

Annual Report 2021



AbilityPLUS is now Mount Washington Valley Adaptive Sports!



Our name change reflects our vision to create and expand adaptive sports opportunities in the Mount Washington Valley, where we enjoy our beautiful natural surroundings and supportive community.

Adapting is what we are all about!

We know that Covid has been typically harder for people with disabilities and their families.

We responded by

- Offering free adaptive ski lessons
- Protecting the health of participants and instructors by providing masks for our instructors and participants
- Practicing social distancing and other safety measures that met or exceeded CDC recommendations



Laura Scrimshaw, Executive Director

Laura has a MS in Adaptive Sport/ Recreation Management and Policy. Her passion for adaptive sports began after her brother sustained a severe traumatic brain injury. Laura was among the founding members of the Nova Scotia Brain Injury Association in Nova Scotia, Canada.

She has worked in non-profit management as Director of a community-based rehabilitation program for people living with brain injury and, more recently, with YES Malawi, a grant-funded educational exchange.



Bob Levin, Winter Program Director

Bob has been an educator for over 35 years, and a volunteer instructor with AbilityPLUS/ MWVAS for over a decade. His passion and patience he brings to each lesson has helped each student learn, play, and experience new snow adventures each day. Bob is looking forward to this season with all the changes and challenges and hopes to bring another dimension to adaptive program.

A Veteran Visits

In the throes of the pandemic, a Marine veteran with a triple limb amputation called us with an exciting but ambitious plan: He had learned to ski after injury through Move United, and he wanted to ski the East in a monoski with outriggers. He had to navigate several logistical hurdles to make this happen: He needed a companion with him who could provide on-hill personal assistance, in keeping with Covid distancing protocols (His girlfriend Jamie, also a veteran, filled this role). They had to quarantine for two weeks in order to travel. His visit was a richly rewarding one for all of us. He quickly got used to the new monoski and our particular ski lift configuration. After a few warm-up runs, it was straight to the top!

His passion, enthusiasm and love for life shone through. We were all so grateful for the energy he brought to us in this difficult time of the pandemic; we all wished we could hug him in gratitude; hopefully, someday, we will. Thank you, Marine Staff Sergeant Timothy Brown (Ret) for your sacrifice and service.





2021 White Mountain Jeep Invasion raised fun and funds for MWVAS. We are so grateful to Jason Morris and all the Jeep Invasion organizers for their continued support, and for providing such a fun event.

Thank You, 2021 Volunteers!

Kieran Corbett

Antonella Cordella

Susan Croteau

Elizabeth Horne

Kate Johnson

Cheryl Keator

John Keator

Bob Levin

Paul McClintock

Glenn Nile

Paul Pacenka

Lynette Pierce

Meghan Pierce

Richard Pierce

Kris Puzas

David Quigley

Ken Quigley

Thomas Ravenelle

Dianalyn Sirota

Interested in volunteering?

Call, visit or email

info@mwvas.org.

Thank you!

A Volunteer's Story

Livy and Me

Over my 20+ years of volunteering with Mount Washington Valley Adaptive Sports, I've taught students from all across the country and even from foreign lands. My long-time student Livy is the exception to that experience, however; she and I both live in the same town, only about one mile apart.

But I didn't know Livy until we met at Attitash, shortly after I began volunteering in 1999. It turned out our son, Evan, did through school (he was volunteering with me at the time) and I knew her Mom, Carla, and step-father, Richard, as professional acquaintances. But I didn't know Livy until we skied together, and that's how the Livy and Richard friendship began.

And oh, what a friendship it's been! By my estimation, we've skied hundreds of tethered miles together and talked for hundreds of hours on chairlifts about her favorite subject - cats, cats, and more cats - reciting names, ages and weights of the cats in our families. And she has brought other Livy Fans into her orbit, most notably the time, back in 2010, when she had eight of us lined up at the top of Learning Center catching snowflakes on our tongues.

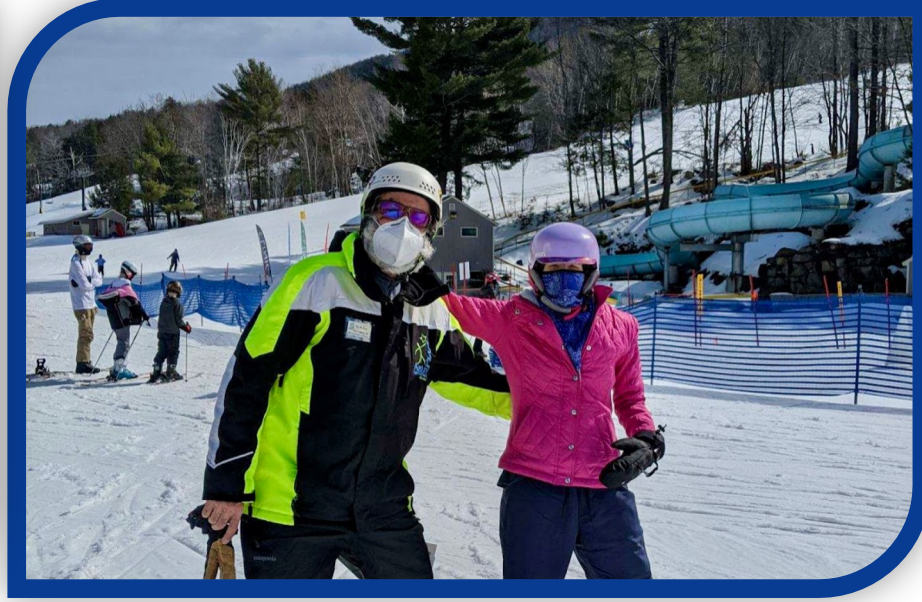
Our close proximity at home has also led to a family friendship beyond skiing, and we've supported Carla and Richard's work in the affordable housing field. We have Livy art in our home and occasionally meet up to talk cats and family news. And even in my semi-retired volunteer status with MWVAS, all anyone in the program office needs to say is "Livy will be here" and I'll happily make the four-hour drive from Rhode Island to ski with her and her family and continue our MWVAS story for one more year.

Thank you, Mount Washington Valley Adaptive Sports, for bringing Livy and me together - just one of many, many stories about students I've met that have me referring to my decades with the program as "Skiing for Joy!"

2005



2021



Instructor and athlete growing together, with fun and love: Rich and Livy

The Joe Heinricher Award



About the award

Joe left us too soon and embodied everything that MWWAS stands for and strives to achieve:

Selflessness in service

The belief that all achievements are to be celebrated

The belief that all participants can achieve beyond their perceived capabilities

The belief that everyone should and can be included



The 2021 award winner is Liz Craveiro, who stepped forward as a volunteer Program Director during an uncertain time, and gave us a successful, Covid-free season. Liz's selflessness and skills made programming possible!

The belief that everyone brings value

Liz Craveiro, 2021 Award Winner!

Chair and founding member Mark Shepherd received a much-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award this year in recognition of his many years of charitable work. Mount Washington Valley Adaptive Sports accepted a \$2,500 gift in honor of Mark's significant accomplishments.

Mark saw a profound need for adaptive sports and recreation opportunities here in the Northeast. He answered that need with a mission to build an organization which ensured that outdoor recreation would be for everybody. Over 20 years later, Mark's labor of love has provided thousands of adaptive sport lessons and clinics to participants of all ages and all disability types.

CONGRATULATIONS, MARK!

Invest in Others Lifetime Achievement Award
Honorable Mention



Chairman's Letter

We are very proud to tell you about how we are doing at Mount Washington Valley Adaptive Sports. This year the COVID-19 pandemic challenged so much of what we cherish in life. The Board of Directors, our Volunteer Program Director, our amazing volunteers, and our awesome donors tirelessly worked and contributed to provide a safe and fun experience for our students.

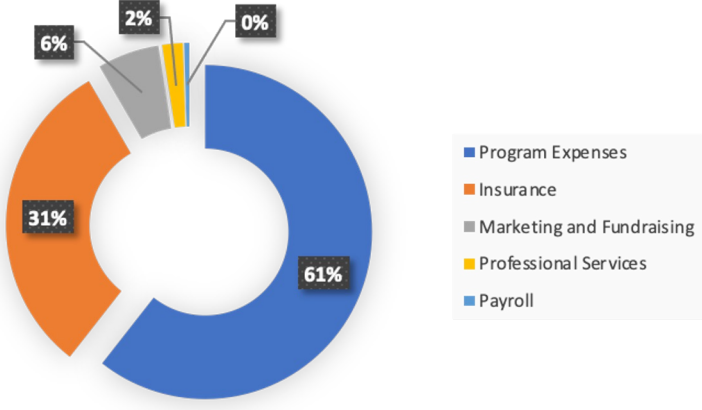
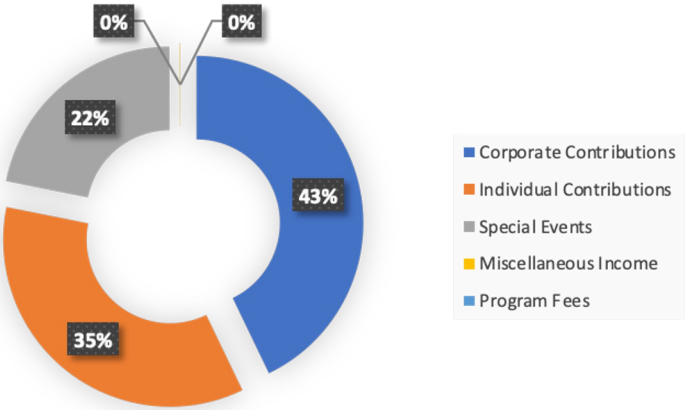
We are excited that we are able to offer a full experience this coming ski season. The equipment has been all checked and we will have new jackets for our volunteers with our new logo and name of the organization. We are actively reaching out to our current volunteers and recruiting new volunteers to meet the demand for an active ski season. Last year we safely provided lessons for our wonderful students. We are proud to share that we successfully met with our students on the ski hill, and no person contracted the virus under our care. The volunteers were courageous in serving our mission. We were able to provide all our lessons in a safe and fun manner. I am grateful for all the work our team does to provide the life changing experiences for our students. Our students were able to get out and ski with a challenging backdrop of health precautions and protocols for everyone to be safe and healthy.

MWVAS is proud to have its offering at Attitash Mountain. Vail Resorts has shown itself to be a great partner in serving our mission. They share our passion in making a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities. The mission of MWVAS is to make sure that we can compassionately, equitably, and safely provide outdoor sports activities to persons with disabilities. As many of you know, the services that we provide make it possible for our students to experience the thrill of snow sports. We need a mountain to ski, and Vail resorts needs an organization like MWVAS to provide lessons, the equipment, expertise, and the volunteers for our students to ski. What a great partnership. We will be ready for this upcoming season with our leadership team, our volunteers, and the fine people working at Attitash Mountain.

We had to take some draconian measures at the beginning of the pandemic. This was very difficult, but it has served the organization well. The duty of the board of directors is to be good stewards of the organization while ensuring our ability to sustainably serve our mission. The difficult decisions that were decisively made early in the pandemic positioned the organization to move forward with the financial strength that is necessary to serve our mission. The generosity of our donors is so important to the sustainability of MWVAS, and we are grateful for each of you that contribute your financial resources and your precious time. We rely so much on the giving that you all share with us, and the cost of serving our mission continues to ever increase. We have a strong base to meet our goals of service this coming season. We do need your support in making sure that we can continue to deliver a fabulous, safe, and fun outdoor sporting experience.

We remain steadfast in serving persons with disabilities to build healthy, inclusive communities of outdoor athletes. The community of our volunteers, partners, donors, and students is such an amazing group of people. I feel so honored to be a part of this community. We are counting on your support through this season to honor the founding mission of this organization to continue to offer the high-quality experience that our students have experienced for over 23 years. We greatly appreciate your generosity, your partnership, and your friendship.

Financial Report



Last year we raised \$38,504.98

Last year we invested \$22,875.30

Thank You To Our Donors

\$5000 +

Kathy McKechnie
Mark and Maria Shepherd
White Mountain Jeep Invasion

\$1000+

Amazon Smile \$1400
Craig Askenazi \$1000
Richard Pierce
Olivier Roguet 1000.00
Rorer Foundation \$2000
Rich Staples

\$500+

Suzanne Grant
The Grey Rocks Foundation
Bruce Curtis McLane

\$100+

Anonymous \$275
Azimuth Check Foundation
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Theodore & Jane Bond " 200.00 "
Alaine Breen 201.06
Carrie Bridge
Kieran Corbett \$265
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Eastern Inter-Club Ski League
Maureen Enos " 100.00
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David & Maryann Lowry 100.00
Michael McIlrath " 100.00
Penny Quinlan

Steven St. Pierre
In Memory of Barbara May Seed
Alexandra Wright

Other valued Donors:

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Hillary & Russ Corner
Liz & Dennis Craveiro
Karen Erikson 76.48
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Joel Getman
The Patricia W. Higgins Revocable
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Susan Lannan
Jeffrey Fullam & Melissa Mandrell
Stephen Picone



Frank and Peter Levandowski Endowment



SHEPHERD
FINANCIAL PARTNERS

