ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



2025

SAM
The I Can Man
Foundation

MISSION + VISION



MISSION

Inspired by the life of Sam “The I Can Man” Weyrich, Sam The I Can Man Foundation seeks to enhance the lives of individuals with differing abilities by supporting inclusive opportunities and experiences.

VISION

To provide meaningful equipment, experiences, and activities not covered by insurance to individuals with differing abilities and like-minded nonprofit organizations. Through this work, we honor the life of Sam “The I Can Man” by reminding every individual that “they can too.”



MEET SAM WEYRICH

the I Can Man behind it all

On July 13, 2000, Sam the "I Can Man" Weyrich made his grand entrance into this world. Shortly after, Sam was diagnosed with a rare demyelinating disease later discovered to be Aicardi-Goutières syndrome (AGS). AGS may have prevented Sam from walking and talking, but it didn't hold him back from much else.

Supported by his parents, Andy and Amy, and his sister, Sarah, Sam led an incredible life of once-in-a-lifetime experiences, brave excursions, and thrilling feats.

At age 6, Sam downhill skied for the first time. At 7, he discovered fishing and boating, and was mesmerized by his first Broadway musical in New York City. When he was 10, he canoed the rivers of Yellowstone and rock climbed in Idaho. By 11, he had attended his first MLB and NFL games. At 12, Sam swam with dolphins and played beach golf in Cancun. By 14, he was a loyal tailgater at Utah Utes football games. At 17, he rode the rapids in the Grand Canyon. At 18, Sam was trackside for the Kentucky Derby. At 22, he explored the streets of Paris. At 23, he ziplined in Park City. And on any given day, you could find the I Can Man horseback riding, swimming, dancing, and loving more than most.

Sam's family was able to give him the therapies, experiences, and equipment he needed to live an extraordinary life. But this is not everyone's story. Many therapies, devices, and experiences that help individuals with differing abilities reach their potential are expensive and rarely covered by insurance.

Sam showed the world that every human being, regardless of their abilities, Can Too. He also showed us that every person deserves to be able to, too. Created in Sam's honor, Sam The I Can Man Foundation is filling a gap. Through small grants that fund experiences and equipment, many more people are able to say, "I can too."

FROM OUR FOUNDERS

As we reflect on our very first year of impact, our hearts are filled with immense gratitude. To our donors, supporters, and believers, thank you. Your generosity in this inaugural year made something deeply meaningful possible, and we are profoundly thankful for the trust you placed in us from the very beginning.



Because of you, we have been able to support an incredible group of applicants, including individuals, families, and organizations whose courage, determination, and hope inspire us daily. Each story reminds us why this work matters and how powerful a community can be when it comes together to lift others up. Your support didn't just fund experiences, activities, and equipment; it opened doors, restored confidence, and reminded so many that they CAN.

Starting Sam The I Can Man Foundation has also been healing for our hearts. While the plan was always to build this foundation with Sam by our side, we now carry him with us in a different way. We see him every day in the strength of those we support, in the kindness of our donors, and in the mission that continues to move forward with purpose and love. Carrying on Sam's legacy is both an honor and a reminder that his spirit lives on through this work. We know he would be so proud.

Thank you for believing in this mission, for believing in others, and for helping us turn hope into action. We could not do this without you, and we are just getting started.

If Sam Can, You Can Too,

Sarah and Amy Weyrich



"As a person who is blind, with other hidden disabilities - arthritis, narcolepsy, and more - I want to keep living my life to the fullest and not let my disabilities stop me. Once I started climbing, I began to feel physically strong and this feeling generalized to my mental and emotional health. I am eternally grateful for you granting me the opportunity to keep this dream of climbing going for another year. Thank you to you both, and the beautiful legacy of Sam! I promise to make Sam proud!

- Jessica, 53, Adaptive Rock Climber



2025 BY THE NUMBERS

54
APPLICANTS FUNDED

18
ACTIVITIES

22
PIECES OF EQUIPMENT

14
EXPERIENCES

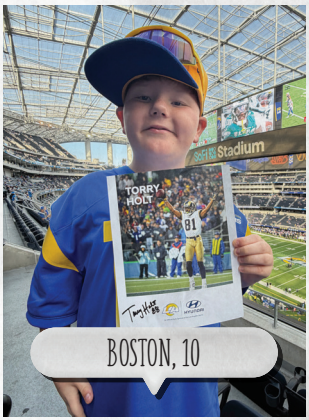
QUICK FACTS

9
ORGANIZATIONS

43
INDIVIDUALS

100%
QUALIFIED GRANTS FUNDED

AGES 9 MONTHS – 66 YEARS



BOSTON, 10


BITTERSWEET FARMS


ASHER, 3

"When I found the foundation and applied so Kal could keep going with his Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, I felt kind of understood… It was just kind of like, okay, it's not about the disability, but about really being seen and understanding what it takes, what's needed, and that… Kal CAN." **- Tyra, Grandmother / Guardian of Kal (4)**



THE POWER



LIAN, 2

Lian is a joyful two-year-old living with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, who works hard in therapy to grow stronger each week. With support from Sam The I Can Man Foundation, he began Dynamic Movement Intervention (DMI) therapy sessions to build strength, mobility, and independence. “Watching Sam’s story showed me there is nothing my son won’t be able to do.”
- Laura, Lian’s mom



ARIA, 3

Aria is a cheerful three-year-old little girl with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy whose smile lights up every room. With support from Sam The I Can Man Foundation, she received a special bouncing chair that allows her to sit upright, play, and experience movement she loves.

“She usually experiences the world lying on her back, so this chair lets her sit up, bounce, and see that she can do a little bit more.” **- Carlee, Aria’s mom**

OF "I CAN"

Addie is a nineteen-year-old swimmer, cheer captain, and Special Olympics athlete living with Down syndrome, cystic fibrosis, and celiac disease. With the help of Sam The I Can Man Foundation, she is now attending the University of Oklahoma's SoonerWorks program to continue learning and preparing for her goal of helping others as a teacher's assistant.

"Just because I have a disability does NOT mean I can't do things." **- Addie**



ADDIE, 19

Think Ability employs 105 individuals with differing abilities through small businesses in their town of Duncan, Oklahoma, on Main Street. Support from Sam The I Can Man Foundation helped launch "Mission Pops," a portable popsicle stand that creates new job opportunities and community interaction. "These funds give individuals the chance to say, 'I CAN, and I AM.'"

- Stacey,
Community Outreach Director



THINK ABILITY

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

TOTAL RAISED
$417,835

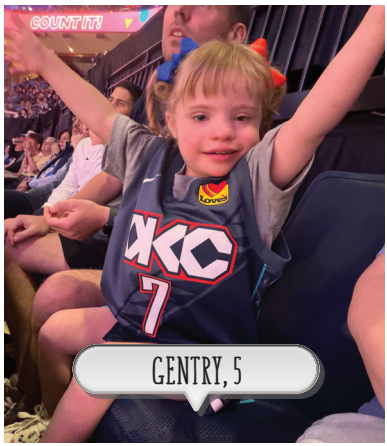
DONOR GIFTS TO THE MISSION
100%

ENDOWMENT

ENDOWMENT
$111,088

LIABILITY FUND
$117,885

We are deeply grateful to the generous donor whose vision helped establish our founding endowment. Because of this gift, our operational costs are fully covered, allowing all contributions to go directly toward supporting our applicants. The endowment was thoughtfully structured with both a liability fund to protect and advance our mission, and a restricted component to ensure the Foundation's longevity for years to come.



FUN FACTS



EMMETT, 2

We're a private operating foundation, so we don't just write checks, we change lives. The majority of our funding directly supports individuals, with additional grants going to other nonprofits with aligned missions. Plus, donors enjoy top-tier tax benefits typically reserved for public charities!

If it's not labeled "medically necessary," insurance usually says no. We say YES to the equipment, activities, and experiences that help individuals with differing abilities live fuller, more joyful, and more meaningful lives.



JACK, 7



THOMAS, 11

The Power of "I Can" comes to life when people with differing abilities are included in decisions about their own lives. Research has found that when personal agency, accessible tools, and inclusive environments are in place, independence, dignity, and belonging follow.

Studies show recreation isn't extra, it's essential for both physical and mental health. From adapted sports to inclusive activities, active participation strengthens both mind and body and reinforces the Power of "I Can."



JEFFREY, 57

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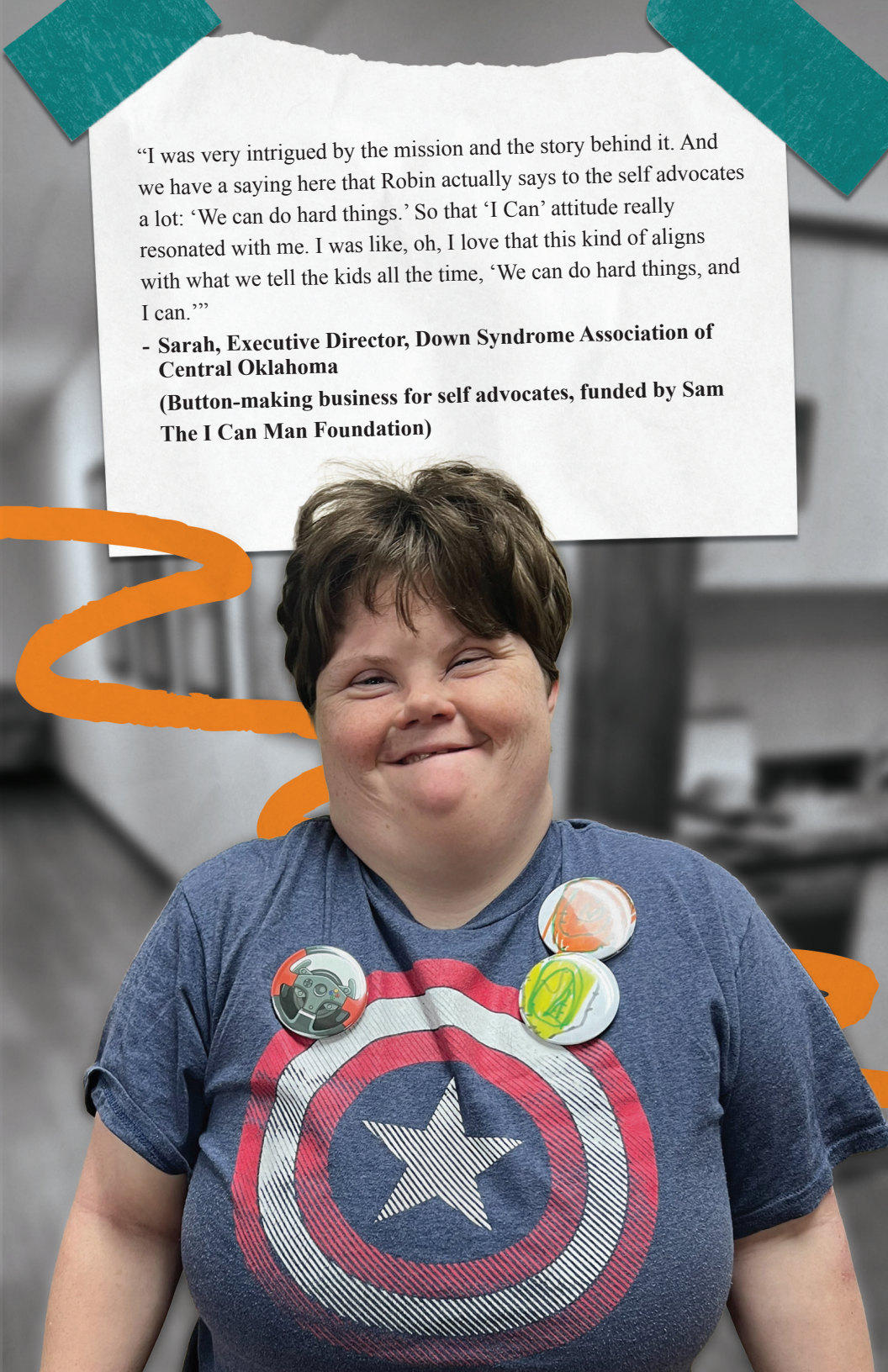

"I was very intrigued by the mission and the story behind it. And we have a saying here that Robin actually says to the self advocates a lot: 'We can do hard things.' So that 'I Can' attitude really resonated with me. I was like, oh, I love that this kind of aligns with what we tell the kids all the time, 'We can do hard things, and I can.'"

- **Sarah, Executive Director, Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma**

  (Button-making business for self advocates, funded by Sam The I Can Man Foundation)

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SAM

The I Can Man Foundation

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