FALL 2026

THIS IS I CAN

STORIES POWERED BY I CAN TOO



OFF THE SIDELINES

Tyler McCaw | I Can Too Grant Category: *Activity*



When Kimmie and Justin McCaw were 20 weeks pregnant with their son, they found out their unborn baby boy, Tyler, had Spina Bifida. Ultimately, Tyler would be born 6 weeks premature and spend 12 days in the NICU. But before that, he would undergo his first surgery while he was still in utero, harnessing his I Can Too spirit before he even took his first breath.

"We don't like limitations," Justin said. "I don't like saying Tyler has a disability. I don't like saying that because all it does is it makes it sound like there are constraints on what he's going to be able to do and not do in his life, and I don't like doing that to him."

Kimmie and Justin have always empowered Tyler to go after everything he wants, supported him to pursue accessible activities, and have tried to find outlets for their now 7-year-old. But at the same time, the McCaws live in a town of less than 3,000 people, and not many of those people have disabilities.

With his older son, Daniel, Justin was always the dad volunteering to coach his son's teams. It was one of his great joys as a father. With Tyler, he had accepted that might not be an option for their relationship.

Earlier this year at a check-up, Tyler's doctor asked him if he'd like to play sports. This was the first time the McCaws learned that parasports were an option for someone Tyler's age. The rest was history.

"He really is competing, and it has made a massive impact in my and Tyler's relationship," Justin said. "He would hear about how I would coach Daniel and how all that worked out between the two of us, and he was like, "Dad, are you gonna be my coach?"

The McCaws travel two hours each way to get Tyler to and from track practice, and his meets are sometimes further. I Can Too was able to cover the family's travel expenses and lodging costs while Tyler competed in his first season.

Tyler collected multiple personal records during his first track season, and he also gained a new community.



"This has made it so he understands that he doesn't have to stand on the sidelines, that he actually can participate and be a part of it."

– Justin McCaw

THE IMPACT

Tyler travels two hours each way to track practice. I Can Too helped cover travel and lodging during his first competitive season, where Tyler set multiple personal records and found something even bigger: a community of athletes like him. This fall, he's taking on basketball.

"He got to be around the other people that are in the same situation he is. At first it was a little overwhelming for him," Justin said. "He was just looking around wide eyed at everybody, and we were like, 'Hey Tyler, what's going on with you?' And he was like, 'I've never seen so many people in wheelchairs.'"

"He thought he was the only one," Kimmie said.

Tyler's grant will continue to cover his travel expenses this fall when he tries out basketball for the first time.

"This [activity] has made it so he understands that he doesn't have to stand on the sidelines, that he actually can participate and be a part of it," Justin said.

Every gift is matched through Dec. 31!

Tyler got off the sidelines. Help someone else do the same. Check out our Annual Appeal on page 11.

A NEW WAY TO MOVE

Santa Fe Family Life Center | I Can Too Grant Category: *Non-Profit*



The Santa Fe Family Life Center is meeting Oklahomans where they are. Whether it's someone with disabilities, a veteran or active-duty military, under-resourced youth, or older adults, SFFLC has an adaptive program fit for people of all abilities. With nearly 20 years of serving the Oklahoma City community under their belt, the nonprofit offers everything from floor hockey to pickleball to fitness programs and now, skateboarding, with the help of Sam The I Can Man Foundation.

"There is not an adaptive skateboarding program in Oklahoma at this time," said Cassie Pastor, Director of Mission Experience at SFFLC. "We at SFFLC hope to change that so everybody can experience the joy of skateboarding, regardless of abilities."

I Can Too supplied SFFLC with three different types of custom-built skateboards offering extra supports to assist with balance, upper body strength, grip, and overall fall prevention. The adaptive skateboards safely allow those who are neurodivergent, visually impaired, prone to falling, or have lower limb challenges to skateboard alongside their loved ones.

"This program provides our athletes with a new sense of confidence and curiosity to try new things," Cassie said. "It also solidifies an imperative mindset that there is nothing an individual cannot do with the proper tools, support, and peer community."

Jocelyn, a young adult with autism, had always wanted to try skateboarding but was afraid she couldn't. With an adaptive skateboard and support from SFFLC, she gradually gained the confidence to skate independently for the first time. Skateboarding left Jocelyn with so much pride. "I never thought skateboarding would be something I could do, but now I think I can!" Jocelyn said.

"'I Can Too' is the belief that ability should never be the reason someone is left on the sidelines. At SFFLC, everyone deserves a chance to find their starting line, build confidence, connect with others, and experience the joy of movement," Cassie said. "When one person says, 'I Can Too,' it opens the door for everyone to see what's possible."

SANTA FE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
WHERE EVERY BODY BELONGS

educational corner

I CAN 101

A quick guide to disability language

At Sam The I Can Man Foundation, inclusion has always been at the heart of what we do—this includes the words we choose and how we use them.

INSTEAD OF…	TRY…
✗ "Wheelchair-bound" →	✓ "Wheelchair user"
✗ "Suffers from…" →	✓ "Has…" or "Lives with…"
✗ "Normal person" →	✓ "Person without a disability"
✗ "Handicapped" →	✓ "Disabled" or "Person with a disability"
✗ "Special needs" →	✓ "Disability" or use the specific disability

Some prefer **Person-First Language** ("person with autism"), while others prefer **Identity-First Language** ("autistic person").

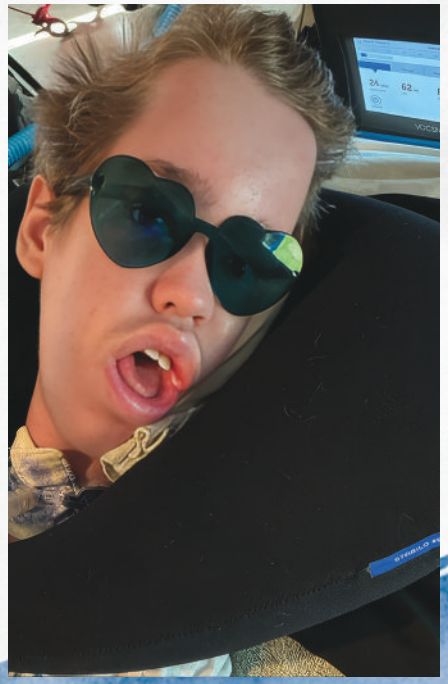
When you're unsure, just ask and follow the individual's lead. We're learning and evolving right alongside you!

FREEDOM IN THE WATER

Cash Goeppert | I Can Too Grant Category: *Equipment*

Cash Goeppert is a 15-year-old young man with a neuromuscular disease called Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 1. Cash uses a wheelchair for mobility. His parents, Ashley and Cameron, have found ways to always include him.

"Even if we have to have a couple different supportive pieces of equipment or whatever it is to be able to allow him something, that's okay," Ashley said. "That's just acceptance and understanding. It also makes things more fun to think outside of the box and to experience new things that you didn't think would be possible."



For Cash, swimming is an outlet that takes away the weight of his body and allows him to feel free. Cash swims daily, sometimes even twice a day, but it doesn't come without obstacles. Cash is on a ventilator, making it imperative that water doesn't reach his trach. Without the right equipment, one of Cash's favorite activities can become extremely dangerous.



"It's just amazing to see your child like, 'Wow, look at what I'm doing,' and then even as a parent too, just that experience and that thrill of just pure joy."

– Ashley Goeppert

When Ashley found out about I Can Too through Cash's doctor, a doctor he shared with Sam The I Can Man himself, a new flotation device for Cash was an obvious choice. The device Cash needed had been on their list for awhile, but it is expensive and manufactured in another country, requiring coordination.

I Can Too was able to provide the exact piece of equipment Cash needed, and it is now part of his daily routine, both as a flotation device in the water, and out of the water as a pillow. Using his communication device, Cash has nicknamed the horseshoe-shaped float his "magnet."

"It's just amazing to see your child like, 'Wow, look at what I'm doing,' and then even as a parent too, just that experience and that thrill of just pure joy," Ashley said. "You don't find that anywhere else in any other situation."



THE IMPACT

Cash swims every day, sometimes twice a day. Because he uses a ventilator, keeping water away from his trach is critical. I Can Too provided a specialized flotation device that helps Cash safely enjoy one of his favorite activities. It has become part of his daily routine, and Cash has even named it his "magnet."

MORE THAN A THUNDER GAME

Gentry Duren | I Can Too Grant Category: *Experience*



Elizabeth and Ross Duren knew their unborn daughter, Gentry, had Down Syndrome. But when Gentry entered this world prematurely, they discovered she also had a hole in her heart. By the time she was 10 weeks old, Gentry underwent heart surgery and overcame obstacles most adults would never be faced with in their lifetime. At just over 2 months old and weighing in at 7lbs 10oz, Gentry's I Can Too story began—and she hasn't slowed down since.

At 18 months old, Gentry learned to crawl. By the time she was 3, she was walking. And now, at age 5, Gentry runs track, takes dance lessons, and is an avid Oklahoma Thunder fan. The Durens have always empowered Gentry to do anything she sets her mind to. They have sought out all of the therapies and made sure they enabled her to thrive in every way she can. But just meeting the needs of a child with disabilities can be extremely costly, and often, it's experiences that families are forced to forgo.

When the Durens found out about Sam The I Can Man Foundation, they asked Gentry what she wanted to do. She answered enthusiastically with: "Chet Chet and Rumble!"

Through I Can Too, Gentry was able to attend Recess with Rumble, where she met Rumble and the Thunder Cheerleaders, and returned the next day to cheer on her favorite player, Chet Holmgren, from the lower bowl.

"It was amazing to see her walk in there and immediately be accepted," Elizabeth said. "The cheerleaders remembered her. They knew who she was, and they knew her name."

For the Durens, an experience like this was more than just tickets to a game. It was the seats that allowed Gentry to stand, yell, and cheer the whole

> *"It was amazing to see her walk in there and immediately be accepted. The cheerleaders remembered her. They knew who she was, and they knew her name."*
>
> – Elizabeth Duren



time. It was the ability to say yes to ice cream, snacks, and souvenirs. It was the opportunity to fully enjoy this experience with their daughter without worrying if they had spent too much to get there.

"As her parents, just watching her be in an environment where we weren't asking ourselves any questions. We got to sit and watch it with her because we didn't have to worry about, 'Did we spend too much money to be here? How are we gonna get her dressed? How are we gonna get her there?' All of that was taken care of because of the foundation."

Small grants funding experiences for families like the Durens fill a gap.

"In the Down Syndrome world, there seems to be a huge gap because Down Syndrome is not necessarily an end-of-life diagnosis. It is something that they're going to live with forever," said Elizabeth. "I feel like a lot of places that give experiences specifically, like what we were looking for, you have to be in that terminal phase, and we aren't there. But that doesn't mean it's still not going to be hard for us to allow Gentry to get these experiences."

Since Gentry's first Thunder game, the Durens have been invited back by the team several times. The cheerleaders know her, Rumble always seeks her out, and they have learned that in addition to basketball, Gentry loves cheerleading, too.

"We got a lot of messages after we took her to the game," Elizabeth said. "I think that showing our experience that you guys allowed us to have opened the doors for other families to know, 'Oh, my kid could maybe tolerate this too if I had these supports in place.'"

THE IMPACT

I Can Too gave Gentry and her family the chance to enjoy the full Thunder experience, from meeting Rumble and the cheerleaders to cheering on her favorite player, Chet Holmgren. The grant's impact continued long after the game; Gentry has been invited back to Paycom Center, and now Rumble and the cheerleaders know her by name.

YOU CAN, TOO.

DOUBLE YOUR I CAN

In 2025, I Can Too said "yes, you can" 54 times.

18 ACTIVITIES

22 PIECES OF EQUIPMENT

14 EXPERIENCES

In 2026, we received nearly twice as many applications...the need is greater than ever!

"We're not trying to send them to the moon here. We're literally trying to enhance their life."

– Emily, mom to Grasley Anne
(Spring '26 I Can Too Grantee, Intensive Therapy)

Did You Know?

*__New for 2026__: Even if you take the standard deduction, you may be able to deduct cash gifts to Sam The I Can Man Foundation:

$1,000
Individual filers

$2,000
Married filing jointly

Includes checks, online transactions, and bank transfers. Gifts through donor-advised funds don't qualify. Keep your receipt.

*Subject to IRS rules and limitations. Qualifying cash contributions made directly to the Sam The I Can Man Foundation are generally expected to qualify. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your specific tax situation.

Thanks to two generous pledges totaling $50,000, we have the opportunity to double any contributions up to $50,000 made by the end of the year.

YOU RAISE **$50,000** + MATCH **$50,000**

= **$100,000** BY 12.31.26

GIVE BY DECEMBER 31

samtheicanman.org/donate

Prefer to give by check?
Make checks payable to:
Sam The I Can Man Foundation
2530 NW Grand Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Keep "I Can" going.

Gifts must be postmarked or made online by December 31, 2026 to count toward the match.

The I Can Man Foundation
www.samtheicanman.org

501(C)(3) | SAMTHEICANMAN.ORG |
2530 NW GRAND BLVD
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73116

2026 ANNUAL APPEAL

DOUBLE YOUR I CAN

EVERY GIFT MATCHED

UP TO $50,000

THROUGH DEC. 31