



*For Immediate Release  
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## **Leah Friedman Joins Ryan Shazier Fund as Deputy Executive Director**

**PITTSBURGH — February 22, 2024—** Leah Friedman has been named Deputy Executive Director of the Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation. Friedman, a Pittsburgh native, joins the Fund after serving as Vice President for the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation.

As Director of Engagement with the United States Tennis Association (USTA), she worked nationwide to ensure access to the sport while overseeing a national strategy bringing communities to professional tennis events. Friedman also co-founded The ACE Project for children living in underserved communities providing character, confidence, and competency skills through the sport of tennis.

“Leah brings great assets to the organization, including deep roots in the greater Pittsburgh area and nonprofit executive leadership experience on both a local and national scale,” says Ryan Shazier Fund Executive Director Caroline Boyce. “We’re excited to have her focus on the day-to-day operations of the Fund.”

Friedman holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Pittsburgh and competed on the Women’s Tennis team. She has a Master of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management from San Diego State University.

“I am honored to join the team of the Ryan Shazier Fund and collaborate with our partners as we continue to provide support and inspire those with spinal cord injuries and their families,” she says. “I have carried my Pittsburgh values and pride with me throughout my career. It is special to return home!”

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### **About the Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation**

The Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation is the brainchild of the former Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker, whose life-altering spinal cord injury (SCI) opened his eyes to a vulnerable community and the systemic barriers SCI patients face in their road to recovery. The mission of the Ryan Shazier Fund for

Spinal Rehabilitation is to give those with spinal cord injuries and their caregivers the support, resources and funding they need to live independent and meaningful lives. Please visit [www.ryanshazierfund.org](http://www.ryanshazierfund.org) to learn more or contact Christopher Fletcher, [cletcher@ryanshazierfund.org](mailto:cletcher@ryanshazierfund.org).

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