



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Biggest-ever WOA Grants Programme supports more Olympians than ever

Ten inspiring Olympian-led projects and 26 National Olympians Associations to benefit from WOA grants as 2018 recipients announced

Monaco; 25 October 2018

World Olympians Association (WOA) is pleased to announce the recipients of its **2018 Grants Programme**. Ten Olympian-led projects and 26 National Olympians Associations have been granted funding, making the 2018 programme the biggest-ever, with more Olympians than ever set to benefit from WOA grants.

Five inspiring Olympian-led projects have been awarded 2018 Service to Society grants, while a further five have been granted Service to Olympians grants. The successful recipients, from across all five continents, will each receive US five thousand dollars (\$5,000) towards the running costs of their projects as part of WOA's mission to enhance the role of Olympians in society and support them in their life transition.

Launched in 2016, **Service to Society** grants empower Olympians to make a positive difference in their communities and build a better society through sport by supporting projects that align with the Olympic values and the activities of the Olympic Movement.

The 2018 Service to Society grant recipients are:

- **Liberia [Africa]:** *Young Wrestling Volunteers Project* - increasing access to sport in slums and other underprivileged neighbourhoods
- **Peru [Americas]:** *Impacting Lives through Table Tennis* - a social programme aimed at promoting children's participation in schools
- **Philippines [Asia]:** *Hope through Sports* - a project that runs sports clinics for street children
- **Ukraine [Europe]:** *Olympic Week* – promoting Olympic values in collaboration with the NOC

- **Fiji [Oceania]: *Social Inclusion & Athlete Engagement*** - increasing the number of young people participating in sport and physical activities

The **Service to Olympians** grant was established earlier this year to support Olympians off the field of play, funding projects and initiatives that directly benefit the ongoing development of Olympians.

The 2018 Service to Olympians grant recipients are:

- **Senegal [Africa]: *Olympians Leadership Programme*** - providing Olympians with the skills to run programmes for charity or business
- **Canada [Americas]: *OLY CANADA*** – the launch of an online community for Canadian Olympians
- **South Korea [Asia]: *Enhancing the Role of Olympians*** - building relationships between Olympians and sports leaders through a series of workshops
- **Cook Islands [Oceania]: *Ignite Olympians*** - building the profile and creating passionate leaders of Cook Islands' Olympians
- **Australia [Oceania]: *Women's Olympian Network*** - increasing opportunities for female Olympians as they transition to life after sport

In addition, a record 26 National Olympians Associations (NOAs) have applied for a 2018 **WOA Development Grant** to fund regular programmes, activities and administration costs associated with the operations of their organisation.

Since WOA's Grants Programme was first established, NOAs, Olympians and communities around the world have directly benefitted from WOA funding. Funded projects include drowning prevention programmes in India and Lithuania, an Olympian-run community chicken farm in Zimbabwe, bringing sport to orphaned children in Malaysia and those affected by conflict in Colombia, boosting sport participation in Palau and granting once-in-a-lifetime wishes to the elderly in the United States. All have epitomised the strong desire of Olympians to use their platform for good and make a positive impact in their communities.

WOA President Joël Bouzou OLY said:

“Every year, the WOA Grants Programme increases in reach and impact and this year we are proud to report that we have achieved our biggest-ever funding programme with a record number of grants distributed. We are thrilled to assist such worthy Olympian-led projects with Service to Society and Service to Olympians grants, while also supporting our National Olympians Associations through our annual NOA Development grant programme.

“WOA's mission is to be of service to Olympians, empowering them to help make the world a better place. We firmly believe that Olympians have the ability to make a genuine difference, spreading the spirit and practice of Olympism to drive positive social change. The WOA Grants Programme is one of the ways we can help them achieve this and we look forward to following this year's grant recipients with interest as the projects come to fruition in the coming months.”

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

You can find out more about WOA's Service to Society grant programme [HERE](#).

About World Olympians Association

WOA is the member organisation for the more than 100,000 Olympians worldwide. Our remit is to work for the benefit of all Olympians at all stages of their lives, empowering them to serve society and help make the world a better place. With 149 member National Olympians Associations spread across all five continents, WOA provides support to Olympian-run events and projects based on the Olympic ideals laid down by the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin.

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