

Mission: To enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities by providing year-round outdoor adaptive recreational opportunities

# DREAM's Year in Review



## Program Highlights

-  1,273 winter and summer lessons & opportunities for 300 unique participants age five and older
-  149 lessons & opportunities for 54 Military Veterans & Active Duty Service Members
-  5,825 donated hours from 140 volunteers...**THANK YOU!**

## Program Offerings

- Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding
- Nordic/Cross-Country Skiing
- Mountain Biking
- Paddleboarding & Kayaking
- Water Sports - Water skiing, wake boarding, and wake surfing
- Military, Active Duty & Veteran Days

## Passing the Torch

### Jeffra Clough, Board President



Greetings, DREAM family! As the crisp fall air turns to snowflakes, I hope your reflections on the last year bring an abundance of wonderful memories. For me, 2022 provided an opportunity to put my decades of ski area management and non-profit experience to excellent use. It was an honor to be welcomed into the DREAM Board of Directors a year ago, and further my role this November being voted in as Board Chair. I am humbled to carry the torch of those who've served before me, and highly motivated to ensure DREAM stays on its incredible path of success. I'd like to extend my heart-felt gratitude to Clayton Fox and David Sandler, both concluding six impactful years on the Board, with the past four in roles of Board Chair and Secretary, respectively. We are thrilled to have their continued commitment to stay on our Capital Campaign and Internal Affairs committees, as they understand the importance of the next few years for DREAM.

Outdoor recreation is a critical piece of life in the Flathead Valley and we are keenly focused on ensuring that people with disabilities have access to all the benefits that stem from inclusion. We are incredibly thankful for our supporters near and far for championing our mission.

Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season! I look forward to connecting with many of you in 2023!



## Family Spotlight Meet The Perleberg's

### *Celie, David, and Margo*

One of our favorite things at DREAM is helping families and friends recreate together in the great outdoors. It's truly a wonderful thing to witness - family members smiling, hooting and hollering, all participating in the same activity while feeling safe and supported.

Margo Perleberg has been participating with DREAM since 1999 or as Celie her mom told us, *It's hard to remember the exact year, it seems like DREAM has been part of our lives forever!* The youngest of three kids, Margo along with siblings David and Ashley, was exposed to swimming, boating, fishing, and camping through family activities, since she was an infant. It wasn't until Gary and Celie moved the family to the Flathead Valley in 1998 did Margo find her love of winter skiing and speedy tube rides behind a waterski boat! Fast forward to 2017 and DREAM truly became a family affair. We caught up with them this fall to learn more about their DREAM story:

*David: When I was still in the Air Force I would come home for the holidays and Margo would already be so excited about winter skiing with DREAM. She'd start getting ready weeks before it would actually be time to go. She absolutely loves it! After I was discharged in 2017, I was looking to get involved with the community. My mom suggested DREAM and passed along the contact information. I first joined DREAM as a volunteer during the paddle board sessions, the winter skiing lessons, and the water sports days at Echo Lake. I also enjoy engaging as a Military Veteran participant for the Vet specific events. One of my favorite memories is with an adult skier named Alan. He participated in weekly lessons with the Eureka Magic Special Olympic Team, and we'd have so much fun together. He grew so attached to me, that at the end the season he gave me a hug and cried. It was really moving to see what our time together meant to him. My next favorite thing about DREAM is seeing the huge smiles from the participants, volunteers, and staff. The joy the participants feel and express is what drives me to volunteer and stay involved year after year.*

*Margo: DREAM makes we feel very welcome. It's hard to decide my favorite activity! In the winter, it's skiing and in the summer, tubing. I look forward to participating with DREAM for many reasons. When I ski, I love working with Denny. We've been partners since I started with DREAM. We do five runs and eat lunch together in the lodge. The speed of tubing and going really fast is my favorite part of the summer programs.*

*Celie: Becoming part of the DREAM family has enriched our lives immeasurably. Two of my children are recipients of the "dream" - to make outdoor activities accessible, and provide them with opportunities that connect them to friendships and physical activity. For my son, it is also an avenue for him to contribute. Perhaps it's not as well known, but the summer program on Echo Lake is what I think DREAM is all about. Whole families come - siblings, grandparents, baby sitters, and we all get together to enjoy watching the activities, with lots of cheering when someone finally accomplishes a goal (like getting up on water skis); children of all abilities recreating together, and opportunities for parents to meet other adults who are literally in the same boat.*

DREAM's mission has a ripple effect across our community in countless ways. We strive to serve as a beacon of possibilities - A beacon that shows the individuals who participate, as well as their parents, spouses, siblings, and friends, all that can be accomplished when the focus is placed a person's abilities in an empowering environment.

# SAVE THE DATE

Join us for our biggest event of the year!

## The Snow Ball Fundraiser

❄️ **March 3rd, 2023** ❄️

@ The Lodge at Whitefish Lake

Dinner, Live Music, Auctions, Guest Speakers

Stay tuned for more info:

[www.dreamadaptive.org/events/snowball](http://www.dreamadaptive.org/events/snowball)

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## Access to Adventure

A trip down memory lane led us to a Daily Inter Lake article from September 1st, 1985 announcing DREAM's first general meeting. The organizers didn't waste any time, with projects starting the following year in Kalispell's Woodland Park, Glacier National Park, and at Big Mountain. Breaking down barriers for outdoor recreation access has been at the core of DREAM's mission for over 37 years.

We are thrilled to share that in addition to our empowering year-round programs, the focus on collaborative access projects is still going strong. This year alone, we've spent time with Glacier National Park, The US Forest Service, Montana State Parks, Kalispell Convention and Visitor Bureau, Flathead Rivers Alliance, Gateway to Glacier Trails, Flathead Area Mountain Bikers, Whitefish Legacy Partners and others. Our hearts are full in knowing the community believes in the power of outdoor recreation and places importance on access for all.

## Access Projects



Glacier National Park



The Flathead River



Lone Pine State Park



Cedar Flats-Columbia Falls

## Thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors

Jeffra Clough, *President*

Howard Wright, *Secretary*

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## Staff

Julie Tickle, *Executive Director*

Madeline Westbrook, *Program Manager*

Nicole Fairclough, *Program Coordinator*

Kate McLaughlin, *Operations Specialist*



Please consider a year-end gift through the enclosed envelope or online:

[www.dreamadaptive.org/donate](http://www.dreamadaptive.org/donate)

## Drink the Wild Air Julie Tickle, Exec. Director

I grew up near balmy Buffalo, NY, the child of two teachers. A passion for and respect of nature was handed down at an early age, especially during forced winter picnics in snowsuits to air us kids out! Fast-forward to today and I still feel most alive when in nature, high-fiving tree branches that overstretch trails on my snowboard or mountain bike, while drinking the wild air.

The feeling of being immersed in nature, all senses heightened, mind only on the present, is such a gift - one that we all have the right to experience. Through incredible teamwork in 2022, 300 participants, 140 volunteers, and 92+ family members engaged with our programs! That's over 500 unique lives empowered through outdoor recreation who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

We've been working diligently on growing our capacity to keep up with the ever-increasing demand. I'm excited to announce that over the past year we've added a program coordinator, a leased office and warehouse space, and most incredibly, Whitefish Mountain Resort has donated land for a future DREAM Adaptive Sports Center!

We tackle this growth with the same laser-focus on the quality and safety of our programs that's been at the forefront for years. All of this is possible because of the generosity of our community and the caring individuals that team up to help further our mission and impact.

From all of us at DREAM, thank you for helping us reach new heights!



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