



July 2026

Exceeding Expectations is celebrating its 25th year.

We started the program in 2001 with 12 kids and the hope that we could effect change in the lives of these kids.

Many of you have been a part of this effort since the early days. Others of you have recently joined our EE “family.” All of you have invested your time, effort and money in the kids and our program. This kind of support is what has made it possible to give these kids the opportunity to better their lives and the lives of their families. For all you do for EE, we are very grateful to each of you

Enjoy some photos of our kids over the 25 years. They are proof of your return on investment in Exceeding Expectations.

THE EARLY DAYS



The Challenged Athletes Foundation annual
“Best Day in Tri”
event in Dan Diego has always been one of our favorites. Every year,
we’d make it a point to take a picture with Bill Walton.



Cherie and Marlene Samanno cross the finish line at CAF.



In the beginning, a lot of the kids were afraid of the water. Cherie would carry them on her back one by one across the pool so they could compete in triathlons.



Eventually, we were able to arrange for some swim training.



RECENT YEARS

Higher education has always the been the centerpiece of EE.





Some of our kids are pursuing distinguished careers in the military.



Arian, whose photo as a young kid is at the top of this letter, is in the Air Force and plays soccer for the USAF team.



Brandon, the kid you saw Cherie carrying across the pool, became a U.S. Army paratrooper.



Nik graduated from UC San Diego, went to work for a company making pediatric orthopedic implants, and now spends two days a week in the operating room guiding surgeons in their use.





Thank you all for the role you play in our kids' success. None of this would be possible without your generosity.

-Cherie