

THE PETER WESTBROOK FOUNDATION



Making a Difference in the Lives of
Children through Fencing



THE PETER
WESTBROOK
FOUNDATION

The Peter Westbrook Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that utilizes the sport of fencing as a vehicle to develop life skills in young people from underserved communities.



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EXECUTIVE LETTER



“AS SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS OF PWF STUDENTS AND ATHLETES GO OUT INTO THE WORLD TO PURSUE CAREERS IN MEDICINE, FINANCE, TECHNOLOGY, LAW, GOVERNMENT, MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT, TECHNOLOGY, OR EDUCATION...IT IS GRATIFYING TO SEE SO MANY RETURN TO THE PWF TO APPLY THEIR ACCUMULATED EXPERTISE TO IMPROVE EVERY ASPECT OF OUR ORGANIZATION.”

Dear Friends and Family,

One of the most rewarding things about working in an organization like the Peter Westbrook Foundation is being surrounded by staff, volunteers and mentors who are just as compassionate and generous as they are talented and ambitious. More rewarding still is the fact that nearly all of these individuals are also former PWF participants themselves!

I come to this theme again and again because it is the cornerstone of the PWF's success. Our ability to not only inspire individual excellence but also foster and cultivate empathy, generosity, compassion and social responsibility is how we've been able to produce Olympic medalists and individuals who are achieving Olympic-size dreams beyond the fencing strip.

As successive generations of PWF students and athletes go out into the world to pursue careers in medicine, finance, technology, law, government, media, entertainment, technology or education; create their own companies and nonprofits; and start their own families, it is gratifying to see so many of them return to the PWF to share and apply their accumulated expertise, insights and leadership to help improve every aspect of our organization.

As graduates of the PWF they know firsthand what it felt like to get up early Saturday mornings to rain, sleet or snow to attend our fencing program, stay afterward for academic enrichment, or try to balance the demands of high school and college while trying to make a national team. With this experience, they are uniquely positioned to help the organization recognize and anticipate both the challenges and opportunities that our students and families face.

The impact of their collected contributions over the years goes well beyond operational efficiencies, extending our vision for the future of the organization and our evolving mission to meaningfully improve the life chances and opportunities of our youth.

The PWF is very fortunate to have been blessed with such a great cadre of talented and passionate volunteers. We are equally blessed to have the support of you, the members of our wider community, who have shown such dedication and commitment to our mission for over a quarter-century. Together, it is a winning combination that will keep our organization thriving for years to come.

On behalf of all the children and families who have participated in our program, I want to thank all of our supporters both near and far who help make the PWF what it is today.

Peter Westbrook
Founder & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Westbrook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

PROGRAM GOALS



The primary objectives of the year-round program are to help young people:

- Equip themselves with the life skills that enable them to take control of their futures
- Strive for academic excellence
- Develop leadership skills
- Build self-confidence
- Gain exposure to people from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds
- Learn about healthy living
- Develop their sense of civic duty and community service
- Foster a sense of community inspired by a common love of fencing



PWF PROGRAMS

Girls and boys ages 8 to 18 are eligible for the program. Currently, most participants are residents of underserved communities and from single-parent households within the five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, Westchester County and New Jersey. Approximately 85 percent of our participants are African-American and Latino youth, with the remaining 15 percent of Asian and Caucasian descent.



Saturday Fencing Program

The Saturday Fencing Program is the cornerstone of all PWF programs with basic and advanced fencing instruction as well as academic programs. Enrollment is open to anyone between the ages of 8 and 18 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Classes are held weekly from 9 a.m. to noon. The PWF supplies all necessary equipment, and prior skills are not required nor expected. Saturday Fencing provides a thorough grounding in the fundamentals of the sport for beginners, and an opportunity for developing fencers to hone their skills before entering the world of competitive fencing. We place students into age- and skills-appropriate groups where, in addition to building an understanding of proper fencing technique, footwork and swordplay, they are expected to provide peer-to-peer feedback and support. The teaching staff includes current and future PWF Olympians, national champions and national team members. Each session begins with a rigorous group warm-up that includes aerobic and fencing-specific exercises, followed by group and individual training with the students' weapons of choice.

The PWF believes in taking a holistic approach to youth development. In addition to providing a first-class athletic experience, our staff serve as mentors for our students, offering guidance on life choices from health to academic and career development. We regularly invite prominent guest speakers to share their knowledge and strategies for success. In the past, we've had professionals from all walks of life participate, including music moguls, elected officials, Hollywood actors and tech entrepreneurs.

The Saturday fencing program's emphasis on excellence creates positive effects that also influence academic performance. While the Academic Enrichment Program (AEP) provides a more hands-on approach to academic guidance, our staff works hard to make sure that no student falls through the cracks. We monitor the grades of every student in the program to identify those students who need assistance and ensure they get the help they need. This also allows us to identify students whose academic standing makes them potential candidates for scholarship and internship programs available to PWF members.

Competitive Athlete Program

Each season we select from our Saturday program a cadre of new and returning students who show remarkable talent and motivation to participate in the Competitive Athlete Program. These students train year-round and adopt a training regimen that will set them on the course to compete inter-collegiately, nationally and internationally. The student athletes train anywhere from three to six days per week depending on their age group, competition and academic schedules.

We award scholarships to all participants who meet the program's funding and athletic criteria to defray the costs of fencing club memberships, coaching, competition fees and equipment.

For their part, the athletes attend monthly meetings with the training staff, a summer training camp, maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average, and volunteer their time to mentor younger fencers in the Saturday Fencing Program.

Athletes are trained by the Foundation's international roster of coaches – Olympians and instructors with extensive competitive and athletic development experience. Each coach serves as a mentor by monitoring each student's academic performance to ensure that athletes are balancing their responsibilities to study as hard in school as they train in the fencing gym. Coaches also chaperone athletes during trips to domestic and international competitions, often acting as motivators, cheerleaders, friends and counselors to their students.

Our elite fencing program has become internationally recognized for producing some of the world's best fencers. In the span of one generation, the PWF's Competitive Athlete Program has morphed from a concept to a program known for producing several NCAA Champions, National Champions, World Champions, Olympians and Olympic medalists.

Even more important than the athletic achievements of its members, however, is the fact that the Competitive Athlete Program forms the future leaders of our organization. As the program has grown, we have been able to cultivate a group of highly motivated, talented, dedicated individuals who are eager to give back to the organization that has given them so much. All of our volunteer staff were members of the Competitive Athlete Program.

Leadership, Mentoring and Work Skills

One of the most important aspects of the Saturday program is that it provides students with an opportunity to learn some valuable skills that they can use at home, in school and eventually in the workplace.

All students – even the youngest – are encouraged to participate in some of the operational aspects of running the Saturday Program, including equipment management, site setup and teardown. In doing so, they learn such basic skills as how to work together on a team, and facilities and equipment management.

Advanced and older students (primarily those participating in the Competitive Athlete Program) enjoy additional opportunities to develop experience as leaders, mentors and team builders. These students are assigned a group of students to work with either as a team leader or alongside one of the senior staff. In these roles, athletes learn very important skills, such as teaching and mentoring developing students and problem-solving. As this is a requirement for all advanced students in high school and college, it also gives our students an opportunity to build such work-related skills as time/calendar management, planning and collaboration.

Academic Enrichment Program

The Academic Enrichment Program (AEP) is the cornerstone of PWF educational initiatives. The program addresses the educational needs of participants by providing a wealth of academic enrichment and skills-development services, such as literacy skill-building, educational counseling, and the use of technology. AEP measurably improves the academic performance of disadvantaged students, significantly improves the social, emotional and cognitive development of young children, and improves students' ability to learn, work, and thrive in a digital society. This support is critical to helping students enter into private and specialized public high schools and advance to college.

AEP is housed in a professional space less than one block from the fencing training facility. A team of undergraduate and graduate students and certified teachers staff the program. The PWF recruits tutors and educators with strong records of academic achievement, coupled with practical teaching experience, who demonstrate a commitment to community service and a willingness to help each student build the foundation needed for ongoing academic success. The program runs annually from October through May to align with the academic year. Programming takes place three Saturdays a month.

Shortly after enrollment, an AEP educator determines the support needs of each new participant by administering an academic evaluation and reviewing his or her report card from the prior school term. The assessments are based on current state evaluations and curricula, and are organized by grade level. An academic improvement plan is created during a meeting with the student, their parent/guardian, and the AEP team. This may include recommendations for hard- and soft-skills development, test-taking preparation classes, and/or specific class subject review.

To determine student progress throughout the duration of the program, all report cards, class exams, and teacher reports are collected from parents/guardians immediately after they are issued. Session reports and monthly recaps written by AEP educators also are integral to assessing student deficiencies and progress.

During the school year, mid-year report cards, reports from tutors, informal conversations with parents, and specialist assessments alert program staff to any negative trends in a student's academic performance and/or behavior. Should any issues arise during the school year, the AEP manager will strategize and create a plan with the child's parents and tutor to address issues in a timely and efficient manner.

AEP enrolled 85 participants during the 2017-2018 season, including five participants on the waitlist and five students who were siblings of a registered participant.

- 77 percent of students increased their pre- to post-assessment score by an average of 2.75 points.
- 56 percent of students increased their pre- to post-assessment score by an average of 17 points.
- 82 percent of students improved or maintained their overall GPA.
- Students entering the program with a GPA of B- or lower demonstrated significant improvement in the subject in which they were having difficulty, particularly in areas of math, science, and English language arts.

- The median increased point spread was 5 points; in fact 77 percent of those showing improvement in subject areas increased their grades to move into at least the next-highest grade bracket.
- After SAT test preparation, eight out of 10 participants increased their score by 50 points or more. One student increased by 300 points.
- 100 percent of high school seniors graduated on time.
- 100 percent of high school graduates were accepted into and enrolled in college. In 2018, students were admitted to a variety of prestigious institutions: Harvard University, Columbia University, Yale University, Vassar College, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Stony Brook University, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, New York University, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, and University of Rochester.

"There are several tutorial programs in New York City with rigorous curricula; however, this program offers high quality enrichment. My son enjoys the program because it offers high engagement and a challenging learning opportunity. His tutor simultaneously works with a couple other students, yet the attention given to my son is still individualized. After each session, he walks away with a better understanding of a concept or skill based on the instruction provided by his experienced tutor. It is through this dynamic learning experience that my son's academic performance has already improved." - A PWF AEP parent

Some of the colleges and universities where the PWF has helped students secure scholarships for athletes include:

Barnard College
City University of New York
Columbia University
Duke University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Johns Hopkins University
Lawrence University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Rutgers University
Sacred Heart College
St. John's University
State University of New York
Stevens Institute of Technology
Temple University
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
Wayne State University
Yale University

PWF Scholarships

Academic Scholarship Award

Given each year to two college-bound students in excellent academic standing.

Positive Youth Award

Given each year to a youth who epitomizes great citizenship in the PWF program and in our communities.

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Curtis McDowald Confronts Himself on Road to Athletic Excellence

Peter Westbrook Foundation epee fencer Curtis McDowald began fencing when he was 12 years old, after his mother discovered the Peter Westbrook Foundation by word of mouth. Although he had never heard of the sport before, he was immediately captivated when he entered the room of more than 100 young athletes. He knew that this was a community he wanted to join.

“I owe my entire introduction to the sport to my mother,” recalled Curtis. “When I first entered the foundation, I was amazed to see such a diverse community collected under one roof. The instructors had some of the highest academic, professional and personal accolades that I had ever heard. I knew I needed to be in a place where success and higher education were just normal and expected.”

It wasn't long before Curtis was recognized by the PWF epee coaches as having potentially elite talent. He was soon invited to participate in the Peter Westbrook Foundation Competitive Athlete Program, which nurtures athletic talent by assisting young athletes with access to world-class fencing coaches and mentors. The program has shaped some of the United States' premier fencing Olympians and World Team members. It put Curtis on a course that would take him around the world and earn him entrance into New York City's prestigious Dwight School.

The road for Curtis was not easy. During his high school years, he found great difficulty in balancing the demands of school work and the rigor of a competitive fencing schedule. “I learned a lot from my high school experience,” Curtis said. “I learned to be more thoughtful and deliberate with my actions, and to lean on my PWF family for support and help. This approach has helped me in all aspects of my life.”

Seizing his opportunity, Curtis took a no-nonsense approach to life that included focusing on academic, professional and athletic excellence. His efforts paid off. In 2016, he broke through on the world stage and qualified for his first Junior National Team. He finished in 10th place in the individual event and help lead Team USA to a 4th place result in the team event. By focusing on his academic pursuits, Curtis was able to secure a scholarship with St. John's University, where he earned All-American honors at the NCAA Fencing National Championships in 2016.

Using these early successes as a springboard, Curtis has now set his sights on qualifying for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. In the 2017 - 2018 season, Curtis posted one of the best epee seasons in recent history, culminating in a quarterfinal finish in the individual and team events at the 2018 World Championships in Wuxi, China, and a bronze medal at the Pan-American Championships last summer. Heading into the 2018/2019 season, Curtis is the overall No. 1 epee fencer in the United States and No. 9 epee fencer in the world.

“I have to give a lot of credit to the mentors and coaches who have worked with me and still do,” said Curtis, who believes that the organization's patience with him in even the most challenging times has helped to shape him. “The Peter Westbrook Foundation gave me the opportunity and time to succeed despite my own struggles. They guided me to find a formula for success that I know I will be able to carry through my walk through life.”

Curtis is hungry for a position on the Olympic team in Tokyo.



COMMUNITY CORNER



Daryl Homer wins another World Cup medal cementing his position as one of the best fencers in the world.



Iman Blow represented Columbia University and the PWF in winning the 2018 NCAA Championship in Women's Foil.

Athletic Milestones

Olympians & Olympic Medalists

Daryl Homer - Men's Saber, 2012; 2016 Silver Men's Saber Individual
Kamara James - Women's Epee, 2004
Ivan Lee - Men's Saber, 2004
Ibtihaj Muhammad - Women's Saber, 2016 Bronze Women's Saber Team
Nzingha Prescod - Women's Foil, 2012; 2016
Erinn Smart - Women's Foil, 2000, 2004; 2008 Silver Women's Foil Team
Keeth Smart - Men's Saber, 2000; 2004; 2008 Silver Men's Saber Team
Akhnaten Spencer-EI - Men's Saber, 2000

Senior World Championship Medalists

Ben Bratton - Gold, Men's Epee Team, 2012; Silver, Men's Epee Team, 2010
Ibtihaj Muhammad - Gold, Women's Saber Team, 2014; Bronze, Women's Saber Team, 2011 - 2013, 2015
Nzingha Prescod - Gold Women's Foil Team, 2018; Silver, Women's Foil Team, 2017; Bronze, Women's Foil Individual, 2015
Erinn Smart - Bronze, Women's Foil Team, 2001



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dwight Smith

For many participants at the Peter Westbrook Foundation, Dwight Smith is one of the most consistent faces they will see. Dwight has been a regular presence at the Peter Westbrook Foundation since he was 9 years old.

“My father brought my brother and me to the program one Saturday,” said Dwight as he recalled his first time in the fencing room. “There were a ton of people and it was really exciting for me. The initial draw for me was that I was able to hit someone without getting into trouble ... sad, but true.”

Dwight was recognized as a fencing talent and began to train regularly during the week after school. “My family and I saw an almost immediate impact,” Dwight said. “Looking back on it, the goal was always to be able to fence more. Through fencing, I had the incentive to finish my assignments so that I could get back on the strip. The focus that I was learning as an athlete helped to understand the steps necessary to accomplish tasks.”

Dwight soon received a full scholarship to attend the Dwight School, a private high school in Manhattan. While this opportunity opened completely new doors, his experience was no walk in the park. Commuting from Elmont, New York, meant an early morning two-hour commute to New York City every day for Dwight. After starting at 5 a.m., long school days were followed by grueling fencing practices each afternoon and into the night.

“My schedule meant learning how to budget my time,” he said. “Even though I was a fencer, I was held to the same standard as my classmates in school. As a result, I became extremely disciplined and learned how to manage my obligations and commitments.”

Dwight succeeded as an athlete and a student in remarkable fashion. He was named to three Cadet and Junior National Teams and has been a member of the United States Epee fencing travel team for over 10 years. Dwight won two national championship team titles and the silver medal at the 2015 Senior National Championships. A 2009 graduate of Columbia University with a degree in economics, Dwight received All-American Honors four times at the NCAA National Fencing Championships.

You will still find Dwight at the PWF every Saturday, giving back to the program that helped him through his youth. One of the most important members of the Peter Westbrook Foundation epee team, he acts as a point person for all epee fencers identified by PWF epee coaches. Connecting with their parents, he helps them navigate the complex world of competitive fencing.



PARENT SPOTLIGHT

Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis

It takes a community to build a community. As on many occasions, word of mouth played a critical role in bringing the Ellis family to the Peter Westbrook Foundation. Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis found us through a New York Public Radio show. Meryem said that after she returned from Africa to Brooklyn in 2008, she was driving her children to school and listening to WNYC on the radio. “I heard Brian Lehrer talk about Erinn and Keeth Smart, the two kids from Brooklyn, Olympic silver medalists that year. I literally glued my ears to the radio to learn more about them, and then heard that they belonged to PWF. Back at home, I Googled the name PWF, found a number and called. There it was, a voice message recording by Mr. Westbrook, announcing the upcoming PWF classes schedule. ‘Saturday, September 27th, 2008. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$25 per kid!’ That was it! I promised myself to sign up the kids with PWF that day!”

Meryem is a true Peter Westbrook Foundation parent. So excited about what the Foundation has brought to her and her family, she speaks about it every week. Meryem continues to share with others the benefits of being involved with the Peter Westbrook Foundation, telling people how it’s made such a difference for her children over the last 10 years. “We are so excited to be a part of the Peter Westbrook Foundation,” she says.

Over the years, Meryem has witnessed her children’s growth and development. Like many Westbrook Foundation parents, she has hopes and dreams that her children will succeed academically, artistically and athletically. Every Saturday, she and her husband John can be found watching their children face the rigors of the epee and foil classes. Dreams of the future? Possibly the fields of medicine, law, vocal arts, and international diplomacy.

These goals may not be such a stretch for this family. Meryem herself holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Cellular, and Molecular Biology from the prestigious University of Science and Technology of Languedoc in Montpellier, France. As she explained, she was attracted by the faster pace of research in the United States, and moved to New York when Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons hired her to study the effect of HIV infection in the human brain. Now at City University of New York, she says, she continues to study HIV infection in CD4 negative cells.

We are very proud to have Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis, who supports her kids and shows up each week with a positive spirit, joy and appreciation, as part of the PWF parent legacy.



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Keeth Smart

The Peter Westbrook Foundation takes great pride in the accomplishments of the members of its board of directors because they are instrumental to the successful operations, goals and strategy of the organization through their volunteer work, donations and essential feedback. Keeth Smart is one of the PWF's most highly accomplished board members. Both at the PWF and in his personal life, he has worn many hats.

Keeth was one of the charter students of the PWF when it began in 1991. A Brooklyn native, Keeth and his younger sister, Erinn, started fencing because their parents, Tom and Audrey, read an article about Peter Westbrook and his grassroots organization to introduce inner-city children to the sport of fencing. Highlights of Keeth's fencing career include two-time National Champion, two-time NCAA champion, and three-time Olympian and Olympic silver medalist in the Beijing Olympics in 2008. In addition, Keeth was the first American to be ranked No. 1 in the world for the sport of fencing.

Early on, Keeth understood that hard work was always essential and the key to success. His tenacity has boosted his professional career and his personal goals. Taking the skills he learned in fencing, he translated them into the business world, earning his M.B.A. from Columbia Business School and working in wealth management for Bank of America for several years. While focusing on his career, Keeth continued to be a linchpin in the day-to-day operations of the PWF, whether mentoring the next generation of saber fencers or running the Saturday morning warm-ups with PWF's newest members.

These days, Keeth wears a new hat as the regional general manager of Chelsea Piers Fitness, which includes overseeing their newest facility in Brooklyn, the borough's largest club. Keeth has become a key player in the New York City fitness industry and is known for his competitive edge. "The skills acquired at the Peter Westbrook Foundation have been invaluable for me in my personal, athletic and professional life," Keeth said. "I am eternally grateful to be a member of this amazing organization."

Despite his busy schedule and young family, Keeth still makes time to volunteer with the PWF because of all the opportunities and experiences it has given him. Peter Westbrook even introduced Keeth to his wife Shyra. The Smart family now numbers four with new son, Grant joining daughter, Taylor.



Ruggero and Valentina Vanni have spent years capturing the love of the PWF

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Valentina and Ruggero Vanni

As Valentina and Ruggero Vanni see it, "the Peter Westbrook Foundation is a beautiful tribal community and reflects the best parts of New York City, with diverse members and a welcoming spirit." For them, the PWF is family. The Vannis discovered the PWF in 2010 when their son, Filippo, was about 8 years old. A friend suggested the organization as a way for Filippo to pursue his fencing interests.

Natives of Italy, the Vannis were excited to discover such a varied community in NYC that welcomed all people and treated them all equally, with no barriers. The Vannis recognized that the PWF would be a great extension of their homelife and help teach Filippo the values and principles they believe in. "The PWF community is strong and the parents want to be involved and give back to support the environment," said Ruggero. And the Vannis have given back to the Foundation immensely.

Expertly trained architectural photographers, the Vannis run the NYC-based firm, Vanni Archive. Since joining the Foundation, the Vannis have dedicated their personal time and expertise to documenting and photographing the annual celebration and major events at the PWF. The Vannis' professional photographs are typically utilized for the PWF annual report and website.

In 2011, the Vannis went above and beyond and worked closely with Herby Raynaud in creating the PWF's 20th anniversary book, *SwordPlay: 20 Years of Changing Lives Through Fencing*, which vividly documents the Peter Westbrook Foundation's students, parents and staff through essays, quotes and photographs. "We were inspired to give back to the community that welcomed us with open arms, and we thought the 20th anniversary book was a beautiful reflection of the community," Valentina said.

"I'm always amazed at the love and support that the PWF parents have and how they want to give back to our community," said Peter Westbrook, founder and CEO of the Peter Westbrook Foundation. "The Vannis are wonderful and generous people. I'm grateful that they continue to support us with their expertise and talent."





Nzingha Prescod Wins Historic Gold Medal at World Fencing Championships

Wuxi, China, August 2018 – The Peter Westbrook Foundation’s (PWF) star athletes squared off against the best fencers in the world in Wuxi, China at the 2018 World Fencing Championships, one of the premier events in the sport of fencing. This year, the PWF sent one of the largest contingents of athletes at the event with three of its members representing Team USA. Olympic silver medalist Daryl Homer, two-time Olympian Nzingha Prescod and Team National Champion Curtis McDowald were all selected as the top fencers in their respective disciplines to represent the PWF and the United States of America at the event.

Highlighting the event, Nzingha Prescod won the Gold Medal in the Women’s Team Foil competition. Her win was the first women’s foil World Championship title for the United States in the history of the event. After falling just short of the gold medal in 2017, the USA Women’s Foil squad faced off against Italy — the team to win gold for the last five seasons and perennial favorite to claim the 2018 title. After defeating Spain to qualify for the quarterfinals, Team USA dominated Canada with a resounding 45-19 victory. Team USA stifled Korea in a 45-22 victory that propelled them to a rematch of the 2017 final against Italy. Spurred on by a dominant performance by Prescod over Camilla Mancini in the fourth bout, Team USA closed out the final match 45-35 and claimed the Gold Medal.

“There are no words to express how proud we are of Nzingha as she continues to add to her already illustrious career,” said Peter Westbrook, Founder and CEO of the Peter Westbrook Foundation. “Congratulations to her and the rest of the United States team on such a wonderful achievement as we prepare for the 2020 Olympic Games.”

Curtis McDowald also put on an incredible display in his first outing on the World Championships stage with an 8th place finish in the Men’s Epee. After a breakout season that saw him claim position as the No. 1 epee fencer in the nation, Curtis made his mark on the world as he cut his way through the preliminary rounds. In the round of 64, he faced off with 2017 Bronze medalist, Richard Schmidt from Germany. After a 15-8 upset victory, McDowald went on to slice his way through the field, most notably another upset against Korean star Youngjun Kweon, 15-6, to qualify for the quarterfinals. McDowald just missed his first podium finish after falling to World No. 1, Bogdan Nikishin from Ukraine 15-10.

Olympic Silver Medalist Daryl Homer finished his season with a strong performance in the individual Men’s Sabre. Homer opened the tournament with victories against Kostiantyn Voronov of Israel and Csanad Gemesi from Hungary. In the round of 16, he faced off against Faris Ferjani representing Tunisia and in a hard-fought match, fell just short of making the quarterfinal round 15-13.

“I am immensely proud of the group that we sent to this World Championships,” said Westbrook. “Nzingha, Daryl and Curtis fought diligently for the entire year to get to this point. Their victories are awe-inspiring and motivate the next generation to follow in their footsteps.”



Kamali Thompson, MD - Constantly Balances Both Saber and Stethoscope

Kamali is a fourth-year M.D./M.B.A. student at Rutgers' Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey. She became a member of the Peter Westbrook Foundation her junior year of high school and continues to fence today. During her third year of medical school, Kamali anticipated her future hospital rotations in surgery, pediatrics, family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, psychiatry and internal medicine would be very interesting and decided to create a blog to record her experiences.

After several months, she decided to incorporate the other aspects of her life – fitness, fencing, and travel – into the blog to give the audience a complete picture of her daily life.

Since starting her blog, Kamali has discussed a range of topics from life-changing decisions (deciding on orthopedic surgery as a specialty and going for the 2020 Olympics) to such daily issues as finding motivation to go to the gym. She feels that having an outlet to talk about the difficulties of being a (medical) student athlete with incredibly big dreams for her future has been a great experience. Even more rewarding, other students have reached out and encouraged her to write a monthly segment, “Ask Away,” which answers questions submitted by pre-medical and medical students.



Nzingha Prescod celebrates being the 2018 World Champion in Women's Foil with her teammates, Nicole Ross, Margaret Lu and Lee Kiefer.



ENDOWMENT FUND

In 2000, the PWF received the Oprah's Angel Network "Use Your Life Award," which included a grant of \$100,000. In 2001, \$60,000 of the award was used to start the Peter Westbrook Foundation Endowment Fund, with the remainder of the award spent on general programs. In 2004, the Foundation received \$1,000,000 from a generous philanthropist who wished to remain anonymous. In 2007, Board Member Bill Schreyer established a \$1.5 million matching grant endowment.

The financial goal for the Endowment is to raise \$15 million by 2019, to provide support for a number of program initiatives, including:

- **The Peter Westbrook Foundation Center** – An athletic training and academic learning center
- **Computer Lab** – An after-school program to improve student computer literacy skills
- **Standardized Test Preparation Courses** – A series of courses for the PSAT, SAT, Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) and the Secondary Schools Admissions Test (SSAT)
- **Career Guidance** – A mentorship program to prepare students for college and career.

At this level of endowment funding, the Foundation would be able to significantly enhance its existing programs and operations, while insulating itself and the programs from the impact of future sharp decreases in philanthropic giving due to economic downturns.

The Foundation's Chief Executive Officer handles the Endowment Fund through Merrill Lynch Investment Corporation. Donations are tax-deductible and can be pledged over a period of time.

Planned Giving

Today, more and more people are coordinating their financial, estate and gift planning. With thoughtful planning, you have the opportunity to make a greater impact with your giving to a quality not-for-profit organization such as the Peter Westbrook Foundation, and often enjoy increased financial and tax benefits as well. For example, through planned giving you may be able to supplement your retirement planning, avoid capital gains taxes, increase your spendable income and reduce or eliminate estate taxes.

In these and other ways, planned giving can become an important element in your overall individual asset planning for yourself and your family.

One of the key reasons that people give is to support their community. While many people give substantially, most wish they could do more.

There are a number of ways you can design your contributions to maximize the advantages both to you and the Peter Westbrook Foundation.

A simple, and often the easiest gift to make is a bequest. It doesn't require relinquishing anything during your lifetime, and it can be stated in a will, a codicil, a living trust or a trust amendment. The Foundation's office can provide you with the appropriate language for a bequest to our organization.

You can contribute a new or existing life insurance policy that is no longer needed. Donors naming the Peter Westbrook Foundation as both policy owner and beneficiary can claim an income tax deduction equal to either a) the cash value or the cost basis of an existing policy, whichever is less, or b) the annual premiums of a new policy.

Although many investors continue to expect volatility in the equity markets, individuals can look to their portfolios for purchases held seven years or longer. Many donors hold securities that have realized significant gains and are assets well-suited to fund a charitable trust. In return, donors can receive tax-saving benefits and supplemental retirement income while helping to secure the future of our Foundation.

Starting Your Planned Giving Process

Why are you making a gift?

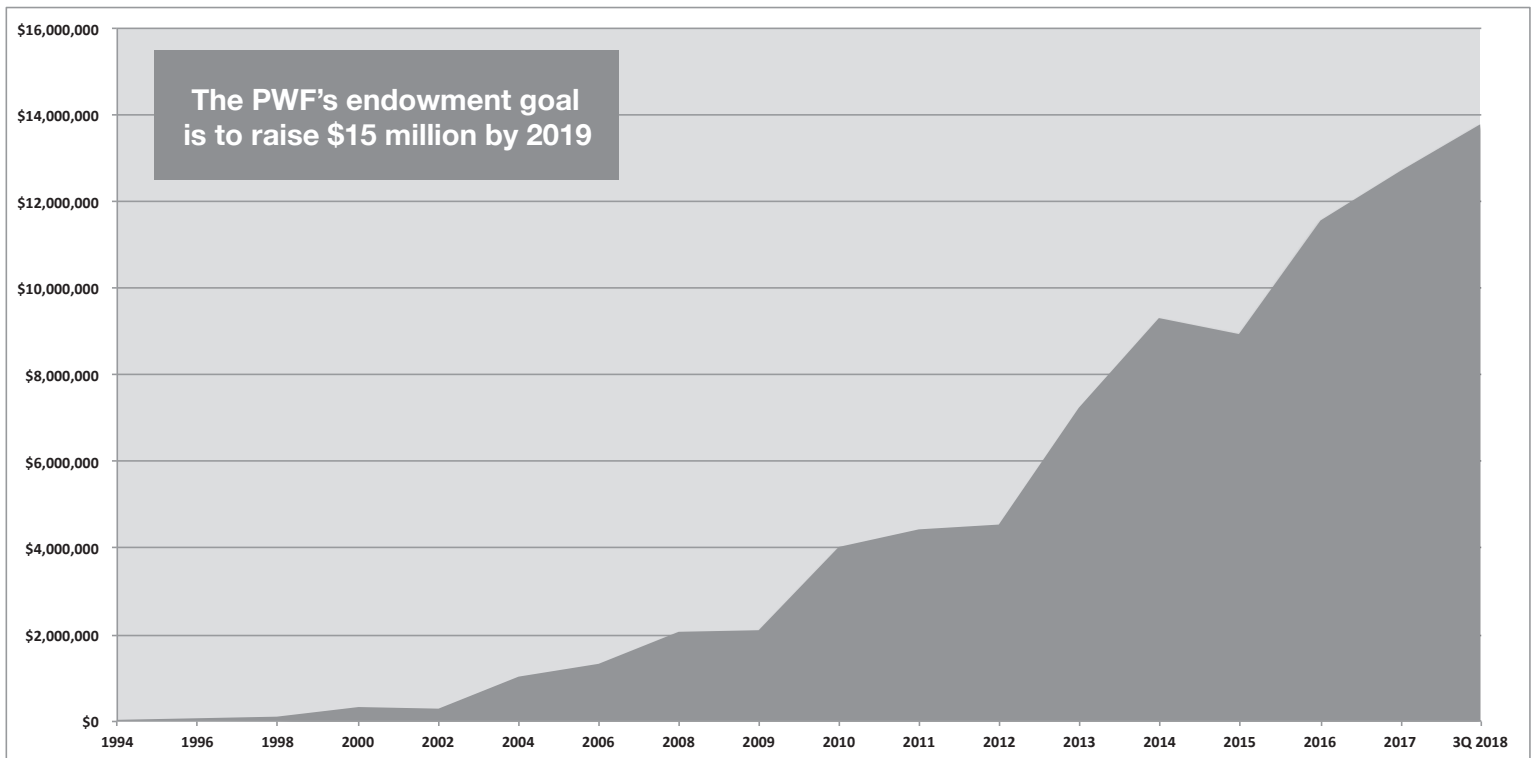
Which gift method should you use?

What benefits do you anticipate by making the gift?

These questions will help you define your planned giving goals. For more information about the Peter Westbrook Foundation Endowment Fund, please contact Mark Johnson at Merrill Lynch. He can be reached at (212) 415-7897 or by email at mark_e_johnson@ml.com.



Fundraising Accomplishments



Statement of Activities - Fiscal Year End 2017

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUES:				
Contributions and grants	\$ 363,528	\$ -	\$ 4,208,262	\$ 4,571,790
Net appreciation / depreciation	22,010	43,387	1,513,669	1,579,066
Program fees and other income	13,145	-	-	13,145
Net assets released from restrictions	352,984	(3,886,896)	(359,787)	(3,893,699)
Total Support and Revenues	751,667	(3,843,509)	5,362,144	2,270,302
EXPENSES:				
Program services	448,837	-	-	448,837
Fundraising expenses	57,145	-	-	57,145
Management and general	101,443	-	-	101,443
Total Expenses	607,425	-	-	607,425
Change in Net Assets	144,242	(3,843,509)	5,362,144	1,662,877
Net assets at beginning of year	504,401	3,898,419	7,802,318	12,205,138
Net assets at end of year	\$ 648,643	\$ 54,910	\$13,164,462	\$13,868,015

The PWF is focused on creating a legacy for future generations for years to come.

2017 Family of Major Sponsors

Angels: \$100,000+

Christina & Robert Dow Foundation
Phoenix Beverages, Inc.

Saints: \$25,000 - \$99,999

Altman Foundation
Anonymous Donor
Bloomberg Philanthropies
WA Golf Company
Lord Abbett & Co.
Ronald P. & Susan E. Lynch Foundation
Ken Thompson For District Attorney

Champions: \$10,000 - \$24,999

Barham Family Foundation
David Berry
Gerber Family Foundation
The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation
David O'Brien

All Stars: \$1,000 - \$9,999

Advisors Asset Management
Sanjay Ahuja
Bank of America
CDHLS Associates
Jacques & Emy Cohenca Foundation, Inc.
Claudine Desamours
Dirty Robber TV Holding

Carol A. Fiederlein
Ronald Goldstein
Ivy Investments
Mark E. Johnson
Victoria Loconsolo Foundation, Inc.
The Mill Foundation, LTD
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Marc Pavese
Randy Petway
PGA Tour
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Sabre88
Jeffrey Savit
Doug Sieg
Stephen B. Sobel
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Derek Tracz
Trinity Fruit
Wells Fargo Securities
Paulette Wingo
Mark & Rhonda C. Ziemann

In-Kind Sponsors

Fencers Club

Board of Directors

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Rod Brayman

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PWF Chairman of the Board
'88, '92 Olympian

Robert Dow

Retired Managing Partner,
Lord Abbett & Co.
'72 Olympian

Jennifer Madrid

Kristina Perkin-Davison

Co-founder & Partner, iEurope Capital

Herby Raynaud

Staff Engineer, Yieldmo Inc.
PWF Secretary
'99, '01, '02 World Championship Team

Bill Schreyer, Posthumous

Chairman Emeritus, Merrill Lynch

Erinn Smart

Director of Business Development,
Hearst
'00, '04, '08 Olympic Silver Medalist

Keeth Smart

Regional General Manager, Chelsea
Piers Fitness
'00, '04, '08 Olympic Silver Medalist

Peter Westbrook

'76, '80, '84, '88, '92, '96
Olympic Bronze Medalist
PWF Founder & CEO

Advisory Board Members

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President and Chairman, USA Fencing
'89, '95 World Championship Team

John Brademas, Posthumous

President Emeritus, New York University

Calvin O. Butts, III, D. Min.

Pastor, The Abyssinian Baptist Church
President, SUNY at Old Westbury

Neil Diamond

Global Entertainer, ArchAngel
Productions

William J. Hybl

President Emeritus, United States
Olympic Committee

Dr. Harvey W. Schiller

Chairman, Global Options



Above: Peter Westbrook receives Robert W. Crawford Achievement Prize from National Recreational Foundation President, Robert Stuart (right) with Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey.





Children are taught life skills along with high-level fencing instruction from our coaches who have served on numerous Olympic and national teams.







The Peter Westbrook Foundation is open to anyone ages 8 to 18 years old. Please visit the PWF on any Saturday to experience how we transform the lives of children through the sport of fencing.

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PWF & Fencers Club
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