

DREAM

adaptive recreation



Warmest Holiday Wishes!

As the Board President of DREAM Adaptive Recreation, I am delighted to extend my warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season to all of you. This year has been remarkable, thanks to your unwavering dedication and generosity.

From expanding our programs, to reaching more individuals with disabilities, to forging new community connections, DREAM's impact continues to grow. Your contributions have been the driving force behind our success, and we see even more promising opportunities on the horizon.

With your continued support, we will create even more inclusive year-round adaptive recreation opportunities in the coming year, ensuring that every participant in our programs experiences the thrill of achieving their dreams.

From all of us at DREAM: we are so grateful for what we've achieved together, and we look forward to an even bigger, brighter 2024. Wishing you a holiday season filled with joy, laughter, and the spirit of giving.

- Jeffra Vaughn, Board Chair



DREAM'S MISSION: Enhance the quality of life of individuals with disabilities through year-round outdoor adaptive recreational opportunities.



Expanding Winter Horizons: Nordic Skiing Brings Diversity to Our Programs

As we reflect on the growth of our programs, we're proud to share the remarkable journey of our nordic ski program. Launched in 2019, this initiative has not only become a symbol of inclusivity but has added a unique dimension to our winter offerings.

While our alpine ski & ride program has been our cornerstone program, the introduction of nordic skiing with support from Glacier Nordic Club has been a pivotal step towards diversifying our winter activities. In a world where able-bodied individuals have an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities across all seasons, we are steadfast in our dedication to expanding these options

for people with disabilities.

Nordic skiing, with its graceful blend of endurance and technique, opens new doors for participants to experience the serene beauty of winter landscapes. The ease of location, diversity of equipment, and rolling nature of the course provides an additional avenue for individuals to engage with the great outdoors, fostering a sense of community and adventure.

Our mission has always been to bridge the gap, ensuring that everyone has access to the transformative power of outdoor recreation. The DREAM nordic ski program is a testament to this commitment.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**The Snow Ball
March 2nd, 2024**

@ The Wachholz Center - FVCC

Join us for our biggest event of the year!

Dinner, Music, Auctions, Guest Speakers

Stay tuned for more info:

www.dreamadaptive.org/events/snowball

Thank you to our dedicated
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- Nicole Fairclough, *Program Coordinator*
- Joe O'Connor, *Program Coordinator*
- Amy Good, *Operations Specialist*
- Development Manager, *We are hiring!*

Lessons from Nature

Looking back on an incredible year, our heartfelt appreciation goes out to our generous donors and the 187 volunteers who dedicated 5,888 hours of service. Through this unwavering support, we were able to provide 1,527 empowering lessons and opportunities for 329 unique individuals in 2023 - 387 more lessons than in 2022!

Nature, with its ever-changing landscapes, operates as a universal classroom, bestowing essential lessons in adaptability, resilience, and the beauty of diversity. Beyond merely acquainting individuals with the external world, the great outdoors becomes a profound space for discovering inner strength and untapped potential.

In the face of the challenges presented by the wakes of water skiing or the rugged ascent of mountain bike trails in our programs, participants are encouraged to confront obstacles head-on. Nature's challenges are not road-blocks, but rather invitations to unearth inner strength and foster determination. Each challenge mastered — whether on the slopes, in the water, or along a trail — marks a triumphant chapter in the narrative of personal growth.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past year, I extend my deepest gratitude to all who have participated in and contributed to these transformative experiences.

- Julie Tickle, Executive Director



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A Life of Adventure



Not many people can claim to have bungie jumped off the Victoria Falls Bridge in Zimbabwe over the crocodile infested Zambezi river, played trumpet professionally, served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff Military Security Force at the Pentagon, and taught martial arts to Marines as a 1st degree black belt. Even with all of these incredible life experiences, Yaphet Jones claims that *“being introduced to DREAM honestly is one of the best things that has happened to me.”*

In his 22 years with the Marines, Yaphet traveled all over the world to places like Botswana, Honduras, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Papa New Gunieau, and Australia. This included three combat tours with the 1st Marine

Division. Along with all of these adventures came challenging times of depression and PTSD. “DREAM has helped me cope with the difficult events I experienced during my Marine Corps career. It makes a tremendous difference in the lives of veterans and those with disabilities to have an outlet of support, care, friendships, learning and fun on a regular basis.”

Yaphet was introduced to DREAM through the Kalispell Vet Center. “DREAM instructors taught me how to ski,” says Yaphet. “Exploring the beautiful outdoors of Montana and having new and exciting adventures with some of the most amazing people and instructors on the planet is a joy that simply can't be expressed in words.” In addition to skiing with DREAM, Yaphet enjoys the mountain biking and water sports programs.

After all his global adventures, Yaphet finally settled in the West Valley area of Kalispell with his family. His wife Donivee, also a Marine veteran, was born and raised in Columbia Falls and works at Logan Health. Their children, Jaeden (11) and Lillian (8) are star students and athletes: Lillian is a gymnastics champion and Jaeden plays with the All-Star travel baseball team. Yaphet stays close to his Chicago musical roots. “I perform with the local Glacier Symphony, am a founding member of the Stillwater Brass, and I teach trumpet to local students.”

Keep an eye out for Yaphet on the snow, water and bike trails at DREAM events. “The care, compassion and support of the DREAM staff is clearly evident and genuine which is so much appreciated,” says Yaphet.

In 2023, DREAM delivered:

1,176 alpine ski and snowboard lessons

42 nordic ski lessons

98 kayaking and paddleboarding lessons

100 water skiing, wake boarding and wake surfing lessons

111 mountain bike lessons

256 Veterans snowsports, paddlesports, mortorized watersports, and bike lessons

In total, DREAM created 1,527 empowering outdoor recreation experiences for 329 unique individuals.



Each year, our community has an ever-present need for more services than we can provide - and it is our goal to meet this need so that no one is turned away from our empowering programs. We are continually assessing our capacity and identifying clear paths for controlled growth. In the coming years we aim to increase program staff, recruit more volunteers, acquire additional adaptive equipment, build a permanent home at WMR, and continue to create meaningful relationships with businesses and individual supporters. Teamwork makes the DREAM work!

Please consider a year-end gift through the enclosed envelope or online: www.dreamadaptive.org/donate



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