

20 of The Most Charitable Professional Athletes

The best athletes in the world have come forth to assist in pursuing some other worthy courses off the field be it a basketball court, tennis court, football pitch, etc. The courses that they are supporting seek to provide some form of assistance to the society in one way or another. It could be to assist the youth to overcome drug addiction and abuse problems, build homes for families that have lost their homes due to calamities etc. The athletes are able to pull other athletes to support them in the pursuit of these matters with better results being realized.

The following athletes have been able to offer support in the alleviation of societal problems;

Lebron James

A star who has a huge following in the basketball court. Lebron has been supporting many charitable organizations including Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Before his switch to the Miami Heat he donated the proceeds of his hour- long interview to Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the amount totaled to over \$2.0 million.

Tiger Woods

A long standing number one in the golf world for many years, Tiger Woods through his Tiger Woods Foundation has been able to give a chance to the youth to enjoy a college education. The foundation mainly targets under privileged youths from the society. The foundation has been in existence since 1996 and has been able to reach millions of youths worldwide.

Tim Tebow

He is an American Football Quarterback who plays for New York Jets, an accomplished footballer who also happens to support many charitable events and organizations. Tim Tebow through his foundation has been able to raise millions of dollars mainly to support children related courses. His support includes an orphanage in Philippines as well as schooling in Colorado and Gainesville.

Brett Favre

He is a three-time NFL MVP and a Super Bowl Champion. Brett has been supporting youthful football teams by assisting them with technical support to hone their skills. This noble man has also been involved in supporting charitable organizations, at one time he gave a personal donation of \$1.2 million to his foundation, Favre 4 Hope Foundation. His foundation takes care of the needs of under privileged kids in the society.

Serena Williams

She is a former number 1 tennis player who has won seven grand slam titles. Serena Williams has been instrumental in supporting education through her foundation and Build African Schools. So far she has helped build two schools in Kenya, The Serena Williams Secondary School in Matooni and Wee Secondary School in Makueni.

Paul Pierce

Paul Pierce nicknamed "The Truth" is a professional basketball player who plays for Boston Celtics. Through his foundation Paul Pierce's The Truth on Health, he has been educating the American youths on healthy lifestyles using an online fitness club. The foundation also preaches to the youth for the need to keep away from gangs.

Lance Armstrong

Lance Edward Armstrong is a former professional road cyclist. Lance Armstrong is a founder and chairman of the Lance Armstrong Foundation which he founded after having survived testicular cancer himself. The foundation is involved in providing support to cancer patients.

Shaquille O'Neal

The gentle giant who announced his retirement from NBA at the start of this month, he has won many accolades on the court and off the court as a basketball player, rapper and actor. Shaq has also been involved in giving to the less fortunate members of the community. After Hurricane Katrina Shaq was in the front line accepting medical donations, and others forms of donations for victims of the hurricane. O'Neal also offered to rent 400 apartments for refugees in Dallas and other regions.

Jeff Gordon

Jeffery Michael Gordon is a professional NASCAR driver with an impressive record of wins. Jeff Gordon helps in funding programs that offer support to children who have cancer. Jeff has also established a Children's Hospital in Concord, North Carolina.

Andy Roddick

Andy Roddick is an accomplished professional tennis player who also happens to be a former world number 1. The Andy Roddick Foundation founded by Andy Roddick provides support to needy children with quality education while at the same time helping them with other necessities.

Albert Pujols

Albert Pujols is a Dominican professional baseball player who plays for St. Louis Cardinals in the MLB. He has been an MVP on three occasions coupled with other accolades. Through his foundation Pujols Family Foundation, Pujols has helped people living with Down Syndrome and also offers support in improving the lives of the impoverished in the Dominican Republic.

Apolo Anto Ohno

A Winter Olympian who is well decorated in the history of the games and a star of the Winter Olympics held in 2010. Using his Apolo Anton Ohno Foundation he partnered with The Century Council to kick out underage drinking and help Kids in schools to adopt healthy lifestyles. Apolo Anto Ohno seeks to help youths of all ages regards of they socio-economic standings to make positive choices.

Michael Phelps

Michael Phelps has been sensational in the swimming pool, equaling the records set previously in Olympic games. Having won a record eight gold medals in the Beijing Olympics he received a bonus of 1 million dollars which he used to form the Michael Phelps Foundation which promotes water safety and encourages swimming among the youth.

Lindsey Vonn

A star at the Winter Olympics of 2010 Lindsey Vonn put her ski gear up for an auction on eBay for the proceeds to be used in helping victims of the Haitian earthquake through the Red Cross.

Roger Federer

Roger Federer is one of the greatest tennis players of all time having won a whopping eight grand slam titles. The Roger Federer Foundation founded by Roger Federer himself helps children in acquiring education and partake in sporting activities. He is also a goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF.

David Beckham

David Beckham is a philanthropist at heart. He supports many charitable organizations including his own charity Victoria and David Beckham Charitable Trust. Others include Malaria No More, Help for Heroes, and he is an Ambassador of UNICEF.

Shaun White

A two-time Olympic gold medalist Shaun White supports healthy living, he supports Yum-o! a charitable organization that seeks to help families and kids improve their relationships with food and cooking.

Phil Mickelson

An American professional golfer, he supports education for the youth through his foundation. He has been known to give school supplies to students.

Eli Manning

An American football player undertook a five year campaign to raise 2.5 million dollars to construct a state of the art pediatric clinic.

Maria Sharapova

She is a former world number 1 Russian professional tennis player who is a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program. The UNDP in partnership with her foundation (Maria Sharapova Foundation) have been able to offer support to projects aimed at the youth in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.