

TOM ISELIN – BIO

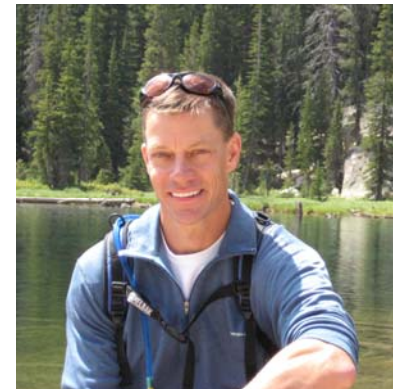
CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Sun Valley Adaptive Sports)

PROGRAM FOUNDER (Higher Ground)



Tom Iselin is executive director of Sun Valley Adaptive Sports. Over the last 20 years, Tom has applied the latest advances in technology, business, marketing, and communications to launch, build, and help some of the country's most notable organizations such as Sundt Memorial Foundation, Environmental News Network, Continental Bank, Jordan Investments, Hilton Hotels, Copley News, Accerra, Gallo Enterprises, First Options Futures, Brennan Capital, Valuestar, Annenberg Foundation, The Hunger Coalition, and Higher Ground.

In the late 80's, Tom owned a seat on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, where he traded stock options. During this time, he also designed pioneering software that analyzed market risk for traders. In the early 90's, Tom helped spearhead a team of traders and programmers at Continental Bank, designing one of the first 24-hour, real-time global trading programs for currency derivatives in the US.



In 1990, a near-death motocross accident in the backcountry of Alaska almost killed Tom. It was a wake-up call most people never want to answer. But the phone kept ringing. When he answered, his purpose in life changed. Tom reversed his priorities and redirected all his energy and business experience to the nonprofit sector.

In 2001, he started Aspen Research Group, a business consulting company that donates 25 percent of its revenues to hunger relief organizations (TheHungerCoalition.org). In 2002, he founded The Hunger Coalition, one of Idaho's most admired hunger relief organizations. In 2003, he transformed the mission of a small family foundation into one of the America's most recognized brands among teens for drug and alcohol prevention (NaturalHigh.org).

Since 2005, Tom has rebuilt Sun Valley Adaptive Sports (www.svasp.org) from a struggling nonprofit into one of the nation's strongest adaptive sports brands. Programming has increased four-fold, fund raising is up tenfold, and SVAS has secured 50 key partnerships. SVAS is not the largest adaptive sports organization in the nation, but facets of its therapeutic approach to programming are arguably some of the most effective and innovative.

It was fall 2005, when Tom had a vision to develop a novel program that would combine innovative and efficacious types of sports, family, and coping therapies to heal and restore the lives of wounded veterans and their spouses. The result was Higher Ground, the signature program of SVAS. In four years, Higher Ground has evolved into what many consider the gold standard program for "true" therapeutic sports camps for wounded veterans.

Tom continues to break ground for wounded veterans and adaptive sports. His latest work and vision include hosting a best practices summit, advocating legislation, and building a multi-million rehabilitation center for wounded veterans in Sun Valley. Tom also provides consulting services to help start and mentor adaptive sports organizations.

Tom graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin–Madison with a bachelor's in journalism. His directed studies include computer science and management science at the University of California–San Diego, and business at Harvard. He is a published author now working on his fourth book. Tom writes and speaks on topics of nonprofit management and operations, and provides business consulting services to young and rapidly growing nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

Tom has lived in Sun Valley, Idaho, since 1995. He also spends time in La Jolla, California. Tom loves to mountain bike, play tennis, snow ski, and surf. He also enjoys fly-fishing, trail running, and camping. To unwind, Tom writes, cooks, bakes, plays backgammon, and is a wannabe Blues harmonica player.

A program of Sun Valley Adaptive Sports

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