

**Athlete:** TATYANA MCFADDEN

**Birthday:** April 21, 1989

**Hometown:** Clarksville, Maryland, USA

**Sport:** Paralympic Track & Field (Wheelchair Racing)

**Bio:** Already a two-time Paralympic medalist, Hilton Family of Hotels be hospitable Athlete Ambassador Tatyana McFadden hopes to repeat her 2004 Paralympic success at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing. McFadden emerged on the Paralympic scene at the 2004 Athens Games where she became the youngest member of the U.S. Paralympic Team for Track & Field to win two medals (Silver-100m; Bronze-200m). Beyond being an outstanding up-and-coming athlete, McFadden is also a celebrated role model in her community for her work as an adoption advocate.

At age nineteen, McFadden is a multi-talented athlete. At the 2006 IPC Athletics World Championships in Assen, The Netherlands, she set a world record on her way to winning gold in the 100m, and also took home silver medals in the 200m and 400m. She briefly held the world record in the 200m in 2007 before Canadian Chantal Petitclerc, the previous record holder, reclaimed it. The two raced neck-and-neck in Assen, and could be set for a match-up to watch as we get closer to the 2008 Paralympic Games.

McFadden is a member of the Bennett Blazers track & field team, swim team, wheelchair basketball team and sled hockey team. In 2006, McFadden made history by successfully challenging local school board regulations that required wheelchair racers to compete separately from other high school students. After having to race around the track by herself in previous meets, McFadden was allowed to compete alongside able-bodied runners in a 1,600m race.

McFadden was adopted at a young age and is a strong adoption advocate. She spoke before the United States Senate Subcommittee on Adoption and was part of a film for the National Angels in Adoption Awards.

McFadden received the Junior National Spirit of Excellence in Track Award and is on the honor roll at her high school. She plans to graduate from Atholton High School (Columbia, MD) in 2008.