



Mary's Story

Mary Coats, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

My cause, access to sports for individuals with disabilities, is important to me because I have seen how much these sports programs can help increase confidence, independence, and fitness, just by reducing the barriers to participation. This cause is close to my heart because I have a brother with Down syndrome. For as long as I can remember he has been playing baseball, participating in competitive sporting events, and engaging in other sports leagues specifically for people with disabilities. At the age of 36, my brother still looks forward to the start of baseball season and he really shines on the field. Donations through the CFC allow these organizations to build accessible fields, courts and other fitness facilities, acquire adaptive sports equipment, and provide the network of coaches and volunteers needed to allow individuals with disabilities to show off their athletic abilities and spirited determination!

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