



Reaching Out

Midwinter Newsletter 2010

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ASPNC Is Proud to Introduce Executive Director, Sandy Olney

Sandy has extensive experience in outdoor recreation, including several years in adaptive sports. She is part of a close collegial network which includes founders and principals of the regional and national adaptive sports community. She has Level I Adaptive and Level II Alpine Skiing certification from Professional Ski Instructors of America and is working this season toward completion of her Level II Adaptive certification. She also has qualifications as a Wilderness First Responder, Red Cross Certified Water Safety Instructor, as well as Lifeguard. She is also a National Outdoor Leadership School alum. We know Sandy will advance

our new organization to a respected place in the adaptive sports community through her expertise, dedication, caring attitude and infectious enthusiasm.

Kick-Off Event for ASPNC

On Saturday, November 7th 2009, ASPNC friends and volunteers came together at the Easton Town Hall to celebrate the birth of an organization that was just an idea back in August.

By the time of this celebration, we had become an affiliate of AbilityPLUS, Inc., raised start-up funds, located a site for our headquarters in Easton, NH, and hired Sandy Olney as our Executive Director. The Steering Group and our talented volunteers created a Logo, defined a mission statement, created bylaws, identified candidates for a Board of Directors, developed an impressive business plan and created marketing materials and a website. On October 22nd 2009, we became officially incorporated in the State of New Hampshire. We began to make partnerships with area resorts for our activity venues, and began providing recreational services for golf, biking, hiking, and canoeing. Our winter programs are now underway, and we are awaiting approval from the IRS to be designated a nonprofit organization in our own right.



Sandy Olney and Karen Moore

Words from Our President, Jim Moore



Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country is a young organization, committed to providing sports and recreation opportunities to people with disabilities. Our start-up efforts were guided by seven founding principles:

- Our new adaptive organization would work with all disabilities.
- We would provide services year-round.
- We would focus in a very concentrated way on the North Country.
- Our headquarters would not be at a ski resort.
- We would develop strong working relationships with partner organizations for carrying out our mission.
- We would be a membership organization, characterized by openness.
- We would commit ourselves to raising a large amount of money.

These principles represent a bold and exciting vision for our organization. They will be the foundation of our services to persons with disabilities. They will guide our training of volunteers and our use of adaptive technologies. And they will be critical for us as we continue to grow in the months and years ahead.

ASPNC Board of Directors

At their meeting on November 15, 2009, the Incorporators appointed an eleven member Board of Directors who will serve for one year.

The photo on the right was taken of the Board members at their February meeting.

Pictured in the front row starting from the left are Thomas E. Norcott, Vice President Betty Ann Trought and Secretary H.C. "Cris" Criswell. In the back row are Michael J. Platt, Deborah Stewart, President James Moore, Treasurer Maria Hynes, Gary S. Biadaz and Executive Director Sandy Olney.

Marie Hennessy was attending via telephone. Paul MacMillan was not able to attend the meeting.



The Littleton Record Helps Introduce ASPNC to the Community

ASPNC extends thanks to Paul Hayes at the Littleton Record for his informative article entitled *No Limits: Non Profit Breaks Down Barriers for Disabled*. In order to have an appreciation for our new organization, Paul actually accompanied our volunteers on a hiking party with participant Sandy White. People throughout the community have mentioned the article and have become interested in supporting us in our mission of providing year round opportunities for sports and recreation for persons with physical or developmental disabilities.

ASPNC Participant Spotlight: Lily Lyndes “Big girls ski just like her!”



“When she participates in adaptive activities, Lily likes the wind blowing in her face. The faster you go the more excited she gets. She gives the biggest smile when I talk to her about how “big girls” ski just like her. She likes to do what other “big kids” are doing. It must give her a sense of accomplishment.”

Keri Lyndes - Lily’s Mom

Lily is eight years old and has Rett’s Syndrome, a neurological disorder that affects her ability to speak and restricts her ability to walk independently. When her parents, who are outdoor enthusiasts, first had Lily, they were afraid they would not be able to continue participating in the sports they loved. Adaptive Sports has made it possible for Lily to enjoy outdoor activities with her family.

Lily and her family especially enjoy skiing now that they have discovered the Bi-Unique Ski, a sit ski with a molded bucket seat mounted on two specifically designed skis. Her mother and her father have both learned to tether the Bi-Unique with the guidance of ASPNC volunteer Dick Farrell. Lily’s grandfather goes along to take videos with background sounds of Lily laughing and squealing with delight. Dick Farrell’s eyes light up when talking about working with the Lyndes family; they are truly inspirational. We are looking forward to biking and swimming with Lily in the upcoming months.



Fundraising Update



Dave Smith

ASPNC is off to a good start with fundraising, thanks to Mike Platt and his committee. The following campaigns, contributions and grants are integral to this success. We are extremely thankful for all of this support.

Dave Smith is raising funds for his “Thru Hike for Mike” by hiking the Appalachian Trail from Springer Mt. in Georgia to Katahdin in Maine, approx 2,175 miles thru 14 states. Dave’s commitment to helping people with disabilities stems from the inspiration of his brother Mike; Dave is doing the hike and donating all of the proceeds to ASPNC in honor of his brother. Dave and his wife Pam are enthusiastic supporters of our organization, as well as active volunteers. Dave has already raised over \$2,500. If you are interested in joining Dave on his hike or making a contribution to support his endeavor you can find more information at www.firstgiving.com/davesathike.



We received a very generous contribution from Ronnie Lyster, Littleton Chevrolet.

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The Lisbon Lions Club made an initial contribution towards the purchase of a much needed Jr. Bi-Unique.

We have been awarded a Grant from the Turtle Ridge Foundation, established by Olympic medalist and four-time world skiing champion Bode Miller. Miller, his family and Cannon Mountain will host "The Bodefest Ski Challenge" at Cannon Mountain Ski Area on April 3rd 2010.

ASPNC has a Challenge/Match Campaign. A generous donor has offered to match donations up to the sum of \$10,000. The total raised so far is over \$6,700. You can find out more information or make a donation at www.firstgiving.com/adaptivesportspartners.

ASPNC Students Prepare for the Special Olympics ❄️❄️❄️ Ready, set, go!



Snowshoeing Race: Ava Crompton and Sandy Olney

Practice began in early January for students preparing for Special Olympics. Snowshoers have been perfecting skills while having fun right at our Headquarters and in the Franconia State Park. ASPNC will be having its own team called *North Country UNITED*. ASPNC has Special Olympic certified coaches who help athletes train for Special Olympic competitions. We also assist other teams with training, utilizing ASPNC venue partners and volunteer coaches. Winter sport offerings include snowshoe, alpine skiing, floor hockey and basketball. Our coaches supported athletes at the State Games at Waterville Valley beginning on Sunday, February 28th through Tuesday, March 2nd.

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