TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

INTRODUCTION

Mission Statement 2
About Us 3

EVENTS AND DELIVERABLES

Clinics 4
Results 5
Staff 6
Athlete Fellows 7

02

03

FINANCIALS

Income 18
Expenditures 19

CONCLUSION

Looking Ahead 25

04

MISSION STATEMENT

Martial Arts for Social Transformation, Equity, and Rights (MASTERs) seeks to build community through the growth of martial arts. Our work focuses on training instructors, supporting competitive athletes, and providing community support and mutual aid. MASTERs is working towards a world where the principle of “Jita Kyoei” or “mutual benefit and well-being” is a common principle. We care about the fundamental worth of all human beings and the importance of community engagement. Judo and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu have repeatedly demonstrated a remarkable ability to assist people in personal growth. Stories abound about individuals who cite these activities as having changed their lives. That said, these martial arts do not yet hold the same space culturally in the United States to fully realize these gifts.

About Us

MASTERS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to building stronger communities by promoting Judo and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) training. We focus on training instructors, supporting athletes, and expanding access to martial arts for all, especially in underserved areas. Martial arts provide a unique path to personal growth, discipline, and community building. However, Judo and BJJ face challenges in the U.S. — from limited access to high-level training to socioeconomic barriers. MASTERS addresses these by:

Training Skilled Instructors: Ensuring instructors have comprehensive skills to teach and the resources they need to inspire students of all levels.

Supporting Competitive Athletes: Helping athletes compete on national and international stages while fostering leadership and professional development through mentorship.

Increasing Accessibility: Offering scholarships and free training for low-income families.

Clinics

In FY 2025, MASTERs brought together world-class athletes and coaches to share their expertise, hosting clinics featuring:



- **Jimmy Pedro**: 2x Olympic Bronze Medalist and 1999 World Champion. IJF Hall of Fame inductee and 2x US Olympic Coach.
- **Megumi Ishikawa**: A representative of Global Kids Judo Network focusing on youth development through martial arts. All Japan Champion at 57kgs.
- **John Jayne**: A decorated international competitor and Olympian representing the United States

- **Cho Jun Ho**: A 2012 Olympic bronze medalist from South Korea and well-known YouTuber and co-creator of HanpanTV
- **Cho Jun Jyun**: Brother to Cho Jun Ho and former member of the Korean national team. Well-known youtuber and co-creator of HanpanTV
- **Justin Flores**: 2021 US Olympic Coach and famous grappling instructor.



Results

High Noon Judo's SECOND Senior National Championship

In a re-run of last year's landmark achievement, High Noon Judo, a partner program of MASTERs, once again **won the national championship** at the **USA Judo Senior National Championships**. This extraordinary accomplishment highlights High Noon's rapid rise to prominence and the effectiveness of its innovative coaching strategies.

One such approach is the **ecological approach to learning**, which focuses on creating environments where athletes learn through real-world scenarios rather than rigid drills. By designing practice sessions that replicate competitive conditions, athletes develop adaptability, creativity, and decision-making skills. This method was instrumental in High Noon Judo's success and reflects MASTERs' commitment to cutting-edge development methodologies.





Results

Standouts and Achievements

The fellows of MASTERs have been making their way through USA Judo and IJF events throughout 2025.

- **Rhadi Ferguson Jr** made the Cadet World Team this year along with MASTERs fellow **Chloe Williams**, who also made the Junior Team. They participated in the **IJF Junior Pan American Championships**.
- **Rhadi Ferguson Jr** had a perfect performance across three divisions at the **USA Judo Youth Nationals.** At the same event, **Chloe Williams** took silver in Cadets and gold in Juniors, while **Rufus Ferguson** took silver in his weight class and gold in the open at Juniors.
- Siblings **Rufus and Rhadi Ferguson Jr** along with teammate **Chloe Williams** medaled at the **USA Judo Junior Olympic National Championships.**
- **Rufus Ferguson** was part of the World Team for the **World University Games**.
- MASTERs fellows **Timothy Spriggs** and **Chloe Williams** are promoted to black belt by Sensei Christopher Round.



Staff

As MASTERs fellows continue to grow and develop as judoka, so too do their needs evolve. In 2025, we brought on two additional staff members to help our athletes continue to rise to challenges before them.

Erin Herle is a Certified Mental Performance Consultant with a Masters of Science in Sport and Performance Psychology. She is also a decorated competitor in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu with many years of experience in the world of elite-level martial arts. She has become a resource to MASTERs fellows as they navigate their martial arts journeys.

Janine Nakao Cotti is Registered Dietitian (RD) with a Master of Science in Nutritional Science and a 3rd degree black belt in judo. From both personal experience as a competitor and formal academic study, Janine understands the unique dietary requirements of high-level athletes as well as the paramount importance of maintaining a healthy relationship with food, regardless of activity.

Athlete Fellows

Chloe Williams
Nation: United States
Weight Class: -70kgs
Divisions: U18, U21 and Seniors
Team: High Noon
Chloe Williams is a 16-year-old multi-sport athlete, dedicated student, and passionate artist from Virginia. She is a 2x Cadet Pan Am and World Team Member, 2024 Junior World Team member and Senior National Silver medalist. She was a 2x U15 Pan American Silver medalist. She is ranked #1 in cadets, #2 in Juniors and #2 in Seniors. Outside of judo she is a decorated high school basketball, soccer and volleyball player. Outside of sports she is deeply passionate about art and has even sold pieces at local art shows.

Rhadi Ferguson Jr.
Nation: United States
Weight Class: Heavyweight
Division: U18 and U21
Team: High Noon / Tampa Florida Judo
Rhadi Ferguson Jr., the daughter of 2004 Olympian Dr. Rhadi Ferguson, is a multiple time national champion and most recently delivered an outstanding performance leading High Noon Judo to victory in the Team National Championship at the USA Judo 2024 Judo National Championships. Invited by Dr. Chris Round, Head Coach of High Noon Judo Club in Alexandria, Virginia, Rhadi Jr.'s contributions were key to the team's success. A standout athlete from Tampa Florida Judo, she demonstrated exceptional skill and determination, helping secure the championship title. Rhadi joined Masters in 2023 and is looking to have stellar breakout senior career in judo.

Ryan Vargas
Nation: United States
Weight Class: 73kgs
Division: Seniors
Team: High Noon
Ryan made the US Cadet, Junior and Senior World Judo team. He trains and has his eyes set on the 2028 LA Olympics. He took bronze in the 2018 Pan American Championships and earned his spot at the 2019 Pan Am Games. Ryan was the former #1 -66kg for USA and knows what it takes to get to the next level. He holds a double black belt in Judo and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. He gives back to the community by teaching kids/adults Judo and also sharing his love for both sports on his YouTube channel. His passion for Judo has extended beyond reach as he reached Judo in public and private schools, as well as helping young kids and adults start Judo in their local clubs in Florida.

Athlete Fellows

Rufus Ferguson
Nation: United States
Weight Class: Heavyweight
Division: U21
Team: High Noon / Tampa Florida Judo
Rufus Ferguson is a black belt under his father, Dr. Rhadi Ferguson, and a student at Howard University. He is majoring in supply chain management. Following in his father's footsteps, he plays Division 1 football for Howard University. He is continuing his family's legacy of excellence in sports and academics. As a multi-sport athlete, he seeks to continue to excel in football while continuing to pursue his passion for martial arts, with aspirations to compete in the 2028 Olympics. He believes his unique combination of football skills and martial arts expertise makes him stand out as an athlete.

Timothy-Michael Spriggs
Nation: United States
Weight Class: 100kg
Team: High Noon Judo
Timothy-Michael Spriggs is a life-long martial artist. A decorated Brazilian Jiu Jitsu competitor, Spriggs began BJJ when he was 16 years old and went on to become a multiple time world champion. He was ranked #1 before retiring from competitive BJJ. He recently entered the world of competitive judo and hit the ground running. His favorite technique is Yoko Tomoe Nage as it reminds him of his BJJ roots. His goals in judo are to use beautiful and efficient technique at the highest level of competition.

Madeline Solis
Nation: United States
Weight Class: 78kg
Division: Seniors
Team: High Noon / Eastside

Madeline (Maddie) Solis is ranked in the top three in the United States at the 78kg weight class and is a 2x National silver medalist and has medalled at Presidents Cup and US Open. Maddie began her journey in grappling in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu but quickly took to Judo under the guidance of coaches such as Russ Hogan and Lkhamdegd Purevjargal.

EJ Lynch
Nation: United States
Weight Class: 73kgs
Division: Seniors
Team: USA Stars Foundation
EJ is a nationally-ranked judoka who started his international journey in Montreal in 2023. A Nidan in Judo and a blue belt in BJJ, EJ currently attends Colton Brown Training Center in NJ. EJ also had a Judo YouTube channel (Aero EJ) where he reviews and commentates his matches. He is an aspiring athlete to see how far he can make it.

Athlete Fellows

Emma Bragg
Nation: United States
Weight Class: 78kg
Team: Tampa Florida Judo / High Noon Judo
Emma Bragg began her Judo journey in Joplin, Missouri, at Joplin Judo and Jiu-Jitsu, where she trained under Sensei Amber Jones. Now based in Florida, Emma trains with Olympian Dr. Rhadi Ferguson, working toward her goal of becoming a Judo instructor. A Nikyu (brown belt) in Judo and a blue belt in Jiu-Jitsu, Emma combines her athletic pursuits with academic ambitions as she works toward her bachelor's degree at Arizona State University (ASU). Emma is a hybrid athlete/instructor fellow with MASTERs.

Aaron Decker
Nation: United States
Weight Class: 73kgs
Division: Seniors
Team: High Noon
Aaron Decker is originally from North Carolina. An experienced national competitor, he has made medal round appearances at the Senior National championships and Presidents Cup. He is currently a law student at Georgetown University.

Marley Garland
Nation: United States
Weight class 63kgs
Division Junior and Senior
Team: High Noon Judo
Marley Garland is an experienced competitor originally from Stutgart Germany. She competed on the IJF Junior Tour representing Germany and was one of their top Cadet and IJF Junior Players. In 2026, Marley decided to represent the United States. She is currently ranked in the top 10 for both Juniors and Seniors in the United States and ranked in the top 100 juniors in the worlds.

Solomon Choran
Nation: Canada
Weight Class: 73kgs
Division: Seniors
Team: High Noon / Action & Reaction MMA
Solomon is a 3x medalist at the Canadian National Championships and in 2023 he took silver at the US Open at 81kgs He also competes in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu where he holds the rank of purple belt. He has worked with several of the best coaches in North America including Josh Hagen, Nick Delpopolo, Jason Morris & Terri Takemori. Solomon has represented Canada at tournaments around the world and is looking forwards to seeing what the next ten years of his career looks like.

Income

During the fiscal year (August 15th 2024 - August 15, 2025), MASTERs received a total of $41,961.79 in donations and in-kind contributions.

Expenditures

Expenditures for the year totaled XX, allocated as follows:
Athlete Support: 33,894.12
Event Hosting at High Noon Judo:
$10,5930.98
Instructor Training: 1300
Operations: $16903.69
The difference between expenditures and revenue was temporarily covered by the Executive Director, Dr. Christopher Round, and is recorded as a reimbursable organizational liability.

These investments have been pivotal in advancing our mission and supporting our community initiatives.

Looking Ahead

Going into the next year, we look forward to continuing our support of promising athletes and further displaying the efficacy of our approach. We are exploring new revenue streams including instructional content while staying focused and up-to-date on the competition scene. MASTERs is working on forming key partnerships that will elevate the project in the 2026 fiscal year.

As we reflect on a year of significant achievements, MASTERs remains steadfast in its mission to use martial arts as a force for social transformation, equity, and rights. We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, and community for their support. Together, we continue to build a community where mutual benefit and well-being are at the forefront.

For more information about our programs and how to get involved, visit www.martialartsforsocialgood.org.

Prepared by: Dr. Christopher Round, Executive Director