

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Enhancing the quality of life of individuals with disabilities by providing year-round outdoor adaptive recreational opportunities.

A Letter from the Executive Director

November 2024

Autumn in the Flathead Valley is always a time of reflection and anticipation. The larch trees turn the mountainsides golden, the air cools, and our team begins shifting gears from paddles and bike tires to skis and snowboards. It's one of my favorite times of year, a moment to celebrate what we've accomplished and look ahead to the adventures still to come.

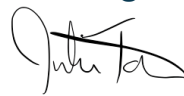
This past year, DREAM continued to grow and reach more individuals than ever before. In 2024, we provided 1,512 adaptive lessons and opportunities to 377 participants, including 65 military veterans. Each program, whether on snow, water, or wheels, represents far more than recreation. It's a pathway to confidence, independence, and connection.

We were especially proud to expand opportunities for people with visual impairments, including hosting our annual Blind Veterans Retreat, welcoming students from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, and supporting local athlete Russ Fuller as he trains for the national adaptive waterski team. Collaborations like our partnership with the Glacier Institute are helping create a more inclusive outdoor culture throughout our region, one where everyone can experience the freedom of movement in nature.

None of this would be possible without the heart of DREAM—our volunteers, staff, donors, and community partners. Your generosity fuels every lesson, every piece of adaptive equipment, and every smile on the hill or water. Together, we're continuing to strengthen the foundation of DREAM while pursuing big plans on the horizon that will help us expand our reach and deepen our impact for years to come.

As we head into our busy winter season, I'm reminded every day of how special this community is. Thank you for being part of the DREAM family and for helping us ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, can experience the joy of adventure.

Warm regards,



Julie Tickle, Executive Director





Military Veteran, Chris from Eureka, MT - standing in front of a snow field during a Going to the Sun road ride in Glacier National Park. May 2024

Adventure for All

At DREAM Adaptive Recreation, we believe that everyone deserves the chance to experience the joy and freedom of outdoor adventure. Since 1985, our programs have created opportunities for children, adults, and military veterans with disabilities to explore, grow, and thrive year-round in the mountains, on the water, and on the trails.

Our program opportunities support individuals ages 5 through adulthood who benefit from adaptive equipment and/or specialized teaching techniques. We proudly serve participants with physical, cognitive, intellectual, and sensory disabilities, and we offer dedicated programming for active duty military and veterans with disabilities.

Participants range from first-timers learning a new sport to seasoned athletes refining their skills or setting new goals. DREAM's inclusive approach also encourages family, friends, and community members to join in whenever possible—because shared adventure builds lasting confidence and connection.



A participant (left) paddles and connects with a Jr. Volunteer during a DREAM Paddle Day on Whitefish Lake. June 2024

Program Spotlights - 2024

Together, we're opening doors to independence, adventure, and belonging—proving that with a thoughtful community, the outdoors truly is for everyone.

Paddling Toward Possibility:

DREAM's summer paddle program—which includes both paddleboarding and kayaking on Whitefish Lake, Flathead Lake, and Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park—saw tremendous growth in 2024. The program expanded by 55 lessons and 40 participants, offering more individuals the chance to experience the calm, freedom, and connection that come from being on the water. This growth was fueled by new partnerships and community collaborations, including support for Empower SCI, participation in Week of Hope, and private paddle days for Lighthouse Christian Home and Flathead Industries. These inclusive opportunities reflect DREAM's commitment to meeting people where they are and providing safe, goal-oriented, and empowering recreation for all.

Local Athlete Success

Whitefish's own Russ Fuller, who is losing both his vision and hearing, trains with DREAM in snowboarding and water skiing as he works toward making the national adaptive waterski team.

Partnership for Access

A growing collaboration with the Glacier Institute is improving accessibility on guided hikes and educational programs in Glacier National Park, helping extend inclusion beyond DREAM's own programs.



Participant Russ Fuller training on Whitefish Lake using a headset and audio slalom system. July 2024



2024 - Impact by the Numbers



377

unique participants



1512

lessons & experiences



220

unique volunteers



7009

volunteer hours



992

alpine skiing & snowboarding lessons



45

nordic skiing lessons



153

paddleboard & kayaking lessons



115

water skiing, wakeboarding & wake surfing lessons



151

mountain biking & cycling lessons



189

veteran skiing, snowboarding & nordic skiing lessons



88

veteran paddle sports, motorized water sports & biking lessons

A DREAM Moment: James's First Run

When James first joined DREAM's adaptive recreation programs, his parents, Dan and Lisa, hoped he'd find a way to safely experience the outdoors and build confidence through movement. What they didn't expect was just how much joy and confidence he would discover along the way.

James participates in both DREAM's winter alpine skiing program at Whitefish Mountain Resort and the summer paddling program. For his family, every outing with DREAM is special but one moment stands out above the rest.

"The moment that tops the bill for us is the first time that James skied down the mountain using the slider device," shared Lisa. **"This adaptive equipment allowed him to ski tethered to an instructor, letting him feel as if he were skiing independently. We stood near the base of the run and even before we could see the enormous grin on his face, we could hear him yelling 'Whoa!' all the way down. He was absolutely thrilled."**

That single moment captured everything DREAM stands for—freedom, confidence, and pure joy. Dan and Lisa say that what they appreciate most is how DREAM makes outdoor recreation accessible and safe, with expert instructors, caring volunteers, and specialized adaptive equipment.

"We would be unable to provide these experiences for him without the support of DREAM," they shared. **"These programs fill his bucket, connecting him with nature and giving him the thrill of achieving something beyond what he can accomplish on his own."**

From paddling on the lake in summer to skiing down the mountain in winter, James's laughter, yells of excitement, and determination remind us why we do what we do. DREAM helps make moments like these possible and for families like James's, those moments mean the world.





Cheers to our Volunteers!

The heart behind each adventure!



FINANCIALS

DREAM Adaptive Recreation closed 2024 in a strong financial position, thanks to the generosity of our donors, sponsors, and partners who continue to invest in our mission. Steady growth in donations and fundraising event contributions supported our expanding year-round operations and ensured sustainability for the future.

A portion of income received during this period (\$263,763) is restricted to DREAM's capital project, reflecting continued community commitment to building long-term capacity for adaptive recreation.

To align with this growth, DREAM transitioned from a calendar year to a fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024. Therefore, the financial summary below reflects nine months of activity (January 1 – September 30, 2024).

Total Income: \$1,507,537

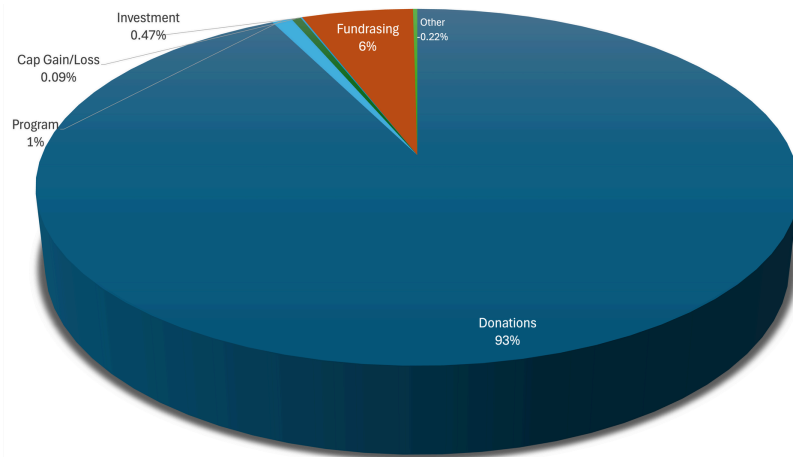
Contributions/Grants: \$1,402,089

Fundraising Events: \$85,094

Program Fees: \$15,216

Investment Income: \$7,117

Capital Gain/Loss: \$1,350



Commitment to Transparency

DREAM is proud to have earned the Candid (GuideStar) Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered by Candid to nonprofit organizations. This distinction demonstrates our commitment to openness, integrity, and sharing clear information about our mission, programs, and impact with donors and the public.

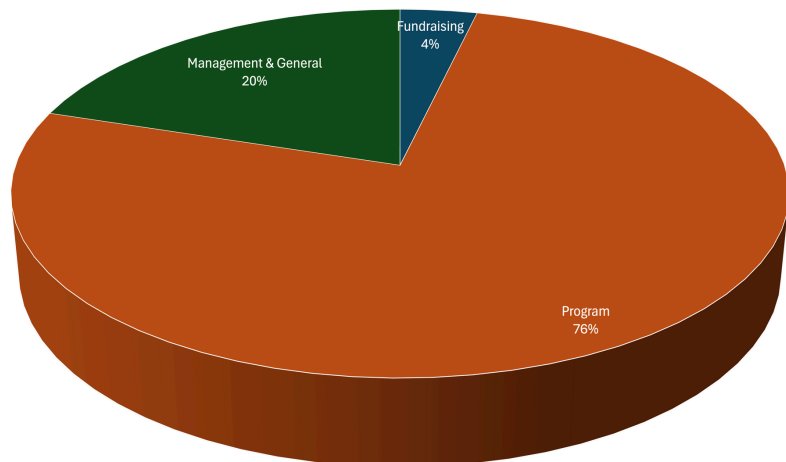
DREAM's budget surplus is the result of a strong year fueled by generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and vibrant community partnerships.

This healthy position allows DREAM to confidently pursue its capital campaign goals while sustaining the quality and growth of our adaptive recreation programs.

As we enter this exciting period of expansion, DREAM is intentionally maintaining a healthy operating surplus to ensure stability and flexibility throughout the capital campaign and beyond.

Form 990s are available on our website: www.dreamadaptive.org.

Total Expenses: \$745,865



Program: \$568,250

Management & General: \$149,993

Fundraising: \$27,662

We couldn't have
done it without your
generous *support.*



Thank you

to all our donors and
volunteers.

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Participant Gracie's
favorite color is pink,
so our instructors
took it to a whole
new level!