



# Sun Valley Adaptive Sports

We change lives and make people smile!

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2008)

### HIGHER GROUND (WOUNDED WARRIOR VETERANS PROGRAM)

- Developed assessment tools in coordination with BYU to demonstrate the benefits of recreation programs. Data will benefit wounded warrior recreation programs nationwide.
- Hosted watersports, fly fishing, and snowsports programs that served 68 wounded warriors and significant others.
- Assisted warrior participants in attaining lifelong personal, spiritual, and professional aspirations.
- Established new partnerships with Blinded Veterans Association and the Blind Rehabilitation Center in Augusta, Georgia.

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Increase the number of warrior camps by 60% to serve 100 warriors and significant others.

### PACK (SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS)

- Partnered with Sagebrush Arena. We now have a “Base Camp” in Hailey where 95% of our participants live.
- Four children learned how to swim!
- Deepened the therapeutic depth of our camp by adding theme weeks and weekly “developmental assets” to improve the foundation for building healthy relationships with family and community.
- We had the highest level of attendance and community participation in six years for our annual Kickball Tournament fund raiser to support our children’s programs.

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Increase the number of therapeutic recreation interns to reduce programming costs.

### FRESH TRACKS (WINTER SNOWSPORTS – ALL AGES)

- Provided more than 850 one-on-one snowsports lessons.
- Four local adults learned to ski post traumatic injury.
- We added four new sit-skis to our fleet of winter adaptive sports equipment.
- Provided ski/snowboard lessons to more than 90% of students in Blaine County with developmental, emotional, physical, and learning disabilities.

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Increasing the number of PSIA clinics offered to adaptive snowsports instructors.

### BLAST (AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS)

- Program participation increased 25%. Four new children enrolled in the fall program and two children graduated from the program. This shows our efforts with teachers and therapists is improving participation rates.
- We recruited three new star volunteers committed to coming weekly.



- Some children who had severe autism were, for the first time, able to participate in group theatre activities despite inability to connect with peers in non-program settings.

**WHAT'S NEXT?** We have started a teen specific after school program for ages 12-18.

### **GET OUT AND GO! (SOCIAL OUTING PROGRAM FOR TEENS AND ADULTS)**

- Participation increased 30%.
- Participants had more opportunities to connect with the community and improve social skills.
- We used the Wood River YMCA to conduct swim practices and increase physical activity.
- Increased the variety of activities to provide diversity: rodeo, concerts, theatre, and swimming.

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Extend the length of our program to 12 weeks for summer-long fun!

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAM (SPORTS TRAINING AND COMPETITION – ALL AGES)**

- Our bowling team went to Burley and came back with a variety of 10 winning ribbons!
- Started a new Nordic ski program, run by two dedicated volunteer coaches.
- Our alpine team went to McCall Idaho for our state competition where we won 5- 1<sup>st</sup> place, 3- 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and 1- 4<sup>th</sup> place medals.
- Our SO team athletes were fully involved in the 2009 Special Olympics World Games, presenting awards, educating the community about diversity, and helping host at the closing ceremony.

**WHAT'S NEXT?** We are starting a summer swim competition program!

### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

- Volunteer database increased by 30%, adding nearly 100 new local volunteer contacts to the organization. Current number of volunteers: 325.
- Established our first completely volunteer-run program: Special Olympics Nordic Team.
- Created an online blog for quick and accessible communication regarding volunteer opportunities.
- Held two winter volunteer trainings, one being “on-snow” to share more in-depth knowledge of adaptive equipment and teaching strategies. Also conducted a day-long buddy training with more dedicated volunteers with advanced skiing skills.

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Addition of more primarily volunteer-run programs. Increasing the number of engaged local volunteers, honing strategies for matching volunteer gifts and skills to our needs and expectations.

### **ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHTS**

- Fundraising increased to \$1.15 million. Expenses were reduced 20%.
- Functional area expense distribution: Programs 80%; Administration 10%; Fundraising 10%.
- Scholarship fund increased by 16% to \$169,000.
- Launched a detailed volunteer initiative. The number of volunteers increased by 20% to 325.
- Partnered with local organizations to build a wheelchair accessible fishing pier and backcountry yurt.
- Moved into a larger office space to accommodate new staff and interns.
- Adopted state-of-the-art donor/volunteer management software.
- Nationally recognized as a leading adaptive sports organization serving wounded warriors with traumatic brain injuries, blindness, and visual impairment.
- Responsible for getting care units from each branch of the military to add sports and recreation as part of every wounded warrior’s long-term recovery plan. This will benefit tens of thousands of warriors.