



Holiday Newsletter



A Season of Gratitude and Growth

It is our pleasure to extend heartfelt holiday wishes to each of you! This year has been truly inspiring—shaped by your generosity, belief in our mission, and steadfast support that allows us to grow and thrive.

Thanks to you, we've continued expanding our programs, reaching even more individuals with disabilities, and fostering strong, lasting connections within our community. Your contributions have been instrumental in helping DREAM grow and evolve, and together, we are opening doors to exciting new possibilities on the horizon.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're thrilled to build even more inclusive, year-round recreation opportunities, ensuring that each participant experiences the joy, empowerment, and achievement that adaptive recreation brings.

From all of us at DREAM: thank you for being an essential part of our journey. Wishing you a season filled with warmth, laughter, and the joy of giving. We can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together in the year to come.

With gratitude and warm holiday wishes,

Jeffra Clough

Board Chair

Julie Tialle

Executive Director

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

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: GUIDING DREAMS-EMPOWERING THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Did you know? About 6% of the U.S. population across all ages has some form of visual impairment, with one million people considered legally blind. Individuals with visual impairments often face significant barriers to outdoor recreation, including limited access to adaptive equipment and specialized guidance. At DREAM, we're dedicated to removing these obstacles, offering tailored support and adaptive resources that unlock a world of possibility, adventure, and empowerment for every participant.



▶▶▶ LOCAL ATHLETE, RUSS FULLER

Russ moved to the area from New Jersey to experience the great outdoors. His disability is causing him to lose his vision and hearing. Russ participates in snowboarding and slalom water skiing and is training diligently to make the national adaptive waterski team! *"DREAM helps me enjoy the outdoors. But it's not just about the sports. It's also about the bond you make with those involved, the joy shared, and compassion shown. I couldn't ask for anything more. They help make my dreams reality and the programs give me something to look forward to!"*

FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND



The past three winters have brought 10 high-school students to Whitefish from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. Through Nordic and Downhill Skiing with DREAM, they gain confidence in their abilities and realize the sky is the limit to what they can accomplish. *"There was nobody holding on, which gave me the confidence to believe that blind people can do crazy things! One of the best weeks of my life."* -Dwayne



▶▶▶ BLIND VETERANS RETREAT

DREAM partners with the Whitefish Veterans Support Team annually to facilitate a unique retreat for Veterans with visual impairments on the slopes of Whitefish Mountain Resort. In February of 2024, eight veterans including Lonnie Bedwell, the first blind veteran to summit Everest, enjoyed three days of goal-based skill development. Most importantly, camaraderie flourished: *"I never knew anyone could care so much about me and my fellow blind veterans. You are my family forever."* -LB



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**SAVE
THE
DATE**

The Snow Ball

March 1st, 2025

@ 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

Partnership Spotlight -Glacier Institute-

DREAM & Glacier Institute teamed up this past year to improve the accessibility of their guided hikes, camps, and educational programs in Glacier National Park. We provided training for their staff, assessed multiple programs, and provided actionable feedback. We are looking forward to continuing our efforts in 2025 and beyond!



2023-2024 WINTER PROGRAM IMPACT

- 992 Alpine Ski and Snowboard Lessons for 213 participants
- 51 Nordic XC lessons for 25 participants
- 135 volunteers gave 4,281 hours in training and lessons

2024 SPRING - FALL PROGRAM IMPACT

- 153 Paddleboard/Kayak lessons for 76 participants
- 115 Motorized Watersports lessons for 96 participants
- 109 Mountain Bike Lessons for 32 participants
- 42 Paved-Path Cycling Lessons for 25 participants

2024 TOTAL PROGRAM IMPACT

- 1,550 lessons for 377 unique participants
- 277 lessons for 65 Military/Veterans with a disability
- 7,009 hours donated by 220 volunteers

Each year, our community has an ever-present need for more services than we can provide. We are continually assessing our capacity and identifying clear paths for controlled growth. Primary focus areas include increasing program staff, volunteer recruitment, acquiring additional adaptive equipment, building a permanent home at WMR, and continuing to create meaningful relationships with businesses and individual supporters.

Teamwork makes the DREAM work and your support is critical to our success!

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



Contact us to learn more about gifts of stock, planned giving, donor advised fund options, and lead gifts to our capital campaign:
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Thank You to our Lead Corporate Sponsors and Community Partners



Key Community Partners

