

PROVIDING OUTDOOR ADVENTURE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1987.



**ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER**



**2020 SPRING UPDATE**



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is great to see that despite a global pandemic, Mother Nature continues on her way and that spring is in full swing. Spring is a rebirth of nature after a long wintery sleep, and during these difficult times, it is great to see that Crested Butte is turning very green and the flowers are starting to pop.

We know that being in nature is healing and offers hope. Being in nature is proven to reduce stress, improve moods and promote physical activity. This is exactly why our mission has never been more important and why we are doing everything in our power to get back to helping people with disabilities and their families return to the great outdoors.

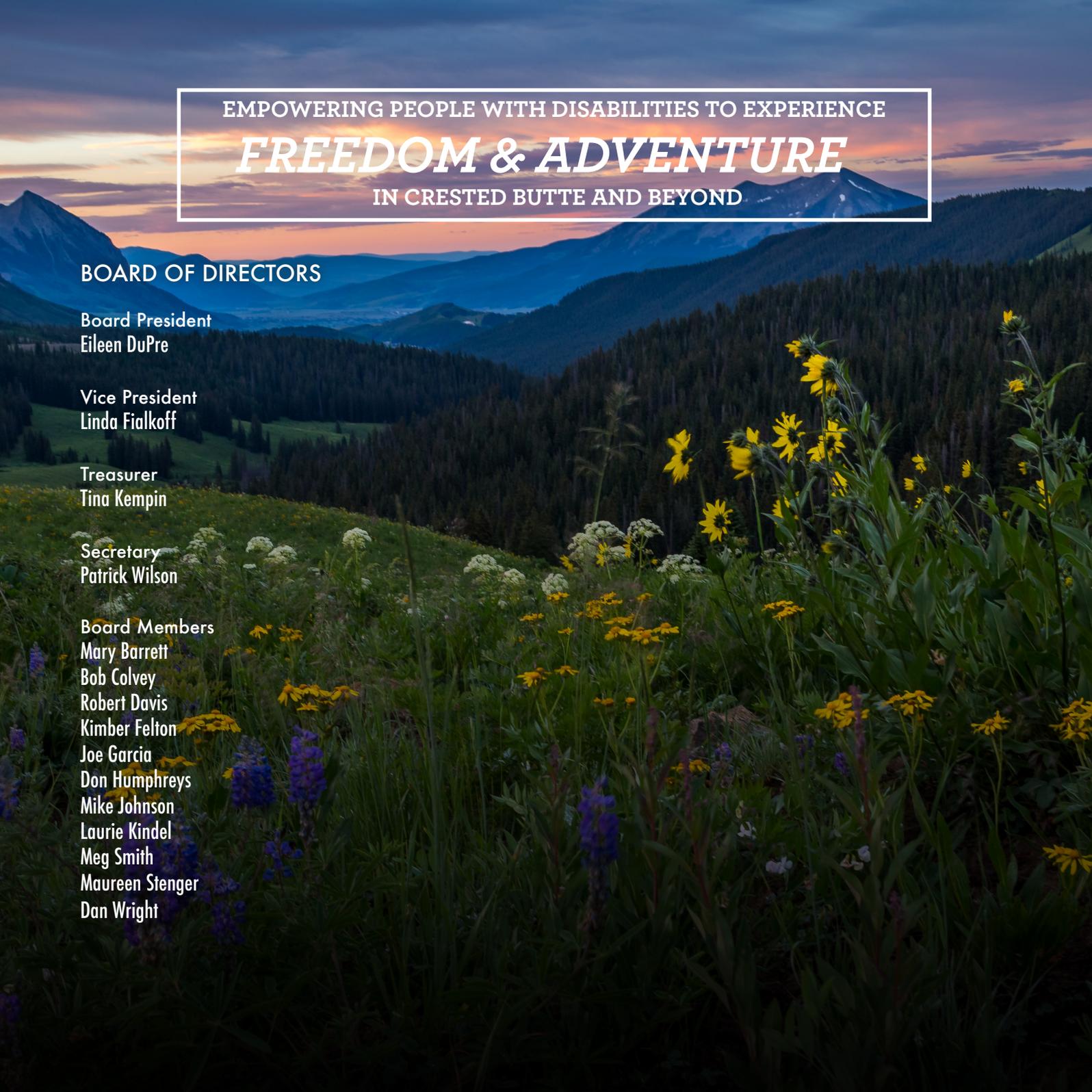
The Program Team has been working harder than ever to incorporate recommendations from the CDC, the State of Colorado and Gunnison County (as well as other reliable resources) to establish a set of policies and procedures to manage risk during these uncharted times. The safety of everybody involved with the Adaptive Sports Center has always been our number one priority, it is who we are and what we do. Our staff is top-notch, and I have absolute confidence that we will do a great job of addressing this new challenge while providing high-quality outdoor programming that changes lives. We are all really looking forward to the start of our summer programs on July 1st.

The Development Team is very busy working to maintain our funding to keep our organization running. The 25th Annual Crested Butte Open will be a virtual event this year, as we anticipate that local regulations will still limit the size of groups, certainly precluding a gathering of 425 supporters! There are many people putting a great deal of time in to keep the event viable and entertaining. The event will kick off on July 29th with online bidding for some great auction items, and will end with a one-hour virtual program on Sunday, August 2nd. The event committee has come up with some really creative ideas that we will start unveiling next month. Please check our social media pages and be on the look-out for email announcements as well for updates. One great thing about a virtual event is that it allows anybody and everybody to join, so I hope that you can make it.

All of us here at the Adaptive Sports Center are grateful for your participation and support during these times, and are proud to have you part of the ASC family. We look forward to being able to recreate and celebrate with you in the near future. Until then, I hope that you and yours are all staying safe and healthy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher K. Hensley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christopher K. Hensley  
Executive Director, Adaptive Sports Center



EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO EXPERIENCE

# ***FREEDOM & ADVENTURE***

IN CRESTED BUTTE AND BEYOND

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# WINTER 2019-2020 REWIND

## DECEMBER

Fort Carson  
Veterans with disabilities  
December 5 - 9

Operation BASH  
Veterans with visual impairments  
December 8 - 14

Los Angeles VA  
Veterans with disabilities  
December 15 - 21

## JANUARY

Expedition School  
Young adults with visual impairments  
January 5 - 11

DC Burn Foundation  
Adult burn survivors  
January 12 - 18

Roger Pepper Adventure Camp (RPAC)  
Teen burn survivors  
January 12 - 18

Serendipity  
Youth with learning disabilities  
January 17 - 21

DC Burn Firefighters Foundation  
Adult burn survivors  
January 20 - 26

First Descents  
Adults with multiple sclerosis  
January 20 - 25

Texas Shredders  
Adults with spinal cord injuries and  
neurological disabilities  
January 26 - February 1

Texas School for the Blind and  
Visually Impaired  
Youth with visual impairments  
January 30 - February 4

## FEBRUARY

First Descents  
Cancer survivors/fighters  
February 2 - 8

Brooke Army Medical Center  
Veterans with disabilities  
February 2 - 8

First Descents  
Cancer survivors/fighters  
February 9 - 15

Craig Hospital  
Adults with spinal cord and  
traumatic brain injuries  
February 9 - 15

Mountain Mobility  
Youth with visual impairments  
February 13 - 17

Fort Carson  
Veterans with disabilities  
February 17 - 23

Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Adults with spinal cord injuries  
February 16 - 22

Rancho Los Amigos  
Adults with spinal cord injuries and  
neurological disabilities  
February 23 - 29

Chapel Haven  
Adults with developmental disabilities  
February 23 - 28

## MARCH

Northern Suburban Special  
Recreation Association  
Adults with developmental disabilities  
March 1 - 5

Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind  
Youth with visual impairments  
March 4 - 8





**29**

**Group Visits  
For Winter 2019-2020**

**3,100**

**Participant Lessons  
For Winter 2019-2020**

**5**

**Veteran Group Visits  
For Winter 2019-2020**

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# BOB VALENTINE & STEVE BOLTON

The allure of skiing the Rocky Mountains is what first brought Steve Bolton and Bob Valentine to Colorado in 2012. However, after their first visit to Crested Butte, they fell in love with the town and its people. Six years ago, Steve and Bob became a part of the Mt. Crested Butte community and made it their full-time residence in 2016.

Steve and Bob were first introduced to the Adaptive Sports Center when they attended the Crested Butte Open. “We were very impressed both with the event and especially the mission,” said Steve.

Memories are created at the Adaptive Sports Center for participants, donors and the community. Steve’s favorite memory goes back to a plane ride not long after attending his first Crested Butte Open. “I met a young participant on the plane and heard her enthusiasm. I was running late to get on the plane, so it wasn’t until we landed in Gunnison that I realized that they were a group of participants who were all spinal injury patients,” says Steve. “Seeing all these young athletes in wheelchairs at the airport was jarring. They all had life-changing injuries, yet you could sense their excitement for their upcoming adventures. I had never felt so inspired to support a charitable organization than in that moment.”

Bob also had a very personal experience that



connected them to the ASC mission and vision. “Bob had a cousin, Tom Cockburn, who had spina bifida and had a lifetime of physical struggles. Bob immediately felt a connection to the ASC to honor Tom’s memory,” said Steve. “We knew right away that we wanted to support this organization that was providing something so special in this very special place in the mountains.



**Steve Bolton and Bob Valentine (far right) at the 2017 Crested Butte Open**

“The ASC offers those with disabilities the chance to redefine their limitations. Whatever their challenge is, they have these incredible adventures that prove they can accomplish anything.”

Over the past few years Steve and Bob have continued to deepen their relationship with the ASC as Steve is a member of the Adventure Club and Crested Butte Open committees. Steve’s participation on the committees has been invaluable, and Steve believes that the events the ASC offers are key, not only for the organization but also for the Crested Butte community. “I know that the funds raised are very important to the

ASC, but I also think the CB Open is an important part of the summer in Crested Butte. It’s the events that get people connected to the community and there’s not a better event than the CB Open. We have taken friends as guests, made new friends at the event and we always have a great time.”

If someone is considering whether to make a donation to the ASC, Steve and Bob say that there is no better organization to support, whether it’s through volunteering your time or making a donation. “Those of us lucky enough to call Crested Butte home are extremely proud to have this world-class organization and facility. However you are able

to support the ASC, whether you donate your time or your money, you will get more out of your relationship with the ASC than you put in. Your donations make a real difference to real families. Not many charities can say that their work is life-changing, but we strongly believe that the Adaptive Sports Center changes lives.”

**[Click here to read more about the Major Donor Adventure Club and the 2020 virtual Crested Butte Open.](#)**



First Descents visited Mt. Crested Butte in January, where young adults living with MS came for a week of community, adventure and fun.



ASC instructors and participants from NSSRA enjoy some downtime at the Umbrella Bar by taking a selfie for everyone to see.



Luis Nevarez of D.C. Firefighters Burn Foundation catches some snowflakes as he heads out with his fellow firefighters in January 2020.



Instructor Ally Kranz and volunteer David Brennan with a participant from Rancho Los Amigos getting ready to hit the slopes.



Fun was had by all when the crew from Craig Hospital got to spend time with our ASC instructors.



The mission of Rancho Los Amigos is to provide each patient with the best possible medical and rehabilitation services, and it's great to see all their participants smile when they visit the ASC.



**The Grubbs Family visited the Adaptive Sports Center this winter, and had an amazing time enjoying some fresh powder while having fun being able to ski together.**

PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT  
**Julie Maloukis**



**Julie Maloukis striking a familiar pose that she's done since 2003, conquering Mt. Crested Butte.**

Julie Maloukis has been visiting the Adaptive Sports Center every year since 2003. The programs at the ASC have helped her to take control of her health and well-being after suffering from the effects of a stroke.

Before coming for the first time, she definitely was nervous about participating. But Julie says, "After getting there and skiing, my whole attitude changed. I felt like if I could ski, I could get through the day at home and

it gave me an added level of confidence."

Her experiences at the Adaptive Sports Center have made an everlasting impact on her mental

and physical health. Julie recalls when she first started coming to Adaptive, “My confidence and brain were so limited that I couldn’t adapt to different voices but they were so patient with me. They cared. They taught me in a way I could learn and that made me want to do better and want to learn.”

Julie’s favorite sport is skiing and that drew her to the ASC’s Ladies Session, a weekend of programming tailored to female adults with physical disabilities from across the nation.

“During Ladies Session, we would talk about physical things that could help each other out, but we also talked about how we relate to other people and how other people treat us as women with disabilities,” says Julie. “We talked about techniques and how we got along in the world and those things are very important to me. It helped me feel like I wasn’t alone.”

“The ASC isn’t just another program. It’s made up of people who care about working with



people with disabilities and teaching them that anything is possible. I think it’s the people, the mission, and the overall atmosphere of the ASC that is so important and I feel like I belong there. I feel like I’m not just another person in a wheelchair. I’m just one of the community and I love that.”

In July 2019, the Adaptive Sports Center opened the Kelsey Wright Building, a state-of-the-art facility designed to help empower more participants in their daily lives. Julie saw the impact as soon as she entered into the building for the first time. “You walk in the doors and it’s this huge area. You can watch other people get fitted up and see how wonderful they feel when they get into their skis. I

can go and stay overnight in the lodging in the building. I can participate in any activity there and I feel welcome. It’s like a second home.”

“Everything and everyone at the Adaptive Sports Center is devoted to making individuals with disabilities successful. I’m so grateful for this. Just so grateful for making this possible. The Adaptive Sports Center is more a way of life. It has helped me become a better person.”

**[Click here to view the impact that Ladies Session has on our participants.](#)**



THE ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER ENHANCES  
THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL  
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES. THE  
SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS THE ASC PROVIDES  
ARE INCLUSIVE TO FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,  
EMPOWER OUR PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR  
DAILY LIVES AND HAVE A POSITIVE  
ENDURING EFFECT ON SELF-EFFICACY,  
HEALTH, INDEPENDENCE AND  
OVERALL WELL-BEING.



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