



JOHN APPLE SWIM FUND
Supporting Swimmers. Accelerating Goals.

2026 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 12 ■ JOHNAPPLESWIMFUND.ORG

Dear Friends,

When my dad talked about swimming, it was never just about competition, it was about access. Access to pools. Access to instruction. Access to safety. He believed learning to swim was a life skill, not a luxury, and that belief continues to guide the work of the John Apple Swim Fund.

Thanks to your continued support, we're entering 2026 with momentum and purpose. We're strengthening programs that expand access to swimming and water safety across Lancaster County while continuing to invest in student-athletes through our Memorial Scholarship and financial aid.

This year, we're especially excited to partner with the Lancaster YMCA, reconnecting with the place my dad's swimming journey began in the 1950s. We'll be providing a grant to support the YMCA's Safety Around Water (SAW) program for one of two second-grade classes in the School District of Lancaster, introducing students to water safety skills and introductory swim instruction.

We're also proud to continue two programs that have become core to our mission. Our partnership with the Lancaster Rec Center will once again integrate swim lessons directly into their summer camp, reaching hundreds of children. At the same time, we'll continue supporting Lancaster County Park & Rec's Rescue Ready program by helping cover certification costs for students pursuing lifeguard training.

This year, both of the John Apple Memorial Scholarships will increase to \$2,000, providing greater support to graduating seniors who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership, and a commitment to swimming.

None of this would be possible without you. Your generosity continues to turn access into opportunity and opportunity into impact.

Our annual fundraiser, Apple's Swim a Bridge Challenge, is right around the corner! This year, we are introducing two shorter bridge options for children and first time swimmers: Little Apple's Bridge



Lancaster REC's Summer Camp

"This was our daughter's first time in any formal swimming lesson. Since the swim classes, we have seen a confidence boost in her. She is willing to try new things, even if they are unfamiliar or scary at first.

~Maria

(4 laps) and Niagara Falls' Rainbow Bridge (0.25 miles). Whether you're swimming your first bridge or your sixth, there's a place for everyone in the pool.

We hope you'll join us at Woodridge on June 20th for Apple's Swim a Bridge Challenge by swimming, sponsoring a participant, or cheering us on from afar. Together, we're building safer communities, one lap at a time!

With gratitude,

Mindy Apple Ascosi

Special Thanks to our CORPORATE SPONSORS



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INTERESTED IN BEING A CORPORATE SPONSOR?

Email Mindy@johnappleswimfund.org for more information on how you can become a corporate partner for our mission.

SAVE THE DATE

APPLE'S SWIM A BRIDGE CHALLENGE – SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026
WOODRIDGE SWIM CLUB, LITITZ, PA

2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

Awarded to Lancaster County high school seniors who compete in swimming and intend to pursue collegiate swimming.

John Apple Memorial Scholarship: \$2,000

DEADLINE: APRIL 20, 2026

johnappleswimfund.org

Getting to know our 2025 John Apple Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Anderson Pilsner

ANDERSON PILSNER is currently a freshman at York College, where he is majoring in Mechanical Engineering and is a member of the men's swim team. He graduated from Manheim Central High School, where he was captain of the swim team and participated in the marching band, concert band, and orchestra. Anderson is active in the community, volunteering with Lititz Moravian Church and the Ephrata Performing Arts Center, and works as a summer lifeguard at Woodridge Swim Club and Masonic Village.

Best part about college swimming?

My favorite part of college swimming is by far the environment. I'm fortunate to have a group of great coaches and teammates that push me every day in and out of the pool.

What are your favorite swimming events?

My favorite event currently is the 100 back.

What are some of your goals for 2026?

My current goals are to maintain my current GPA and to continue improving in the pool.

Any advice for high school students getting ready for college?

Power through the challenging moments; things won't always be easy but from my experience they're always worth it.

What do you miss most about home?

I'm definitely missing my family and friends but being close to home has made it possible to still see them when I have a weekend off.



Tessa Cronin

TESSA CRONIN is currently a freshman at Susquehanna University, where she is double majoring in Political Science and Psychology. She is a member of both the women's field hockey and swim teams, as well as the Pre-Law Society and Student Athletic Advisory Committee. Tessa graduated from Elizabethtown High School, where she was captain of the field hockey and swim teams and served as a Mini-THON captain, student council representative, and member of the Community Service Committee.

Best part about college swimming?

My favorite part of college swimming is the people I have had the opportunity to meet.

What are your favorite swimming events?

My favorite swimming events are the 50 and 100 freestyle!

What are some of your goals for 2026?

I want to go a lifetime best in the 50 and 100 free at champs. In school, I want to maintain a 3.9 GPA.

Any advice for high school students getting ready for college?

Your hard work WILL pay off. The effort you put into high school, in both swimming and academics, will translate into your college success.

What do you miss most about home?

I miss seeing my family every day. They are such a great support system for me. I love when they attend my swim meets and field hockey games!

APPLE'S SWIM A BRIDGE CHALLENGE



2025 PARTICIPANTS

TOP 5 FUNDRAISERS

Mike Fish: \$708
Lisa Terrell: \$470
Lindsay Texter: \$427
Melanie Payton: \$424
Hope Edwards: \$300

TOP TEAM FUNDRAISERS

Ascosi Family: \$1,965
Emma, Leo & Mindy
Grayson Gustafson: \$431
& Zachary Capoferri

Judy Anttonen
Donna Ascosi
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Nakia Eckert
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487 Letort Road
Millersville, PA 17551

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MAKE A DONATION! Use the envelope inside this newsletter to send a check or donate online. The John Apple Swim Fund is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible. 100% of every dollar goes directly to the expenses of meeting our mission.

✉ info@johnappleswimfund.org

☎ 717.917.9004

🌐 johnappleswimfund.org

SAVE *the* DATE

Apple's Swim a Bridge Challenge

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026

Woodridge Swim Club—Lititz, PA or at your own pool!

Register online: johnappleswimfund.org/events

Join us for our annual fundraiser, Apple's Swim a Bridge Challenge. To raise money, swimmers will receive pledges and donations from family members, friends, and local businesses. There are team and virtual options as well. Visit our website for more information.

BRIDGE OPTIONS

0.06 mi Little Apple's Bridge

1.7 mi Golden Gate Bridge

0.25 mi Rainbow Bridge

3.0 mi Pensacola Bay Bridge

0.5 mi Brooklyn Bridge

4.4 mi Chesapeake Bay Bridge

1.0 mi Wrightsville Bridge

6.8 mi Seven Mile Bridge



LANCASTER REC is now hiring for lifeguard positions at the Conestoga Pines Pool for the 2026 Summer Season! Lifeguard certification is required for employment, and will be reimbursed by the Lancaster Rec with a commitment of working for the entire summer.

LIFEGUARDS NEEDED — CONTACT Spencer Shambaugh at sshambaugh@lancasterrec.org