

DREAM adaptive recreation




Annual Report





OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR ALL

 DREAM Adaptive Recreation
P.O. Box 4084
Whitefish, MT 59937

 dreamadaptive.org
 info@dreamadaptive.org
 (406) 885-9539

The mission of DREAM Adaptive Recreation, Inc. is to enhance the quality of life of individuals with disabilities by providing year round outdoor adaptive recreational opportunities.



DREAM
adaptive recreation

WELCOME TO DREAM ADAPTIVE RECREATION'S 2023 ANNUAL REPORT!

In 1985, our first DREAM Makers embarked on a journey to champion the rights of people with disabilities. Dottie Maitland, Jane Lopp, Larry Dominick and others believed in the importance and power of inclusive outdoor recreation and took their combined voices to Washington, D.C. Their advocacy efforts, along with thousands of others, culminated in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This pivotal moment echoes through the years and is palpable throughout Flathead Valley, most notably in the Trail of the Cedars at Glacier National Park.

At the same time, the Ski Dreams program was delivering the first adaptive ski lessons at Big Mountain. Spearheaded by Dennis Jones, Kim Chef, and a dedicated crew of volunteers, these early alpine enthusiasts were finding ways for people of all abilities to experience the magic of movement on snow.

When these two groups joined forces, D.R.E.A.M. (Disabled Recreation Environmental Access Movement) took flight. Fueled by unwavering community support over the decades, DREAM

Adaptive Recreation now fulfills its mission year-round through a spectrum of programs and access projects. Today we provide over 1,500 adaptive lessons and opportunities for more than 325 participants each year on our mountains, lakes, and trails.

At DREAM, we embrace challenges as opportunities. The increasing awareness of our organization within the community has led to an unprecedented demand for our services. In 2024 and beyond, we see a tremendous opportunity for deliberate expansion to ensure that everyone in our community has access to outdoor recreation and the myriad of benefits derived from immersion and challenge in nature. Dream with us through our 2023 annual report, and learn more about our exciting plans for the future.

We are grateful to our volunteers, our supporters, and our participants whose strength and drive to push limits have fueled our desire to broaden and deepen our impact. Together, we are creating a world where dreams flourish through inclusive and enriching outdoor experiences for all.

Julie Tickle
Executive Director



DREAM ON THE SNOW

It's 7 am on a crisp Saturday morning, and volunteer instructor Duke shovels out the entrance to the gear shed after a big snowfall.



He pulls out the bi-ski equipment in preparation for a big day: his first time out with Lynn, an active 48-year-old wife and mother who had a stroke nine months ago. Lynn is in the process of re-learning to walk and speak, and her dream is to find a way to ski again with her family. With Duke's help and a bi-ski with fixed outriggers and tethers, we can't wait to show Lynn what she is capable of.

Flathead Valley loves its snow sports, and this past year, DREAM's winter crew of 130 volunteer instructors coached more on-snow participants than ever before. We created 1,059 customized adaptive alpine skiing and riding lessons for 228 participants. In addition to individual lessons for all ages and abilities, we offered adaptive snow recreation to 11 elementary, middle and high school classrooms and four adult groups across the Valley.

It was amazing to feel the thrill of the wind in my face as we cruised down the hill on the bi-ski. After my stroke, I thought our family ski trips would leave me lodge-bound; but Duke and the DREAM Team have found a new way for me to make turns alongside my family.

-Lynn



Through our partnership with Glacier Nordic Club, we provided 42 adaptive nordic lessons. We also support the Chet Hope Youth Ski League by ensuring any 4 - 10 year old with a disability can integrate into the group lesson environment.

DREAM ON THE WATER

The morning sun sparkles on Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park, where a group of volunteers help the DREAM staff unload the trailer full of paddleboards and kayaks. Suddenly all heads turn as we hear a burst of cheering from the

beach. Carrie has just stood up on her own for the first time on a paddleboard.

She has been working on her balance and core strength for the past two summers, and is so proud to achieve this big step toward independence. She's wearing a huge grin on her face today, knowing she's that much closer to her dream of going out solo on the water. This will be a new activity her whole family can enjoy together.

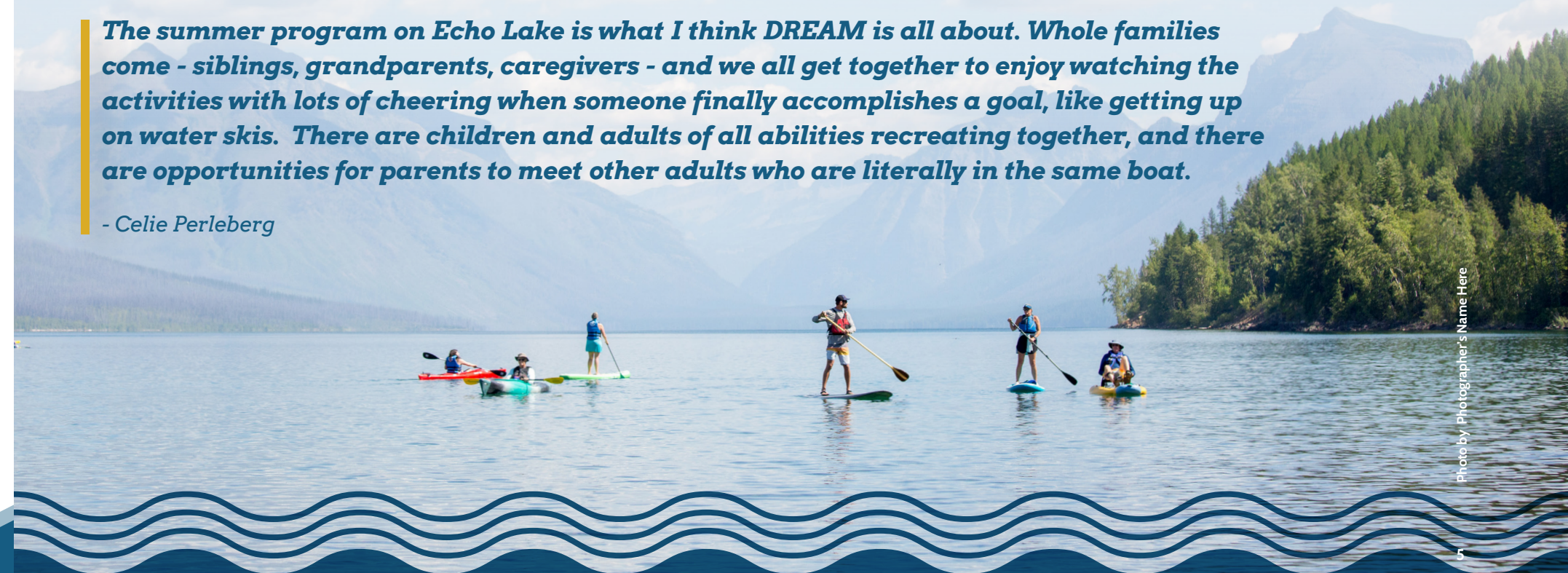
DREAM's summer watersports crew—52 dedicated volunteers—delivered 190 adaptive watersports lessons in 2023, including 90 paddle opportunities and 100 motorized sessions. Our Watersports Family Days at Echo Lake offer a “choose your own adventure” experience for people of all abilities, with options like water skiing, wakeboarding, paddling, and boat rides. For those seeking individualized instruction, our one-on-one lessons on Whitefish Lake provide focused coaching in

water skiing, wakeboarding, and wakesurfing.



The summer program on Echo Lake is what I think DREAM is all about. Whole families come - siblings, grandparents, caregivers - 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. There are children and adults of all abilities recreating together, and there are opportunities for parents to meet other adults who are literally in the same boat.

- Celie Perleberg



DREAM ON THE TRAIL

A best-kept secret of Glacier National Park is the quiet time in the spring when Going-to-the-Sun Road is open exclusively to bikers and walkers. This challenging ride climbs 16 miles and 3,200 vertical feet in exchange for a breathtaking glimpse into the heart of the park wilderness.

As the DREAM team of volunteers double-check their tools, water supplies and tire pressure, Jack, a 45-year-old veteran with paraplegia cruises by on his handcycle using

nothing but pure arm strength. “See you at the top,” he calls. We know he will, and he’ll get there first.

From relaxed group rides on backcountry roads to tackling tough single-track and downhill trails, DREAM’s crew of staff and volunteer instructors delivered 111 mountain biking rides and lessons for 33 individuals this year. We utilize adjustable hand-crank and foot pedal three-wheeled mountain bikes to support participants with mobility and balance

challenges. Nothing beats the joy of a bike ride in the great outdoors – especially when you can share it with friends and family.

We are grateful to partners Great Northern Cycle & Ski, A7 Cycles, Flathead Area Mountain Bikers, Gateway to Glacier, Whitefish Legacy Partners, and Flathead Land Trust. Collectively, they maintain our diverse fleet of cycling equipment, train our volunteers, and share their purpose-built trails for our group rides and private lessons.



“Beginning a decade ago with alpine skiing, paddle boarding, and now mountain biking and nordic skiing, our daughter Abi has been able to access new parts of herself: pride, tenacity, bravery, perseverance, determination and self-agency. The unparalleled beauty of Montana’s outdoors is open to her through the incredible programs, volunteers and staff of the Dream Team.”

- Neil Kurtz and Mamie Flinn

Photo by Photographer's Name Here

DREAM MILITARY/ VETERAN

When volunteer Mark gets on the chairlift with his veteran partner for the day, the vet’s first request is that he doesn’t want to talk, just ski. “Not a problem!” says Mark. But as they tour Whitefish Mountain together, the conversations progress from ski techniques and snow conditions to how isolating it is living with PTSD. By the final run, the veteran is asking about how he might become a volunteer with DREAM and help others see what’s possible. “Between you and me,” confesses Mark, “I think the volunteers get the most out of it.”



This year, DREAM’s year-round military/veterans programs delivered 149 snow-sports, paddle sports, motorized water sports, and biking lessons for 54 veterans – all free of charge for active duty service members and veterans with a disability. Outings include group ski days on Whitefish Mountain, bike outings on Going to the Sun Road in Glacier National Park, and kayak and paddleboard events down Lake McDonald Creek. We invite participants to bring along a family member as resources allow. A special thank you to the Kalispell Vets Center and the Whitefish Veterans Support Team for helping us deliver outdoor recreation that fosters connections and encourages healing for our nation’s heroes.

“DREAM’s Veteran program has given me such a sense of freedom that it’s hard to describe. The feeling of independence, with the wind in my face and all the fresh air, is second to none. The most recent visit left me with the confidence to continue staying active. I have been deeply struggling with motivation for quite some time. I am so grateful to all who make programs like DREAM possible. They are so important to this veteran and many others.”

- A DREAM Veteran



Photo by Amanda Guy

DREAM ACCESS PROJECTS

In addition to running our year-round recreation programs, DREAM partners with other community organizations to ensure outdoor recreation spaces in our community are accessible and utilize universal design principles whenever possible. This allows community members with disabilities to access outdoor recreation spaces outside of DREAM programs and lessons.

DREAM has partnered with Montana State Parks, Kalispell Convention and Visitor Bureau, Gateway to Glacier Trails, Flathead Area Mountain Bikers, Whitefish Legacy Partners and others in our shared goal of creating an outdoor-minded community where people with disabilities have equal access and representation.

Some of our recent and current projects include:

- Working with the Flathead Rivers Alliance to increase access to river put-ins and takeouts along the three forks of the Flathead River
- Conducting a trail accessibility review in Glacier National Park, specifically on middle-country trails, and providing training on different all-terrain mobility devices
- Collaborating with the US Forest Service and Gateway to Glacier Trails on the Cedar Flats project, ensuring the multi-use trail system is functional for three-wheeled adaptive mountain bikes.



“We’re incredibly grateful for our partnership with DREAM as we build local trails with accessibility in mind. To date, we’ve had the privilege to work with DREAM on both trailhead development and building three miles of adaptive-bike-accessible trail within the Cedar Flats trail system. DREAM is a vital organization, offering adaptive recreation knowledge, resources, and assistance paramount to creating inclusive outdoor recreation opportunities throughout our community.”

- Amanda Minatra, Gateway to Glacier Trails

Photo by Amanda Guy

OUR DREAM TEAM



Meet Tom & Jen, medical professionals and DREAM Team volunteers.

Day jobs: Jen spent 12 years as a pediatric ICU nurse before leaving to raise her family, while Tom worked as a pediatric general and thoracic surgeon for 25 years at Children’s Wisconsin.

Getting started: “Our first day out we felt nervous about what we might experience, but we had such a great day! We got to ski with a 50-year old man with a traumatic brain injury as part of DREAM’s partnership with Flathead Industries. After that, we were hooked.”

DREAM highlight: For Tom: skiing with a woman with down syndrome who was the World Special Olympic Games silver medalist in the giant slalom. When they met, she said, “Okay Tom, I hope you can keep up with me because I ski like a cheetah!” For

Jen: “I established a friendship with a hand-cycler from Missoula, and I can’t wait to see her next time she’s in town.”

Favorite DREAM outing: Riding up to Logan Pass in Glacier National Park with a group of hand-pedal cyclists. “It was such a good vibe to all ride together; I felt such a strong sense of community,” said Tom. “I was struck by how well people adapt to whatever they’re given, which was very humbling. It teaches us all to be accountable, to go forward and get on with it instead of being victimized. These are great life lessons for all of us as we age.”

DREAM insight: For Tom: “I love being outdoors and seeing the importance of who we are and how we all navigate our environments differently. Mother nature is so nonjudgemental. It is our spectrum of abilities, regardless of any disability, that enable us to enjoy nature.”

Tom & Jen



Liz & Charlie

Meet Liz, a Kalispell Middle School Life Skills Teacher, Special Education Department Head, and Adaptive Sports School Coordinator. Liz brings a group of kids to the mountain each week during the winter to ski with DREAM.

Superpower: Liz’s passion for helping people with disabilities enhance their life experience, which she puts into hands-on action. Liz is a Montana native and loves to see people with all types of abilities have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of this area.

Life-changing moment: Watching her son Charlie obtain independence on skis. “I had to trust that he could do it, and that he would be safe,” remembers Liz. “As a parent of a child with disabilities, rarely do you get to experience that they are away from you and safe and thriving, outside of your influence. DREAM is such a gift to the parents as well as the child.”

Perfect day: On the lake or the snow with DREAM, watching her students practice the same thing over and over again - and

all of the sudden they have a breakthrough. “It took so much repetition, but they got it! That reinforces how important it is to keep trying.”

On breaking through: “Seeing a child ski a few feet on their own or paddle a kayak after trying for a long time is so exciting. I love when a student surprises us with what they can do.”

DREAM takeaway: “DREAM changes kids’ concepts of themselves. One of my students initially wouldn’t go to PE and had almost no physical activity, but through DREAM she started to think of herself as a skier.” Liz sees this self-image change translate into academic progress as well. “Kids that might give up quickly on an academic task learn perseverance through physical activities. They learn that falling down is part of learning. You’re going to fall down, but we’ll help you get back up, and it will get easier next time.”

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William And Christa Luke
William And Marie Luke
Luke And Ems
Lularoe Cheryl Luke

Bobbi And Jesse Luna
Favorite Sister Lundberg
Kristin Lundberg
Nancy Lundgren
Lynda Lundquist
Sylvia Lundquist
Vivian Lunsford
M & C Tire
Nicole Macaluso
Amber Maccarone
Heather & Chris Macdonald
Kelsey Macdonald
Bradley Madison
Kerrie Madson
Alex And Kellie Maetzold
Maggie May Photography
Mark Magill
Jason Mahugh
Jeremy Mahugh
Jerry And Lorraine Mahugh
Mahugh Fire & Safety
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Kris Maldonado
River Mallery
Malmquist Construction
Patrick Malone
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Mark And Ellen Manion
Liz Marchi
Markus Community Market
Leah Marshall
Peter & Lisa Marshall
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Scott And Ricarda Martin
Jayne Martinson
Anthony Massicci
Nancy Massicci
Masterpiece Carpet One
Anne Matlin
Susan Matovich
Debbie Maue
Felipe Mayo
Donnie Mcadams
Kathy Mcaughan
Lois McClaren
Andrea Mcclelland
Angie Mccrorie
Ken And Karen Mcaffaden
Karen Mcjunkin
John And Rosemary Mckinnon
Kate And Chris Mclaughlin
Joe Mcmahon
Chase Mcomber
Megan Mcvicker
Ruth Meadows
Marcia Medler
Erin Meeks
Charlie Meienberg
Dan Meigs
Keith Melanson
Clare Menzel
Kenneth And Beatrice Merchant
Cheryl Merchant-Gawronski

Leslie Mercord
Josh & Michelle Mersberger
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Juli And John Miller
Justin Miller
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Anita Mills
Amanda Minatra
Lynn Minton
Missoula Volkswagen
Lyle Mitchell
Marie Mitchell
Paul Molina
Gaylen And Susan Moll
Montana Treehouse Retreat
Montana Burgers Kalispell Llc
Montana Coffee Traders
Montana Dentistry - Prime View
Dental
Montana Pharmacy
Montana Ski Tech
Montana Tap House / Live 2 Ski Llc
Heath Montgomery
Carol & Karl Moody
Caleb Moore
Leah Marshall
Pamela Moorman
Devonna Morgan
Haley Mortenson
Ted Lee Morton
Shane Moss
Move United
Lori Movick
Guy Mozzicato
Evan Muela
Lizzy And Doug Muir
Felipe Mayo
Murdochs
Patrick Muri
Bob Murphy
Gannon Murphy
Kevin Murphy
Murray Family
Jake And Jennifer Myers
John And Rosemary Mckinnon
Kate And Chris Mclaughlin
Joe Mcmahon
Chase Mcomber
Megan Mcvicker
Ruth Meadows
Marcia Medler
Erin Meeks
Charlie Meienberg
Dan Meigs
Keith Melanson
Clare Menzel
Kenneth And Beatrice Merchant
Cheryl Merchant-Gawronski

Lance Nelson
Nelson'S Ace Hardware
Network For Good - Facebook
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Kim And Dave Miller
Lane Miller
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Amanda Minatra
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Evan Muela
Lizzy And Doug Muir
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Murdochs
Patrick Muri
Bob Murphy
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Marcia Medler
Erin Meeks
Charlie Meienberg
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Keith Melanson
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Cheryl Merchant-Gawronski

Source Staffing
Christine Phillips
Phyllary Farm
Ross Pickert
Pig And Olive Delicatessen
Lee Pinski
Aaron Pitman
Carolyn Pitman
Elizabeth Pitman
Platt Electric
Rheanna Plemons
Solutions
Kathy Noonan
North Valley Eye Care
Northern Pines Golf Club
Northwest Imaging Pc
Northwest Montana Association
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Billy And Christina O'Donnell
John And Susan O'Donnell
Oboz
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Shawna Moore
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Big Sky
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Steph & Jim Paidas-Lockwood
Kathryn Panicek
Galina Pankratova
Marvin Parker
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Larry Parsons
Gloria Mulkey
Parsons Family Charitable Fund
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Beth Paschal
Sheena Pate
Gina Patterson
Tony Patterson
Eric Pease
Augustus L. Pedrotty
Brianna Peltz
Joel Pemberton
Curt Pendleton
Josee Pendleton
Sherry Pendleton
Tarek Penser
Gary & Cecelia Perleberg
Eric Perlstein
Laura Peschel
James Petersen
Ethan Petro
Pga Pacific Northwest Section
Pharmacy Staffing; Dba Skilled

Ridge Mountain Academy
Michael Righetti
Madeline Ritter
Asuncion Rivera
Cristobalina Rivera
Jennifer Robinson
John Robinson
Rocky Mountain Outfitters
Rocky Mountain Tile And Stone
Robert Roff
Annelizabeth Rogers
Mary Poage
Joelle Romo
Norm Root
Edward Rosado
Edward Rosado
Kenneth Ross
Rotary Club Of Kalispell
Donna Rowles
Dan & Lisa Prickett
Prime View Dental
John And Clarisse Procida
Michele L. Purcell
Nathan Purdy
Ryan Purdy
James Pyke
Pyke Family
Jun Qin
Marjorie Quant
Deborah Quick
Quigley Family Charitable Fund
Sean Quinn
Teresa And Tom Quinn
Quinn Family Fund
Fran Quiram
Kelson And Katie Ramey
Jeff Raper
Jane & Henry Ratzlaff
Laura Raykowski
Raymond H. And Florence L.
Sponberg Foundation
Raymond James Charitable Fund
Robert Reaser
Red Ants Pants Music Festival
Reddig Equipment & Repair Inc.
Reggie'S Quick Lube
Rei Co-Op Kalispell
Rei Cooperative Action Fund
Gina Patterson
Lorraine Reid
Novell Reid
Kori Reilly
Angelica Reina
Ian Remmel
Heather Rennie
John And Beth Repke
Resorts Of The Canadian Rockies
Bradford Ress
Lewis & Esta Ress
Revel Real Estate Inc.
John & Maureen Reynolds
Douglas And Marie Rhodes-
Lamoyne
Loni Rice
Kenneth Richter
Alex Riddle

Avi Shantaram
Tim And Hilary Shaw
Maryann Shea
Asuncion Rivera
Cristobalina Rivera
Jennifer Robinson
John Robinson
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Rocky Mountain Tile And Stone
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Sunrift Beer Company
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Corey Sutter
Swank Enterprises
Toot Sward
Sweet Peaks
Systems Northwest
Dillon Tabish
Tamarack Brewing Company
"Tamarack Cannabis"
Tamarack Foundation Inc.
Tamarack Ski & Lake Shop
Brian Tanko
Kent And Kim Taylor
Chris And Meg Temple
Alexa Thavorn
The Benevity Community Impact
Fund
The Buffalo Cafe
The Desoto Grill
The Deutsches
The Ferber Company
The Good Stuff Botanicals
The Iv Element
The Lodge At Whitefish Lake
The Moran Family Trust
The Pine Lodge - Delaware North
The Simple Chef Catering
The Walking Man Frame Shop &
Gallery
Matt Thien
Genevieve Thomas
Sheli Thomas
Barbara Thompson
Mike And Julie Thompson
Sabina Thompson
Keri Thorn
Darryl And Dana Thorvilson
Molly Thorvilson
Ryan Thorvilson
Chuck Thrash
Three Dog Ranch
Elizabeth Tickle
Julie Tickle
Wild Bill And Louise Tidwell
Lauren Tierney
Nancy Tigle
Justin Tilley
Tim J. Murphy Insurance Agency
Inc.
Chris Tinnin
Tobacco River Ranch

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Patrick Toner
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Townplace Suites By Marriott -
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Tracy Foundation
Diane Emery Trebesch
Treeline Creative Llc
Claire Sullivan
Deb Sullivan
Heather Sullivan
Sun Mountain Sports
Sunrift Beer Company
Sunrift Holdings
Cindy Super
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Tim J. Murphy Insurance Agency
Inc.
Chris Tinnin
Tobacco River Ranch

Whistling Andy
Frost White
Laura White
Tim White
Julia White Hoppe
Alice And Joe White-Hoppe
Whitefish Bike Retreat
Whitefish Community Foundation
Whitefish Credit Union
Whitefish Handcrafted Spirits
Whitefish Lake Golf Club
Whitefish Lake Restaurant
Whitefish Mountain Resort
Whitefish Outfitters & Tours
Whitefish Therapy & Sport Center
Whitefish Winter Carnival
Benjamin Wiley
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Gregory Zuckert

Every effort is made to correctly list and thank each donor who allows us to make a public acknowledgement of their gifts to DREAM. If your name is missing or incorrect, we apologize for our error.
Please contact us with corrections at info@dreamadaptive.org.

"As a family who loves the outdoors, we've seen firsthand the transformative power of recreation. Supporting DREAM isn't just about giving; it's about investing in the joy, independence, and potential of every individual who dreams of exploring the great outdoors."

- The Burriss Family

DONATE



WAYS TO GIVE

Our donors change lives daily through DREAM's outdoor recreation programs.

We provide more than 1,500 activities per year to people with disabilities, and we couldn't do it without the generous support of thousands of people and many businesses.

THE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT DREAM:

- Volunteer with a program or for special events
- Give a monthly or annual contribution to support our programs and operations
- Bequest and legacy giving
- Gifts of stock (appreciated stocks)
- Charitable IRA distribution
- Gifts of property
- Contribute to our Endowment held at the Whitefish Community Foundation



In 2023, we served 329 participants through 1,410 empowering lessons and opportunities.

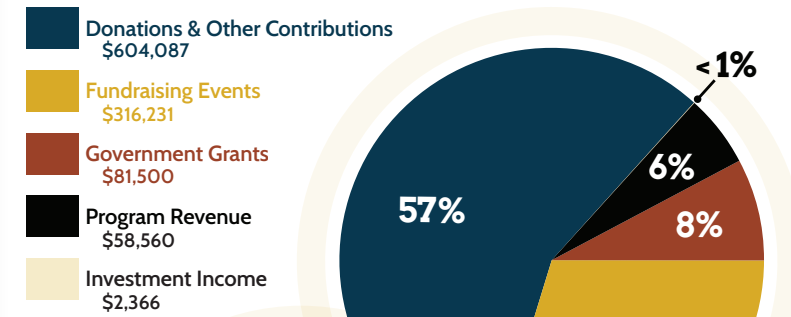
Adding volunteers and family members, our impact grows to serving over 600 people each year.

Our Impact in 2023



2023 Financials

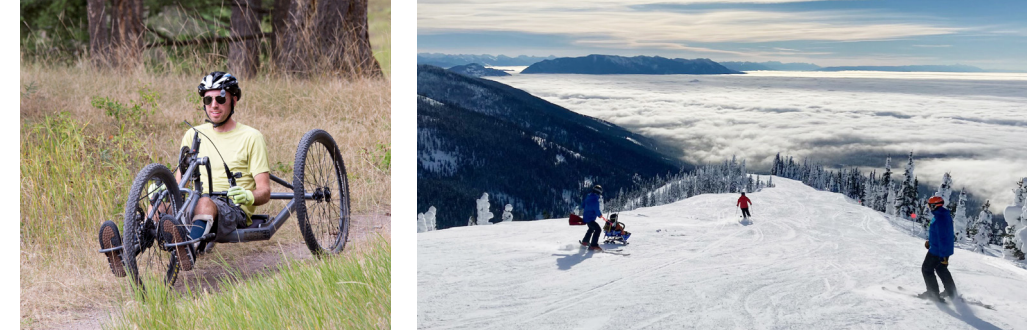
Total Revenue
\$1,062,744



Total Expenses
\$798,655



*Note: 2023 Financials include early-phase capital campaign revenue and expenses



DREAM >>> LOOKING AHEAD

I am thankful every day for the opportunity to serve as board chair for DREAM's amazing community of participants, families, supporters and volunteers. DREAM's specialty is changing lives through the wonder of the great outdoors, and ensuring that people with disabilities are not left on the sidelines. We started in the '80's with a handful of participants, and now 38 years and thousands of participants later, the demand for opportunities to access our beautiful outdoors continues to grow - so much that we have outgrown our current space at Whitefish Mountain Resort.

The resort staff has witnessed our commitment to our craft, which empowers people with disabilities by focusing on their abilities. They've watched us expand from skiing to a myriad of year-round adaptive outdoor programs, but thankfully they couldn't watch our capacity limitations turn participants away without stepping in to help.


Whitefish Mountain Resort has generously donated land near Chair 9 for a permanent year-round DREAM facility. Cushing Terrell, an architecture and engineering firm, has graciously donated the initial conceptual designs. Together, we are realizing a dream: the DREAM Adaptive Recreation Center on Whitefish Mountain. This is a huge undertaking for our small organization, but we are DREAMERS! Stay tuned as we kickoff this grand adventure and watch for your opportunity to be part of our dream.

We are so grateful to the community of volunteers, supporters, participants and their families that fuel our dreams. With your continued support, we will create even more inclusive year-round adaptive recreation opportunities for people of all abilities.

Dream with us!

Jeffra Clough
Board Chair



 DREAM Adaptive Recreation
P.O. Box 4084
Whitefish, MT 59937

 dreamadaptive.org
 info@dreamadaptive.org
 (406) 885-9539



Learn more about DREAM Adaptive Recreation
and become a volunteer at DreamAdaptive.org