



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

CENTER FOR SPORT, PEACE,
AND SOCIETY

PEACE WINS

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



FRIENDS

Although American sport culture often seems hyper-focused on deep-seated team rivalries, the activities of celebrity athletes, and stadium ticket sales, a deeper truth is at play: Sport has the power to heal and bring out the best in humanity. Even in unlikely places – the dusty yard of a Syrian refugee camp where girls defy cultural norms to play soccer or the ravaged streets of East Ukraine where children play air hockey to escape the emotional effects of war – sport can be a powerful catalyst for social change. Facilitating opportunities for peace building by empowering those who work with vulnerable populations is why we exist.

Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan once said, “Sport is a universal language. At its best it can bring people together, no matter what their origin, background, religious beliefs, or economic status.” At the Center for Sport, Peace, and Society, we have spent more than twenty years promoting this concept throughout the world.

We engage in scholarly research, develop community-based curriculum, and deliver hands-on programming, primarily for populations in post-conflict and post-disaster zones. Our focus is on the empowerment of women and girls, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, and refugees. We believe vulnerable populations are the critical pivot to changing the world because when people discover their own potential, anything is possible, even peace. In fact, that’s why we titled this report *Peace Wins*. In a world that feels increasingly divided, we believe that focusing on the humanity that unites us can inspire an equally powerful movement of solidarity and equality. And that ultimately, peace will win.

In spite of the looming global challenges, we still see the potential for a better future. We believe that interdisciplinary research, collaborative partnerships, and global sport mentorship are the way forward. Our data and results back this up. Our unique and effective empowerment model helps move people from awareness to action. We also have powerful allies, including the U.S. Department of State and mentors from dozens of corporate and non-profit sectors who help us achieve our goals. As we look to increase our private funding in the months and years ahead, we believe we are positioned for enormous growth.

As former division-I student-athletes, our understanding of empowerment is grounded in sport and the critical life-lessons it provides. With this foundation, we fulfill a unique niche in the world of non-profit programming and scholarly research, and we are working hard to expand our reach. Since the end of FY2015-16, we’ve added a program called VOLeaders for student-athletes at the University of Tennessee, our home base, to help them gain the insight needed to become agents for positive social change. Although an annual report represents only a snapshot in time, we are continually looking for ways to take bold steps forward to increase the scope of our work. We welcome you to join us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Sarah Hillyer, PhD & Ashleigh Huffman, PhD





LEARNING TO PLAY

Drs. Sarah Hillyer and Ashleigh Huffman play games with children from *Educate Me*, an Egyptian NGO launched by *Yasmin Helal*, an alumna of the Global Sports Mentoring Program. Nearly 17 million children in Egypt - more than half of all youth - live in poverty or extreme poverty.



CENTER FOR SPORT, PEACE, & SOCIETY

ABOUT US

1

TEACHING

We teach on topics such as Women in Sport, Service-Learning, and Sport for Social Change and Leadership, all of which are global in nature and rooted in experiential learning.

2

RESEARCH

Through scholarly research, writing, and evaluation, we contribute to Sport for Development and Peace literature and deliver keynote speeches at conferences worldwide.

3

MENTORSHIP

We implement the U.S. Department of State Global Sports Mentoring Program (GSMP). In 2013, the GSMP was selected as one of the 10 best diplomatic achievements in the world.

4

EXCHANGES

As part of the GSMP, we travel the globe to support program alumni and U.S. Embassies through sports-based clinics in local communities that promote the values of equality and inclusion.

HOW GSMP WORKS

FIRST NOMINATION



U.S. Embassies around the world nominate individuals with leadership skills, experience in the sports sector, and a drive to make change in their home countries. GSMP participants, or emerging leaders as we call them, are then selected by our team and DOS and matched with U.S.-based mentors from corporate and non-profit organizations.

During a three-week immersive mentorship, emerging leaders cultivate leadership skills at organizations like Google, ESPN, Disney, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, and the USOC. Emerging leaders also craft strategic plans to put into action upon return home with the goal of creating sports opportunities for underserved populations.

SECOND MENTORSHIP



Emerging leaders present their vision for change to peers, mentors, program partners, local leadership, and the U.S. Department of State. Emerging leaders then return to their home countries to implement their initiatives, share lessons learned with others, and become ambassadors for sport as a tool for positive social change.

THIRD ACTION PLAN



WHO WE ARE

We are a university-based social enterprise committed to peace-building, inclusion, and the empowerment of underserved populations worldwide.

WHAT WE DO

We help global leaders develop innovative solutions to socio-political challenges using sport. We work to create a more peaceful, equitable, and inclusive world.

HOW WE DO IT

Using a train-the-trainers model, we leverage the power of sport and education to develop leaders who use their vision for change to directly impact local communities.

WHO WE WORK WITH

The primary beneficiaries of our work are women and girls, persons with disabilities, youth, refugees, and student-athletes.

HOW WE BEGAN

Although our directors have worked in the field of sport for development and peace for more than 20 years, the Center for Sport, Peace, and Society was officially founded in the summer of 2012. Soon after, the Center was awarded the inaugural "Empowering Women and Girls Through Sports" cooperative agreement through the U.S. Department of State.

HOW WE WORK

The GSMP—the cornerstone of the cooperative agreement—now has two pillars: Empower Women through Sports and Sport for Community, the latter of which is focused on advancing disability rights through sports around the world.

CHANGING THE GAME

Inspired by her GSMP experience, Cecilia Vales launched her own non-profit organization, She Wins Mexico, in an effort to end cycles of poverty through soccer participation. Her first soccer academy in the poverty-afflicted state of Oaxaca regularly serves more than 100 children. Cecilia also partners with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico for an English instruction program that includes life-skills training and sports sessions.



2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



GSMP: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH SPORTS

For the fourth year, the Center hosted the U.S. Department of State and espnW Global Sports Mentoring Program (GSMP), Empowering Women and Girls through Sports, which included 16 women from 11 countries. Emerging leaders completed mentorships at 13 host organizations and crafted Action Plans using sport to address challenges in their communities. Since returning home, more than 4,000 individuals have participated in programming related to their Action Plans.



SPORTS EXCHANGE IN CAIRO, EGYPT & AMMAN, JORDAN

In December 2015, the Center led an exchange program in Egypt and Jordan to support the work of six GSMP alumnae. For two weeks, team members helped lead clinics with Syrian refugees at the Za'atari and Emirati refugee camps, celebrated the opening of a community school in Cairo, and supported the Presidential appointment of 2015 GSMP alumna Caroline Maher to the Egyptian Parliament, which made her the youngest Senator in Egyptian history. This exchange was supported by two U.S. Embassies and served more than 840 individuals.



ADVANCING SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT & PEACE WORLDWIDE

During the past year, CSPS presented research at a social change forum, highlighted the importance of cross-cultural understanding at a psychology conference in Japan, and contributed an academic paper to the journal, "Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise, and Health."



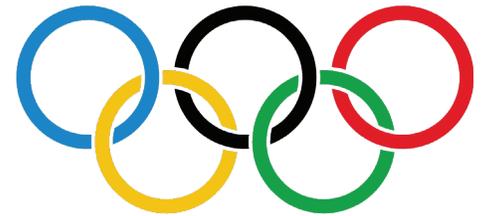
INAUGURAL GSMP: SPORT FOR COMMUNITY

In June 2015, the Center led the first government-sponsored exchange program, GSMP: Sport for Community, to empower international leaders in the field of disability sport. The 15 participants represented 13 countries and included two Paralympic champions, five presidents or executives of National Paralympic Committees, and two university professors.



SPORTS EXCHANGE IN HERMOSILLO AND MEXICO CITY

For 10 days in August 2016, the CSPS team and UT softball co-head coaches, Karen and Ralph Weekly, led sport clinics and educational sessions in Hermosillo and Mexico City, Mexico for a follow-on exchange with the U.S. Department of State. During this exchange, CSPS collaborated with Naranjeros Baseball Club, the Mexican Soccer Federation, and local NGOs to support the work of three GSMP alumnae. The exchange served nearly 800 people.



SPORT FOR ALL

Adeline Dumapong, a five-time Paralympian and 2016 graduate of GSMP: Sport for Community, represented the Philippines in the powerlifting competition at the 2016 Summer Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Although she didn't make the podium, she won a bronze medal at the 2000 Sydney Games, the country's first medal of any kind. Olesya Vladykina, a leading paralympic swimmer for Russia and an alumna of the same program, also qualified for the Games but did not compete due to the IPC ban.

PARALYMPIC FAMILY

Three additional alumni from the 2016 Sport for Community GSMP celebrated the spirit of the Games, including Bayron Lopez of Ecuador and Yerlan Suleimenov of Kazakhstan, both executives in their paralympic committees. The duo joined fellow GSMP alum Anderson Gama in Rio to support their athletes, collaborate on future work, and enjoy the Paralympic movement.

VOLEADERS IN BRAZIL

In July 2016, Center directors led 13 student-athletes from the VOLeaders Academy at the University of Tennessee on a 10-day service-learning trip to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The team visited Olympic sites and collaborated with local organizations.





LEADING THE WAY

Since his participation in the inaugural Sport for Community GSMP in 2016, JP Maunes has added dragon boat racing and sitting beach volleyball to the adaptive sport opportunities at Philippine Accessible Disability Services, an NGO that serves persons with disabilities. He also works to address the rising rate of sexual assault – one out of three – among deaf women in the Philippines.



2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR

GSMP IMPACT

31
EMERGING LEADERS

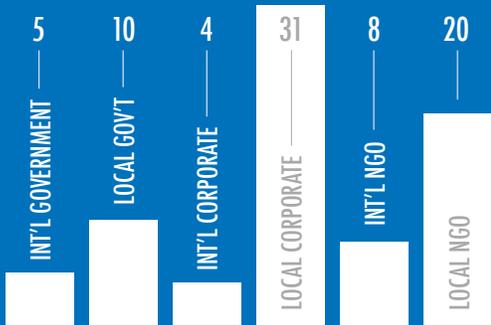


10+ PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED AN AWARD OR PROMOTION INCLUDING ONE WHO WAS ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT



24
COUNTRIES

78 PARTNERSHIPS FORMED FROM EMERGING LEADER ACTION PLANS



800+
VOLUNTEERS



145 MEDIA FEATURES ON CSPP PARTICIPANTS

ONE MILLION

 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS



23,000 PARTICIPANTS IN SPORT-BASED CLINICS & CURRICULUM WORKSHOPS



EMERGING LEADERS ESTABLISHED SPORT AND COMMUNITY-CENTERED
3 NGOs



BELIEVING IN MORE

In 2015, directors of the Center for Sport, Peace, and Society traveled with former USA women's national team soccer players and a representative from Amy Poehler's Smart Girls to support GSMP alumnae Dima Alardah and Batoul Arnaout's work in Jordan. The team led skill-development clinics and supported the duo's effort to expand sports opportunities to girls, refugees, and other underserved populations.



2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR IMPRESSION



I couldn't be more proud of the incredible work coming out of the Center for Sport, Peace, and Society. Drs. Hillyer and Huffman have advanced this essential work to a level that has exceeded my wildest dreams. I know thousands will be impacted as we continue to move forward.

BOB RIDER
Dean, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences
University of Tennessee

Besides raising my children, participating in the GSMP is the most important and meaningful thing I've done in my 44 years. The four women I've mentored have become part of my family, so it means everything to me. I'm thrilled to be part of the movement to create a better world for all.

JULIE EDDLEMAN
Global Client Partner, Google
GSMP Mentor 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

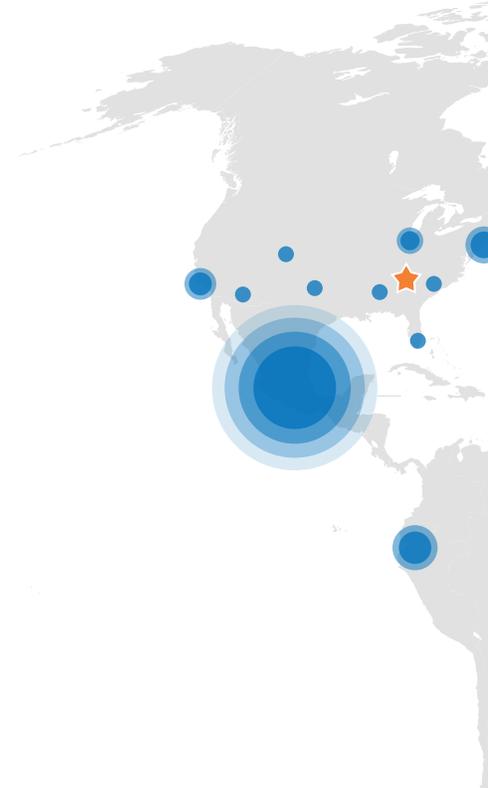


The U.S. Department of State and espnW Global Sports Mentoring Program has become a phenomenon. The dynamic sportswomen are the movers, shakers, and change agents who take the exchange to another level. We look forward to continuing the GSMP movement.

TRINA BOLTON
Program Officer, Sports Diplomacy Division
U.S. Department of State

By engaging in leadership development, service, and self-discovery, student-athletes in the VOLeaders Academy are changing themselves, their teammates, the world around them, and the narrative within sport itself. They now have the leadership skills and experience to use their platform.

SALLY PARISH
Director, Center for Leadership and Service
University of Tennessee



"For me, GSMP was a life-changing experience. I finally felt that I wasn't alone in my efforts to achieve what once felt impossible. And, the transformation is real. Change is happening. My dreams are now realities for girls and women in my country."

CECILIA VALES, MEXICO
GSMP Alumna 2015



"GSMP in the world and gave me the tools and platform to pursue my dreams and help other people with their dreams."



introduced me to
of adaptive sports
me the courage to
new opportunities for
community. I met the right
who provided me the
experience I needed.
springboard for my
and my work."

JP MAUNESH, PHILIPPINES
GSMP Alumnus 2016



"My experience in the
VOLeaders Academy helped
reinstate my will to act and
my faith in people. I learned
how to actively pursue my
purpose and how to use sport
to influence society for the
better. I am a different person
because of it."

JUAN CARLOS SERRANO, M-GOLF
VOLeader 2015-2016



"GSMP was the most profound
experience I've ever had. It
was a turning point in my life.
It helped me reflect deeply on
my passion and gave me the
power and strength to chase
my dreams. If only we all could
be so lucky to join this world-
changing family."

HAYAM ESSAM, EGYPT
GSMP Alumna 2013

FOLLOW-ON & VOLEADERS

- Amman, Jordan
- Cairo, Egypt
- Hermosillo, Mexico
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- São Paulo, Brazil

MENTORSHIP CITIES

- Arlington, TX
- Birmingham, AL
- Boston, MA
- Bristol, CT
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Colorado Springs, CO
- Los Angeles, CA
- New York City, NY
- Orlando, FL
- Palm Beach Gardens, FL
- Phoenix, AZ
- San Antonio, TX
- St. Petersburg, FL
- Tuscaloosa, AL

PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES

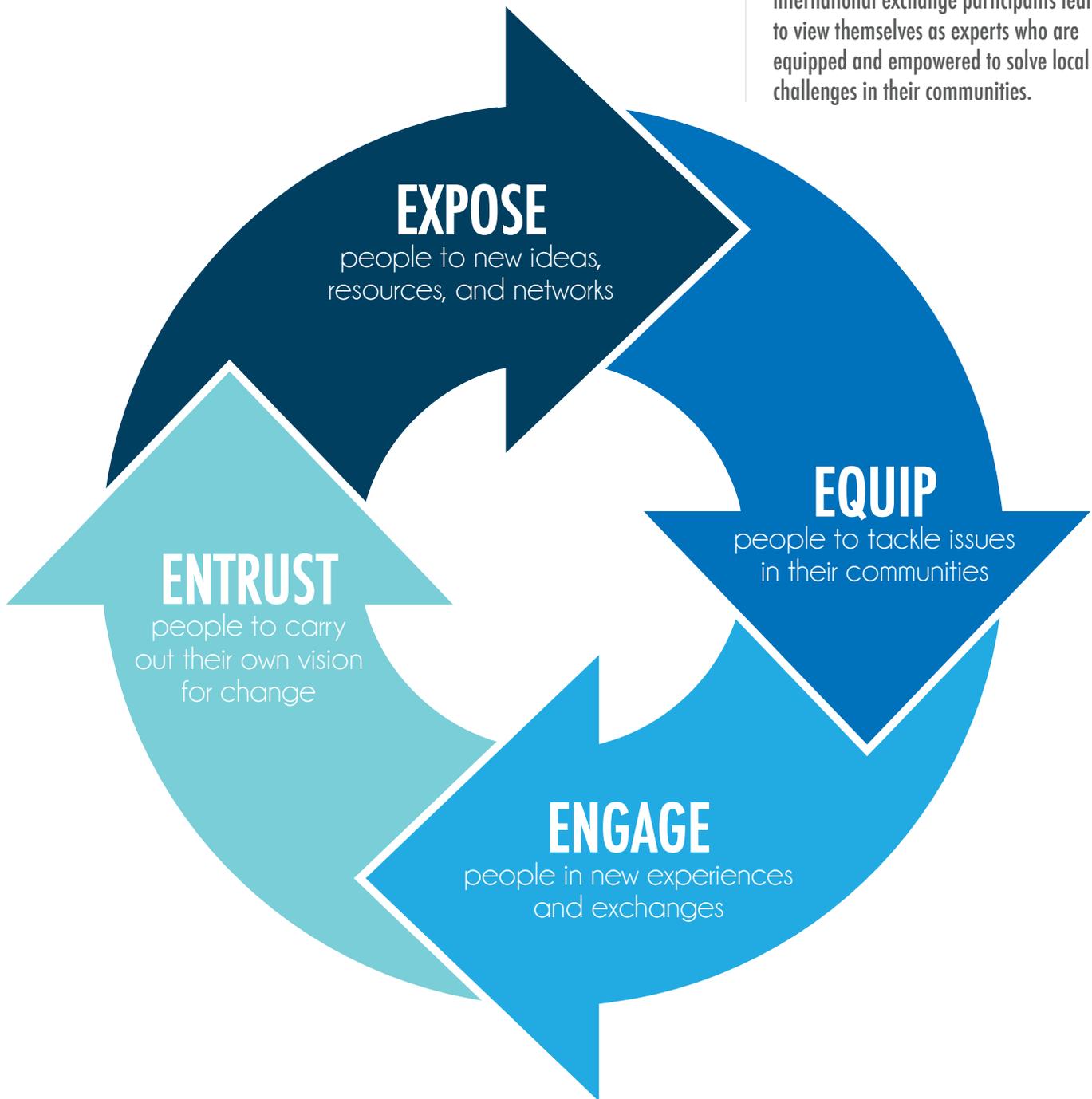
- Belarus
- Brazil
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- France
- Guatemala
- India
- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Mexico
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- Philippines
- Qatar
- Russia
- Sri Lanka
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Vietnam

PHILOSOPHY

THEORY OF EMPOWERMENT FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

HISTORY

The Theory of Empowerment for Social Change is the outgrowth of more than 20 years of experience in international sports programming and action-based, qualitative research. Through work with nearly 10,000 women, men, and children from more than 60 countries, the Center developed its own pedagogical philosophy of empowerment for social change. We apply this theory in a culturally-grounded manner where international exchange participants learn to view themselves as experts who are equipped and empowered to solve local challenges in their communities.






U. S. Consulate General
Hermosillo

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

In 2016, CSPS directors helped lead softball clinics in Hermosillo and Mexico City, Mexico to support the work of GSMP alumnae Cecilia Vales and Carla Bustamante and to empower the country's next generation of women. In 2011, more than 60% of women in Mexico aged 15 or older had experienced some form of domestic violence.





COURTING LEADERS

Founder of B7 Sports, Pavithra Chandra, a 2015 GSMP alumna, provides basketball instruction and life skills training to more than 125 children in Bangalore, India every week. She also partners with local schools and delivers keynote speeches to address gender inequalities and the country's rising rate of youth suicide.



PAVITHRA

Most mornings, Pavithra Chandra arrives early to work, winding her way through the busy streets of the southern Indian city of Bangalore. Often called “Belli” by those close to her (a nickname meaning silver in Hindi), Pavithra is a rare combination of character, depth, and passion; the pure, deep-in-your-soul kind of drive that can move mountains. In Bangalore, she fights the good fight.

Driven to address India’s rising rate of youth suicide—the highest in the world at 35 per 100,000 people—and determined to change the perception of sports in her country from a fruitless activity to one that leads to health, education, and empowerment, Pavithra launched B7 Sports in 2008. As CEO, she oversees all operations, including event management, consulting, and youth instruction. In the short life of the organization, she has trained more than 4,500 children from 25 local schools.

“In all of our programs, we emphasize the health and empowerment of kids and women because they are so neglected in our society,” Pavithra says.

Although she has made substantial progress—B7’s waiting list is nearly twice capacity—seven years of leading the organization amid threats, looting, political corruption, riots, and a constant lack of knowledge, acceptance, and philanthropy left Pavithra worn down.

“I was on the verge of breaking,” she says. “I was pulling every ounce of energy from my body to make things happen. And then GSMP came along. It’s like feeling that you’re out of breath and suddenly someone puts an oxygen mask on you.”

In the fall of 2015, Pavithra was selected as one of 16 women for the U.S. Department of State and espnW Global Sports Mentoring Program (GSMP), an initiative implemented by the Center for Sport, Peace, and Society that aims to empower women and girls through sports worldwide. For her mentorship, Pavithra was paired with Google’s Julie Eddleman who exposed her to new ways of thinking, corporate and community partnerships, and streamlined organizational structure—all components she shared with leadership back in India.

“Being on advisory panels and the national sports council, it helped me take ideas to my government, to decision-makers who perhaps might not have an opportunity to have these kind of understandings,” Pavithra says.

In the U.S., she also met Becky Hammon of the San Antonio Spurs, the first full-time female assistant coach in the NBA and Pavithra’s idol. But, more importantly, Pavithra found hope in the lives of her fellow GSMP participants.

“Because there are so many like-minded people, you feel that you’re not alone,” she says. “To see that it’s not only an issue with you, but there are people from other countries who have the same issues—that is comforting on so many levels. I don’t think many people fully comprehend the impact of the program.”

Pavithra returned to the U.S. in 2016 for one week to serve as a guide to a new class of participants. In her life, the impact of the program only grows as she continues touching lives in Bangalore and throughout the world with her growing network of colleagues, sisters, and change makers.

BAYRON

In 1996, Bayron Lopez was a 14-year-old Ecuadorian boy learning to cope with a new reality. A motorcycle accident forced doctors to amputate his left leg, and he wasn't sure if life would ever be the same. When he finally built up courage to leave the house, his sport wheelchair made him feel whole again.

In his new gear, Bayron became one of Ecuador's most successful wheelchair racers. With sport to thank for bringing him hope when he needed it most, he dedicated himself to becoming a leader for those who didn't have the chance to experience sport's power.

"Every morning, I look at my medals, and I feel inspired to work harder," Bayron says. "They remind me about the people with disabilities in Ecuador who need the same opportunity to not only win medals but to grow confident and healthy and make new friendships that bring joy into their lives."

In 2016, Bayron was selected to participate in the U.S. Department of State Global Sports Mentoring Program (GSMP) under the new disability-focused initiative, Sport for Community. At the time of his involvement, Bayron was in the final six months of his first term as president of the Ecuador Paralympic Committee. In his time leading the committee, he pushed to expand grassroots recruitment of athletes in rural areas and helped Ecuador qualify its highest-ever number of athletes to a Paralympic Games.

However, Bayron arrived to the U.S. with mixed feelings about re-election. One month before the program, an earthquake

devastated Ecuador; nearly 700 people died and more than 16,600 were injured. Bayron considered ending his term to focus entirely on disaster relief projects, but the GSMP intersected at the perfect time.

For his mentorship, Bayron was matched with Mark Lucas, executive director of U.S. Association of Blind Athletes, who convinced him about the power of servant-leadership, ways to balance administrative and grassroots work, and the key role of adaptive sports in disaster relief efforts. Following Mark's guidance, Bayron ran for re-election and was voted in for a second term that will run through the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.

"The CSPS, State Department, and my mentor, Mark, showed me there are new tools and information available for me to make a bigger impact across society," Bayron says. "Yes, today there is only one Bayron Lopez. But now I'm working so in the next year I can see 100 Bayrons in these communities."

The relationship between mentor and mentee reached greater heights when Mark and CSPS photographer Jaron Johns visited Bayron in Ecuador to support his newly-launched adaptive sports projects dedicated to inclusion and empowerment through sports. The trio organized clinics that reached 375 people through track and field, soccer, goalball, and sitting volleyball events—many for the first time.

"Everything was perfect," Bayron says. "It's my mission to keep touching lives and prove that sport can change the world."





REBUILDING LIVES

Motivated by his participation in GSMP Sport for Community and the earthquakes that hit his country in April 2016, Bayron Lopez uses his platform as President of the National Paralympic Committee of Ecuador to provide inclusive sports opportunities to persons with disabilities. More than 16,000 people were severely injured in northern provinces of the country, including Esmeraldas, an area he serves.



VOLUNTEER FOR GOOD

Meghan Gregg, a University of Tennessee softball player and member of the 2015-2016 VLeader Academy, plays games with youth during a clinic with Vida Corrida in São Paulo, Brazil. More than 250 people were served during the 10-day capstone program.





VOLEADERS SPOTLIGHT:

MEGHAN

After 18 years on the family peach farm in Williamson, Georgia, Meghan Gregg now spends most days on a dusty infield as the commanding shortstop for the University of Tennessee softball team. In two short years, Meghan, now a junior, achieved All-SEC and All-American Scholar-Athlete honors and last summer played for the USA Softball Women's Elite Team. Simultaneously, she is working toward a degree in kinesiology in hopes of someday becoming a pharmacist. Despite her early success, Meghan wishes she could add one quality to her list of skills: confidence.

As a self-proclaimed introvert, Meghan reluctantly accepted nomination to the inaugural VOLeaders Academy, a one-year program designed by directors from three campus departments—the Center for Sport, Peace, and Society, the Department of Athletics, and the Center for Leadership and Service—to cultivate student-athlete leaders who can foster positive social change within teams, on campus, and in the community. For Meghan, the prospect of becoming an outspoken leader seemed daunting.

"Everything about speaking makes me feel nervous," she says. "Putting my thoughts out there creates a lot of anxiety because I lack confidence in myself. I lead by example, but I know that's not enough. I have to become the type of leader that others feel inspired to follow, and that comes with knowing yourself."

Throughout the program, which includes two academic courses—Leadership in Sport and Sport for Social Change—and an international exchange experience, Meghan began to discover herself as a student, leader, and

teammate and supported others in a collective quest to identify core values and beliefs.

"I learned so much about myself in the program," Meghan says. "I really learned what I take for granted. Sometimes though, it was hard for me to see my weaknesses. But as the classes went on and we became more vulnerable, I realized that being pushed out of my comfort zone helped me grow as a person. I realized the value of relationships, the power of reflection, and how important both of those are in becoming a better leader."

In the summer of 2016, Meghan, the 12 other members of the inaugural class, and program organizers embarked on the Academy's capstone: an immersive, 10-day service-learning experience in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. As a rookie to international travel, Meghan was unsure what to expect.

"I thought we were going there to share our knowledge," Meghan says. "And yes, we did that. But at times, I felt like we were learning more than we were teaching. It was truly eye opening for me. After that, my confidence soared. If you can find a way to communicate without speaking the language, how much easier is it to find your voice in the U.S. and to use it."

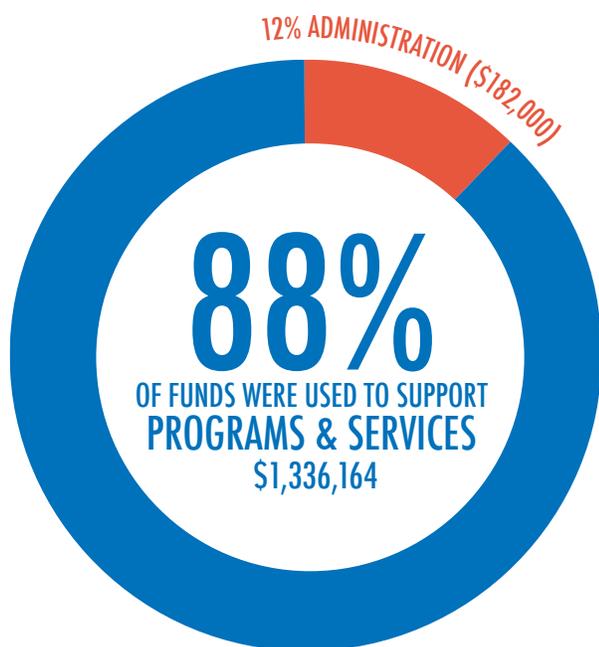
Meghan returned to Knoxville with a renewed perspective that capitalizes on the power of the student-athlete platform.

"Just by giving a little extra effort, we can make positive things happen," she says. "If everyone used their platform for good, we could make amazing change."

2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

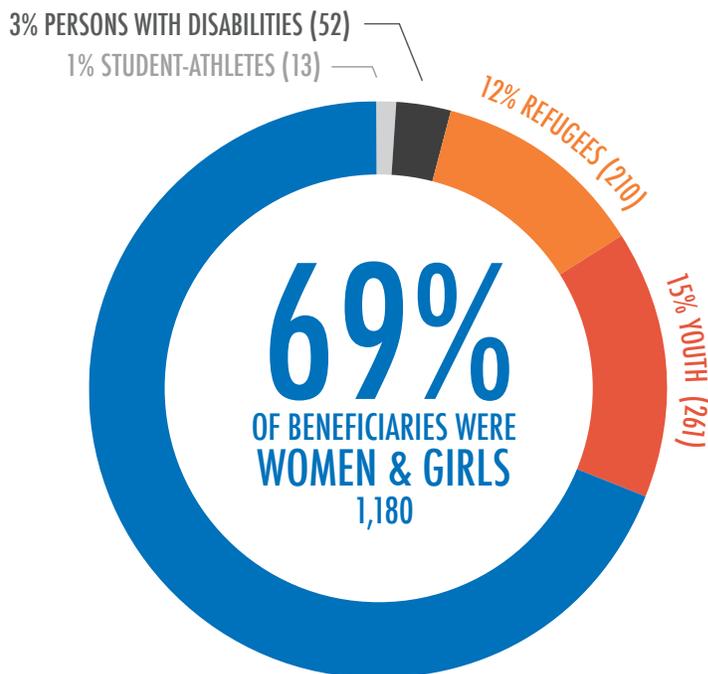
ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES

TOTAL: \$1,518,164



BENEFICIARIES

TOTAL: 1,716



PROGRAM SERVICES BREAKDOWN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT	\$1,030,000
INTERNAL FUNDING	\$182,000
DONORS	\$1,164
MENTOR COST-SHARE	\$160,000
VOLEADERS COST-SHARE	\$150,000
	\$1,518,164



THANK YOU

MENTORS

Ability 360 Sports & Fitness Center
Big East Conference
Burton
Chicago Parks District
Coca-Cola Company
DLA Piper
ESPN
Equinox
Gatorade
Glideslope
Google
Ketchum Sports & Entertainment
Lakeshore Foundation
LPGA
NBA
NCAA
New Balance
New York Road Runners
NHL
P&G
PGA of America
Playworks
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Rubin Postaer & Associates
Saatchi & Saatchi, LA
Spaulding Rehabilitation Network
Spurs Sports & Entertainment
Stanton & Co.
Turnstone
USOC
Wasserman
WNBA
Women in Cable Television
Women's Sports Foundation
Women's Tennis Association
University of Alabama
University of Central Florida
University of Connecticut
University of North Carolina
University of Oregon
University of Texas-Arlington
Under Armour
U.S. Association of Blind Athletes
U.S. Golf Association

PARTNERS & FRIENDS

A.E.C. Kaue
Allison Davis
Photography
Athletes for Brazil
Blaze Sports
BOOST
Club Vibes
DC Impact
Dei Gratia Photo
Ecuador Paralympic Committee
Educate Me Egypt
El de Saffo
Emerald Youth Foundation
Fight for Peace
espnW
Girls Inc.
Girls in the Game
Girls on the Run
Happy Shiver Media
Helm
Lakeshore Foundation
Lampstand
MedStar Rehabilitation Center
Nantes Roller Derby
Naranjeros Baseball Club
National Consortium for Academics and Sports
Susan Dunlap & Associates
Norwegian Refugee Council
Obra Social Dona Meca
Rede Esporte Pela Mudanca Social
She Wins Mexico
Shuttlers Jordan
University of Tennessee: Department of Athletics
Center for Leadership & Service
College of Education, Health, & Human Sciences
School of Art
School of Journalism & Electronic Media
Think Olga
University of São Paulo
U.S. Department of State
Vida Corrida
Women's Basketball Hall of Fame
YWCA Anthony Bowen

CENTER FOR SPORT, PEACE, & SOCIETY

MEET THE TEAM



SARAH HILLYER, PHD
Director

The 2011 Generations for Peace Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dr. Sarah Hillyer is recognized as one of the leading practitioners in the field of sport for development and peace and leads all aspects of the Center. She played basketball at Liberty University.



ASHLEIGH HUFFMAN, PHD
Assistant Director

For more than a decade, Dr. Ashleigh Huffman has led international exchanges and sport-based programming across the world. Along with Dr. Sarah Hillyer, she leads all aspects of the Center. She played basketball at Eastern Kentucky University.



CAROLYN SPELLINGS, PHD
Assessments & Impact
Coordinator

Dr. Carolyn Spellings leads all program evaluations and reporting processes for the Center. She also has more than eight years experience conducting international, cross-cultural research.



BRIAN CANEVER

Digital Content Manager
In addition to managing the Center's websites and social media accounts, Brian Canever is the principal writer for feature stories, blog posts, newsletters, and contributions to other media partners. In 2016, he won a local sports journalism award.



ALICIA MALNATI, PHD
Graphic Designer & Research
Assistant

Dr. Alicia Malnati, or "Dr. Hatch," oversees all graphic design elements for the Center and contributes to research projects, reporting processes, and evaluations. She was a gymnast at the University of Missouri.



RAINEY JOHNS
Program Assistant

In addition to her full-time job as Director of a parks and recreation department in Kentucky, Rainey Johns assists the Center with logistics, budgets, and recordkeeping. She played soccer and softball at Cambellsville University.



CHERRY BREWER
Program Assistant

Prawannarat "Cherry" Brewer assists the Center with logistics, program planning, and overall organization. She also serves as an administrative assistant to the Directors when needed. She will complete her doctoral degree in May 2017.



JARON JOHNS
Photographer

Jaron Johns is the principal photographer for the Center and has traveled to more than 20 countries in two years, including India, Jordan, and Brazil. He is also a wedding and portrait photographer based in Lexington, Kentucky.



LOOKING AHEAD

What started as a dream five years ago has now become reality. The Center for Sport, Peace, and Society is working in more than 60 countries and is using sport and education as a tool for development and peace. Partnering with athletes, coaches, educators, advocates, media, and corporate executives, CSPS is committed to changing the world, one community at a time.

As evidenced in our first annual report, our small team leads with a big heart and relies heavily on partnerships, grant funding, and cost-sharing to perform at such a high level. The stories of the women, men, and students in this report represent one year of what we are privileged enough to call “work.” But for us, training teams of international changemakers and producing research that makes the world a better place is a calling, one that we feel fortunate to live out at the Center.

Despite the incredible progress made by CSPS in 2016, there is still work to be done. We would love to double our output in 2017, diving deeper into areas of research, teaching, and global exchanges. Currently, our team of two plus six part-time grant staff makes this \$1.5 million operation run. If we can achieve these kinds of results with a small team and a restricted budget, imagine what’s possible with new networks, funding streams, and resources.

We would love for you to join us on this journey as we build bridges of understanding and friendship. Thank you for the difference you are making in the world already, and remember in 2017, peace wins.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF DR. JOY T. DESENSI

Dr. DeSensi helped shape the essence of the Center’s philosophy and commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion, and empowerment. She challenged us to think differently, create opportunities for others, and help everyone thrive, not only those in power. She was a model for integrity. We are forever grateful for the role she played in our lives and the responsibility we now have to carry her legacy forward.

LEARN MORE:



SHE BELIEVES: DIMA ALARDAH’S STORY

Dima restores hope to women, girls, and refugees through Shuttlers Academy and the Norwegian Refugee Council.



KEEP GOING: BATOUL ARNAOUT’S STORY

Batoul creates a path for Jordanian girls and women through BOOST, an initiative she founded to bring hope through cycling.



GROWING MINDS: YASMIN HELAL’S STORY

In Cairo, Yasmin founded Educate Me, a school that impacts the lives of students through holistic education, including sports.



GSMP 2015: #RISEUP

Strong. Determined. Brave. These are the 16 women of the 2015 class.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
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CENTER FOR SPORT, PEACE,
AND SOCIETY

GLOBAL LEADERS CHANGE MAKERS

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