite management out-performing market benchmarks.

Key initiatives in 2015 included:



Implementing RallyMe, a compelling third party crowd sourcing platform for athletes – especially those not covered by our Grant to USRowing – to raise funds for their preparation selection and participation in international competition;



Launching the "1966 Society" for planned giving;



Launching the "Women's Initiative" to secure greater participation of women in our governance and fund raising.

As we look to 2016, and the final preparation year for the 2016 Olympics we plan to build on the successes of 2015 and increase our Grant to USRowing in this Olympic year to \$1,350,000.

With your continuing support we can meet this goal and even better, exceed it.

Remember, the U.S. is the only major rowing country that provides no government support to its Olympic team. With your generosity in 2016 we can overcome this resource challenge and see our athletes on the medal stand at the Olympic Games

Thanks again and all the best, Charlie, Mara, Tom and Gill





In 2013 we corralled the country's best athletes and hired a new coaching staff;

In 2014 we developed our athletes and proved in Amsterdam the success of our staff and strategies;

In 2015 we demonstrated an extended dominance of our women's team and even though we had some disappointing results with our men's team, we remain confident in our athletes, coaches, strategies and their potential to produce high competitive results;

In 2016 we are honing our skills and speed confident of our ability to win against the best in the world at the Olympic Games in Rio.

The team and I extend our thanks to the NRF for its major role in making our strategies and system a success.

First, the NRF has made it possible hire and retain the best coaches; sending a clear message to our athletes that we will provide them with the best possible coaching talent.

Second, with the additional funds received, we have been able to give our top athletes more competition and development opportunities than in the past. Our goal is to provide our athletes with the same assets and experience as their competitors.

Third, we now have the funds to provide better and more consistent access to physical therapy and medical care to our athletes. This keeps them healthy and in the game longer.

We are now at a point in our preparation that every dollar has a significant impact on the athletes' potential and the success of the system in which they work. We look to our continuing partnership with the NRF and its support to ensure that our athletes may realize their dreams and ours of gold in Rio.

Thank you for supporting our U.S. National Teams.

Best,

**Curtis** 





In the history of the Olympic movement, the
National Rowing Foundation has never played
as critical a role in the success of USRowing's athletes
and programs as it does today. Internationally, the U.S.
stands alone as the only Olympic team funded solely through
corporate and private partners, without government funding.

USRowing is fortunate to have a diverse and vibrant family of partners contributing to our athletes' success. The NRF stands second only to the USOC as our largest partner, funding the coaching, equipment, travel and training expenses of our athletes.

USRowing athletes face the challenge of competing against countries whose programs receive two to four times the financial support as ours. True to the American way, this proves no hindrance to our athletes, who arrive at the starting line knowing that donors like you helped create that opportunity. The NRF community provides opportunities for excellence and the platform to continue our tradition of winning.

Our teams cannot achieve their potential without you. From every athlete, coach and team member at USRowing, we thank the National Rowing Foundation for rowing up to that starting line with us. Our medals, dreams and goals are the same. Thank you for being part of our team.

Go USA!

Erin & Glenn





We have made it our job to be as consistently fast as possible during the past three seasons, and in doing so have continued to raise the bar for women's rowing in the United States, season after season. But we aren't done. The Olympic year is special in that it brings out the very best in our athletes. With Rio on the line, my teammates are going to push past their limits in order to find that slightly better version of themselves, and they're going to do it every day between now and August. I'd like to invite you to be a part of it.

As a part of the NRF family, I'd like to ask you to push through with us in these last days before Rio, and to find that extra gear, get that split second, walk that last seat. We want to use every remaining moment to prepare ourselves as best as possible for the challenges that lie ahead, and your support to do it means everything to us. Thank you for standing behind us this far. Please know we will be doing everything we can to make you proud.

# Megan Kalmoe

2015 USRowing Female Athlete of the Year & 2015 World Champion, W4X

On behalf of my fellow athletes I thank the many members of the rowing community who donate to the National Rowing Foundation. We would simply not be as successful as we have been without your support. Ultimately, the NRF allows us to compete and win against much more comprehensively funded nations and that fact is not lost on any of the U.S. athletes.

I remember racing internationally for the first time three years ago in Lucerne, Switzerland. It was an overwhelming experience, to say the least, but at no point did I have to worry about the logistics of racing. We had the right equipment, lodging and preparation which is a godsend when all you want to do is focus on your race.

The NRF is crucial in affording us the opportunities to win, but it also buttresses the psychology of what it takes to be successful. The support the NRF offers is a necessary component of creating a professional mindset among the athletes. The ability to focus solely on racing and to train that mindset is something the NRF allows us to do and we would not be able to successfully compete without it. Your support not only ensures we have the proper tools to win, but it directly contributes to creating a culture of hard work and success. Thank you.

## Seth Weil

2015 USRowing Male Athlete of the Year





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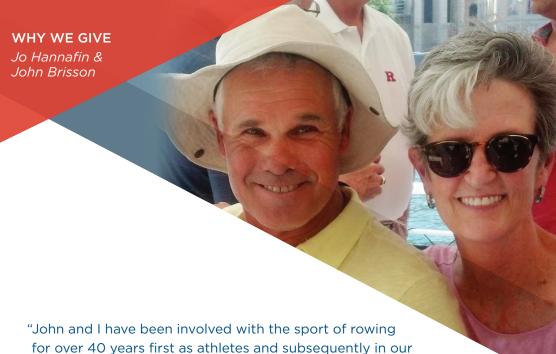
John Chatzky

SUPPORTING THE NRF AND OUR NATIONAL TEAMS

At the age of twenty, having coxed at Penn for less than two years, I was selected to my first National Team, steering the lightweight eight at the World Championships in Amsterdam in 1977. It was a magical summer, one of the best of my life, and I remember clearly the thrill of being selected, the pride of wearing the USA colors, and the excitement of competing against the best athletes in the world. Our boat rowed poorly and raced even worse, but despite our bad performance the experience was the best I'd had in my life up until that point.

In recent years I have learned, however, that the pride, the joy, and the excitement of racing as a young man is nowhere near as rewarding as supporting today's athletes, both the men and the women. They train year round, putting careers and family on hold in pursuit of their quest. They torture themselves in their daily workouts then come back with a smile for more each and every day. They are the closest of friends on and off the water, yet understand that there are a limited number of seats and not enough for all of them to share. They are committed, determined, cheerful, articulate and the best that our nation has to offer. I support them as much as I can with my time, with my experience and with my money. Wearing the colors in competition almost forty years ago was thrilling but not even close to watching four of our finest athletes win a gold medal at a recent World Championships, rowing in a racing shell that carried my name. I will continue to support both the NRF and our athletes for as long as I can.

John Chatzky



respective roles as national team physician/NRF Director and as a coach of junior, post-collegiate, and pre-elite rowers. Like many, rowing has impacted our lives in countless ways and we feel strongly that it is critical to give back to the sport that shaped us and brings us joy. Support of our national team athletes permits them to train and compete at the highest level with focus, great coaching and racing opportunities. We challenge any athlete who has been positively impacted by our sport to make a donation in support of our committed and gifted national team athletes."

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As much as I love rowing, that's not why I give to the NRF.

Training to compete at the highest echelons of sport is hard enough.

Uniquely, American athletes do not receive financial support from our government, leaving funding to private individuals and the athletes themselves. Training requires prodigious dedication, time, and energy.

Access to this opportunity should be determined by boat-moving ability, not financial capacity.

Competing at the Olympic Games is an extraordinary experience for every athlete lucky enough to do so, but viewing the Games is an inspiring experience for the rest of us. Offering a vision of humanity we cannot afford to lose, this worldwide community event brings together people from all over the world and shows what's possible when they bring their best.

Our world needs the Olympic Games. When I invest in American rowers, I contribute to that vital movement which unites us in our admiration of greatness, showcases our common humanity, and demonstrates the power to dream within all of us that can transform the world.

# Ginny Gilder

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early July and then (unbelievable, now), broke up and went home for summer vacation, as there were no funds to cover the cost of maintaining our fitness until the November Olympics in Australia. Resuming training in mid-August, our loss in the first heat of the Olympics was our first race in five months. Any surprise we lost? Too bad that there wasn't an NRF then, we could have used its help. My mates and I have long been supporters of the NRF because we have wanted to ensure that our national teams would be fully prepared to represent the U.S. We are pleased to know that NRF funds go directly to our most deserving athletes to make sure that they are fit and prepared to represent the best the U.S. has in international competition.

William Becklean

Cox, 1956 U.S. Gold Medal 8

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experiences that, outside of family, defined our young adulthood. Some of our fondest and happiest memories, as well as our toughest defeats, are associated with the sport. The camaraderie of training on a university squad, the gradual acquisition of technique, the pressure of race day and, ultimately, the privilege of representing the USA in international competition have enriched our lives beyond measure.

We fully believe in the mission of the NRF. Support of the US National Rowing team and providing financing for today's athletes to have similar experiences to our own, and excel even further, is a critical role. We know Curtis Jordan and many of the coaches personally, and are excited about the talent and experience that they bring to the National Squad. It is obvious to us how dedicated, talented and extremely hardworking today's athletes are, and we feel it is a privilege to support their efforts. Simply put, without the NRF, there would be drastically reduced opportunities for these exceptional athletes to accomplish what they have in international competition.

Tim & Melissa Ryan

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USRowing

# THE FOLLOWING DONATED TO THE WOMEN'S ROWING ENDOWMENT IN 2015

Carol Brown

Karla Drewsen

Carie B. Graves

John Lapides & Melanie Ginter

Nancy Storrs



<sup>\*</sup> Indicates a gift to the Joan Lind Van Blom Women's Sculling Endowment





# THE UNITED STATES LIGHTWEIGHT ROWING ASSOCIATION

The United States Lightweight Rowing Association
(USLRA) was founded in 2012 shortly after the London
Olympics. A small group of young and recent National Team and
Olympic lightweight rowers came together around two basic goals
- to develop a network of current and former lightweight rowers and
to raise money to support the lightweight rowers training for the 2016
Olympics and beyond.

In 2014, the NRF and the USLRA created a partnership to focus on these goals together. In 2015 we worked together to energize the lightweight community and to build dedicated support for the Olympic lightweight movement. The NRF and USRowing have delivered a financial model of fair and equitable treatment for all of the priority events, including the lightweights, and the lightweight community is rallying behind their leadership. The excitement is palpable and the progress has been material, with first time donors coming forward to help our national teams, some in significant amounts.

The USLRA is looking forward to extending this partnership with the NRF into 2016, with the shared goal of putting our lightweight Olympic boats into contention to win medals in Rio and beyond!

Sincerely,

The Board of the USLRA



**Sources of Funds** 

des of Devote The NRF accepts both restricted and unrestricted/designated gifts from our donors. It is our policy to use the unrestricted annual gifts, gifts to the National Team, and endowment income to support our National Teams. Gifts that are restricted are used in the manner designated by the donor.

Our 2015 audited results show total contributions and endowment distribution of \$2,228,668. Gifts totaled \$2,032,066 of which \$89,816 was designated by our donors for addition to our endowment. In 2015, our endowment funds distribution added \$196,602 of additional funds.

# Uses of Funds

Senior National Team Grants are paid to USRowing or directly to vendors of the National Team for the direct expenses related to National Team development, training and competition. Grants to the Senior National Team are made from the combination of unrestricted donations to the NRF, designated donations specifically earmarked for the Senior National Team and donations designated to particular National Team Boats. Total grants to support the Senior National Team were \$1,172,000 in 2015.

Junior National Team Grants are paid to USRowing or directly to vendors of the National Team for the direct expenses related to National Team development, training and competition. Expenses of the Junior National Team are funded by designated gifts to the NRF. Total grants to support the Junior National Team were \$100,000 in 2015.

Other USRowing Grants include money designated by donors for specific boats at the World Senior and Under 23 Championships. In 2015 these grants totaled \$293,954.

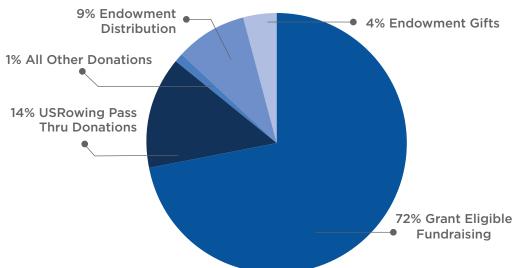
Other Grants for 2015 include money designated for the Frank Shields Fellowships totaling \$7,500.

Marketing and Administrative Expenses include all direct and indirect costs of marketing, our full and part time administrative staff and supplies and support necessary to carry out the operations of the National Rowing Foundation. Our marketing and administrative costs were \$342,422 in 2015.





# WHERE OUR MONEY CAME FROM



# WHERE OUR MONEY CAME FROM

GRANT ELIGIBLE FUNDRAISING
US ROWING PASS THRU DONATIONS
ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTION
ENDOWMENT GIFTS
ALL OTHER DONATIONS

# WHERE OUR MONEY WENT

SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM GRANTS
MARKETING & ADMINISTATIVE EXPENSES
OTHER US ROWING GRANTS
CASH DEPOSITS
JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM GRANTS
OTHER GRANTS
ENDOWMENT DEPOSITS
NET INCOME

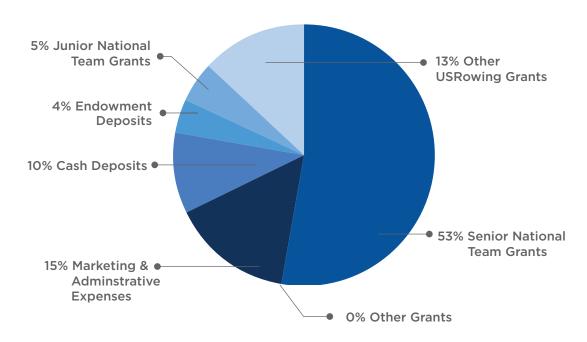
# 2015

\$2,228,668	100%
\$25,075	1%
\$89,816	4%
\$196,602	9%
\$316,455	14%
\$1,600,720	72%

# 2015

\$2,228,668	100%
\$7,500	0%
\$89,816	4%
\$100,000	4%
\$222,976	10%
\$293,954	13%
\$342,422	15%
\$1,172,000	53%

# WHERE OUR MONEY WENT





The National Rowing Foundation's legacy program, celebrating the past and securing the future for U.S. National Rowing Teams.

Founded in 1966, the NRF has funded the efforts of U.S. National Team rowers and Olympians for 50 years. The 1966 Society is a newly formed recognition program that honors and celebrates those who have made a commitment to support the NRF through a planned, or deferred, gift. These future gifts will contribute to the success of the U.S. National Rowing Teams training to represent the United States of America in international rowing competitions.

# Make an impact on future Olympians

The experience of representing the U.S.A. at the Olympic Games and the World Championships is extraordinary. To achieve that, rowers commit to years of development and training. In the U.S. much of the funding needed to provide rowers with the access to training and development becomes the responsibility of the NRF, and the private individuals who support the NRF. Annually, the NRF grants money to USRowing in support of the National Teams. The amount of the NRF's annual grant to USRowing has grown from \$187,000 in 2005 to a projected \$1,350,000 in 2016.

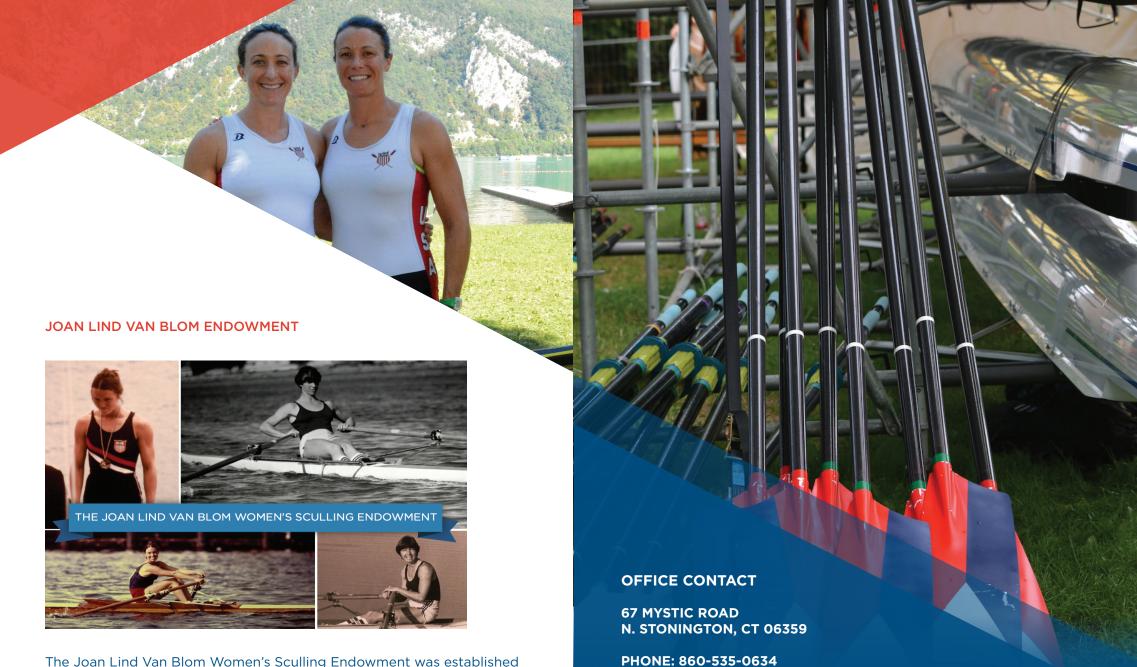
# Become a founding member of The 1966 Society

Make the decision to be a part of the NRF's new legacy program and secure the future for the U.S. National Rowing Teams. Founding

members of The 1966 Society will receive a special gift and will be honored at a reception in the Fall of 2016.

To become a member of The 1966 Society contact the NRF office, at (860) 535-0634 to speak with a member of our staff. Our staff can assist with the following types of planned and deferred gifts: Beneficiary Designations, Bequests, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Charitable Gift Annuities, and Donor Advised Funds. The NRF has a Planned Giving Officer on call to assist with all of your estate planning questions.





The Joan Lind Van Blom Women's Sculling Endowment was established in 2015 to honor the memory of Joan Lind Van Blom 1952 - 2015.

# **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

**EMAIL: INFO@NATROWING.ORG** 

USRowing and Ed Hewitt at Row2K for the use of photography. Design by Digital Firefly Marketing.



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