



# Florida Commodores Association FOUNDATION

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## A Look Back On A Successful Year

For the past several years, FCA members showed their support of Florida's Olympic and Paralympic sailors by simply passing the hat after hearing compelling stories of their personal journey to participate in the Olympic Games.

In 2016, the bedrock for the Foundation was completed, and with the final piece in place—receipt of the 501(c)(3) non-profit designation—the Florida Commodores Association Foundation (FCAF) was officially a tax-deductible organization.

FCA members now had a Foundation that benefited them —*by having all donations be tax deductible*—and Florida sailors in their quest to realizing their Olympic and Paralympic dreams.

It was time for the real work to begin—raising funds for the Foundation's goals and objectives.

In April, the FCA Foundation launched its inaugural Fundraising Campaign. The goal was \$20,000. The campaign was designed with a two-prong approach: Part I asked all FCA Chapters to jointly raise \$10,000 or more; Part II, the second \$10,000, to be raised by the Foundation itself from other sources.

The Campaign is now over and FCA Foundation—with appreciation and gracious thanks—acknowledges the support you provided during 2016. Your continued interest and support will allow the Foundation to aid other FCAF projects such as youth sailing and Wounded American Veterans Events (W.AVE.).

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## 2016 Fundraising Campaign Ends on High Note

**Part I:** This fundraising project of \$10,000 was specifically intended to support Florida Olympic and Paralympic sailors who qualified for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Olympics were in August with the Paralympics following in September.

There was a limited window of opportunity for the Foundation

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**Paralympic Sailor, Brad Kendell, celebrates Team USA1, Sonar Class, winning Silver at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro**

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## Team USA 1, Sonar Class, Wins Silver at Paralympic Olympics

Our heartiest congratulations go to Brad Kendell and his teammates Rick Doerr and Hugh Freund for bringing home the Silver!

As reigning Para Sailing World Champions, the team was a medal contender, but they found Rio's winds "extremely difficult," ... swinging them from last-to-first, to first-to-last, but the team prevailed. Brad

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said of sailing with his teammates ... “it’s like dancing on the water.” What a dance team!

Brad Kendell, from Clearwater, is a friend to FCA and received FCAF funding for his trip to the Paralympics. Brad has visited and spoken at FCA meetings. His teammates Rick Doerr, comes from New Jersey; Hugh Freund is from Maine.

### Wind Blows Olympic Dream



What worked for one team, wrecked havoc for another—U.S. Olympic hopeful, Paige Railey.

Another competitor supported by FCAF this year, Paige is a skilled and accomplished sailor in the U.S Olympics' Women’s Laser Radial division.

She can be proud of her impressive collection of wins in seas around the world. Unfortunately, the seas in Rio became her nemesis.

“I’d be lying if I said I was happy with my end result of a ten at the Games,” said Paige. “I wish things would have ended differently. When I’m competing with the flag on my sail I feel it’s me racing with the whole country at my side. I am completely honored to earned that.”

Both Paige Railey and Brad Kendell have sent special thanks to the FCAF for the financial support and all the good wishes extended them. Decisions on their next steps is unknown at this time.

Winning and losing is part of the process of achieving competitive sailing status and is the very thing that drives these sailors to achieve their personal best.

Congratulations to all for the hard work and dedication you have given the sport. The FCAF is proud of your accomplishments.

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### Campaign

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to realize these goals and have funds available for the sailors, but FCA chapters swung into action.

Thirteen FCA Chapters raised \$7,000 in a very short period of time. What a terrific show of support! Recipients of these funds were Florida sailors Paige Railey and Brad Kendell. Both come from the Clearwater area. Thanks to our donors, the funding reached them in time for the Games.

**Part II:** The second \$10,000 goal—to grow for the Foundation’s sustaining fund—also saw moderate success, with \$6,500 raised.

The Board of Directors has determined that awards will be open to requests when sustaining funds reach a minimum of \$20,000.

While the original Campaign goals were not reached, the Foundation believes the drive—for a *first-time event*—can be considered a success.

Your support is vital and with it, the continued growth of the Foundation is assured.

*Thank you!*