



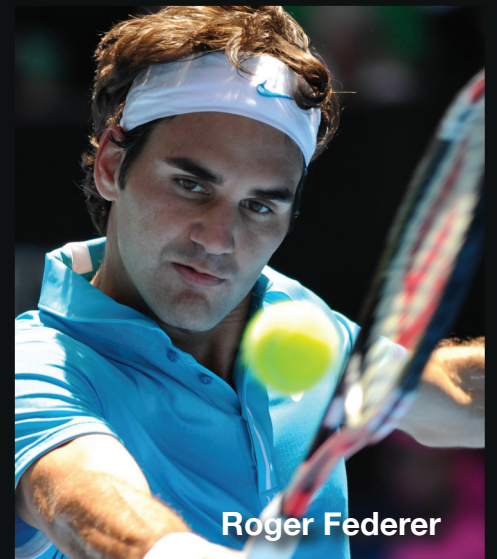
LeBron James



Serena Williams



Michael Phelps



Roger Federer

## Superstar Athletes & Their Billion \$\$\$\$ Charities

When it comes to the super rich world of superstar athletes, it's not all get and no give. A good majority of superstar athletes make it their mission to help others by giving millions of dollars each year to their own non-profit foundations as well as charities

around the world. Here are the top superstar athletes famous not only for their superior sports ability, but for spearheading campaigns that raise billions for underserved and health at risk men, women and children worldwide.

Dollar signs point to Portuguese soccer player **Cristiano Ronaldo** not only for being the world's most famous athlete according to ESPN but the most generous. He gave \$83,000+ to a 10-year-old fan who needed brain surgery; \$165,000+ to a cancer center in Portugal that treated his mother. In 2004, Cristiano had medicine and food flown into Indonesia after the tsunami and donated a couple of million dollars to victims in Nepal after the earthquake. With Italian businessman Alessandro Proto they funded construction on a pediatric hospital in Santiago, Chile with more hospitals to be built in South America. The Portuguese Captain auctioned off Cristiano's 2013 Ballon d'Or trophy for \$705,000; proceeds went to the Make-A-Wish Foundation; Cristiano funded Save the Children bringing food, clothing and medical care to children in Syria.



Cristiano Ronaldo

ESPN gives Los Angeles Lakers **LeBron James** a thumbs up as NBA's best player... more frosting... he's a generous supporter of charities. Born in Ohio to a 16-year old mother who worked many jobs to make ends meet. When LeBron was 9-years-old, she asked Frank Waller if LeBron could move in with his family for a more stable environment. Waller, a youth basketball coach said "yes" got LeBron into the sport and the rest is history. The LeBron James Family Foundation started After-School All-Stars for children in his hometown with a 'no-time limit' \$40 million+ dollar pledge giving students full paid scholarships to the University of Akron when they graduate high school; more than 800 students have been mentored by the program and are set to graduate in 2021. LeBron supports Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Children's Defense Fund, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation and ONEXON. LeBron said in a CNN interview with Don Lemon, "We want every kid that walks through this school to be inspired, to come away with something... for kids, in general, all they want to know is that someone cares. And when they walk through that door, I hope they know that someone cares."

Multi-Grand Slam tennis champion **Roger Federer's** foundation by the same name helps underprivileged kids improve classroom performance and increase attendance. Keeping close ties with South Africa [where his mother was raised] Roger supports South Africa-Swiss charity IMBEWU helping kids connect to sports, social and health with programs in six south African countries, and Switzerland. Roger auctioned his racket from his U.S. Open championship to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina, and at the 2005 Pacific Life Open in Indian Wells, he held an exhibition 'Rally for Relief' with top players from the ATP and WTA with proceeds going to victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake. Roger was appointed Goodwill Ambassador by UNICEF appearing in UNICEF public messages for AIDS awareness. After the Haiti earthquake, Roger collaborated with top tennis players for 'Hit for Haiti' with proceeds helping earthquake victims. He participated in a follow-up charity exhibition during the Indian Wells Masters raising \$1+ million. The Nadal vs. Federer "Match for Africa" in Zürich and Madrid raised \$4 million+ for the Roger Federer Foundation and Fundación Rafa Nadal.

Professional Argentinian footballer **Lionel Messi** not only is one of the greatest players of all time, he is also one of the biggest supporters of charitable causes worldwide. Lionel's vision to help children likely began because as a child he was born with a deficiency and from age 11 and for three years, he was injected with a treatment to strengthen his legs and counter the effects of growth deficiency. Age 13, he relocated to Spain to join Barcelona, who paid for his medical treatment. He emerged a competitive force by age 17. Since 2004, Lionel has given millions to charities namely UNICEF supporting their efforts in Spain and Argentina and helping children with disabilities. Lionel participated in an event in Argentina called "A sun for the kids," donating \$500,000+, and through The Lionel Messi Foundation which was created in 2007, and after visiting a hospital for terminally ill children, Lionel continues to fund medical research and medical centers in Argentina, Spain and around the world.