

PROVIDING OUTDOOR ADVENTURE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1987.



ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER  
30 YEARS OF ADVENTURE



2017 SPRING UPDATE



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

### Celebrating 30 Years of Adventure!

The Adaptive Sports Center is embarking on our 30th year of changing the lives of people with disabilities from around the country and abroad. While in our 30th year, we will also hit another big milestone; our instructors will deliver our 70,000th activity. That's 70,000 times someone with a disability has embarked on a mountain adventure with one of our highly-trained staff and experienced a positive impact on their lives. It is humbling to think about the sheer number of lives we have been able to touch thanks to our passionate community of staff and volunteers, and our equally passionate community of generous donors who make all of this possible.

As this organization's Executive Director, I am also very aware of the importance of charting our course for the next thirty years. I believe that the biggest key to ensuring our future is the construction of the Kelsey Wright Building in the Crested Butte Mountain Resort Base area. Over the past year and a half, we've raised over \$7.4 million from an incredibly dedicated group of supporters who really believe in the impact that this building will have on our clients. It is with these donors in mind that we recognize our responsibility to spend these funds as effectively as possible. Currently, we are in the process of selecting an architectural firm to design our dream building. With your help, the funding will stay on track to break ground a year from now and open our doors in 2019.

Meanwhile, we have just wrapped up one of our busiest winters on record. Unfortunately, it was so busy that we had to turn some people away due to lack of space. We have always had the philosophy that we would never turn a person away due to their disability or their ability to pay; now we need to work hard to never have to turn anyone away due to a lack of capacity again.

We have been lucky to work with some amazing groups and individuals from around the world. Visits from organizations like

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Warfighter Sports, the Expedition School, Kennedy Krieger Institute and the International Neurorehabilitation Institute accounted for just some of the more than 3,000 activities executed this winter. Each of those activities, from the wages we pay our dedicated staff to the state-of-the-art adaptive sports equipment that we use, was made possible in part by our generous donors. We could not do it without their help.

As we prepare for another busy summer here in Crested Butte, I would like to share one final thought. Last fall, I traveled to New York City to attend a conference for the American Supply Association, which has been an incredible supporter of our Operation Rise & Conquer (ORC) program. I was joined by one of our ORC participants, Steve Baskis, to report on the success of the program. Steve completely lost his sight due to a roadside bomb while serving in Iraq. As anyone who has visited NYC knows, it can be an intimidating place to get around; now imagine trying to get around without your sight (think crosswalks with crazy cab drivers about). It was incredible to see how Steve approached the challenge and how he navigated the city's busy streets and subway with gusto. After losing his sight, Steve joined the ASC for a visually impaired mountaineering course and has gone on to climb mountains around the world, moved to Colorado, and has plans to pursue a college degree. Steve is the epitome of the empowerment that I see take place in many of the participants who come through our doors, and this experience with him was one of the highlights of my year.

Thank you for helping change lives like Steve's. I hope to see you out here this summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher K. Hensley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "H" and "S".

Christopher K. Hensley  
Executive Director, Adaptive Sports Center



# CELEBRATING THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dan Wright

# THE KELSEY WRIGHT BUILDING

## A Legacy of Courage



The Adaptive Sports Center's new facility will be named the Kelsey Wright Building in memory of one of our first, and longest attending, participants.

Kelsey Wright began skiing with the Adaptive Sports Center in 1987 and was able to see first-hand how ASC programming flourished over the years. Kelsey's

parents, Dan and Pat Wright, feel that Kelsey's experience at the ASC was life changing for her.

"Kelsey broke a lot of stereotypes about people with disabilities. She surprised some people she met when she told them that she could ski," Dan Wright says. "She loved to go fast, ski powder and connect with nature. She also loved to

show the world that her disability didn't define her."

After more than 25 years participating in activities with the Adaptive Sports Center, Kelsey passed away from complications related to Mitochondrial Disease in 2015.



Kelsey's family feels so strongly about the difference the ASC's programming makes in the lives of its participants that they are contributing the key naming gift towards the FOR EVERYONE Campaign.

"We hope that our contribution to the Adaptive Sports Center helps

many more people like Kelsey discover new ways to thrive," Kelsey's father, Dan Wright says.

ASC Executive Director Christopher Hensley says that the facility's name will embody Kelsey's spirit of perseverance and courage. "Kelsey inspired all of us to do our best and help

others live their lives to the fullest."

"The Kelsey Wright Building will allow us to impact many more people than we do today while maintaining the high quality of our programming, and secure our future for many decades to come," Hensley says.

## FOR EVERYONE CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

The FOR EVERYONE Campaign has been underway for just over a year and we are fortunate to have raised \$7.4 million toward our \$10 million goal. 100 percent of our board of directors has made a contribution, as have many of our staff and volunteers.

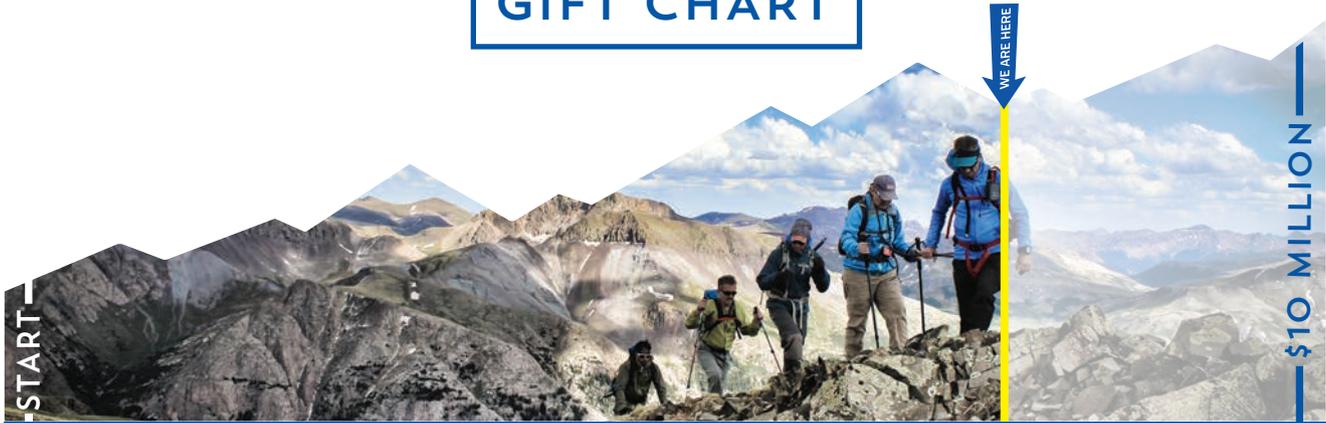
Because of this momentum, in Summer 2016 we purchased the Outpost Building in the CBMR base area, which we intend to demolish and replace with the new facility.

Once we have raised \$7.5 million, we will begin the process of hiring an architect to begin design of the facility.

Please help us make this dream a reality. Donate at:

**ADAPTIVESPORTS.ORG/  
FOREVERYONE**

# GIFT CHART



**CURRENTLY PLEDGED: \$7.4 MILLION**

## CAMPAIGN DONORS AS OF MAY 1, 2017

### **\$500,000+**

Anonymous (3)  
Cynthia & Kevin O'Brien  
Wright Family in Memory of  
Kelsey Wright

### **\$250,000 - \$499,999**

American Supply Association  
Mary & Mark Barrett  
Aimee & Mitch Dryer  
Toddy & Greg Glosser  
Cathey & Don Humphreys

### **\$100,000 - \$249,999**

Cadeia LLC  
Linda & Bob Colvey  
Bo & Annie Davis  
Linda & Frank Fialkoff  
Maureen & Keith Gamble  
The Hare Family  
Brian & Jelesaa, Cole & Addison  
Hatchett  
Nan & Mike Johnson  
Kai Kai & Charles Josephs  
John & Erin Kiltz  
Luke & Kathryn Kissam

The Wharton Family  
Whetstone Mountain Foundation

### **\$25,000 - \$99,999**

Albemarle Foundation  
Anonymous (2)  
Jim and Doris Brogan  
Frank Burch  
Calandra Family Fund  
Anna Reilly & Matthew Cullinan  
Roger & Sandy Dorf  
Eileen & James DuPre  
Dave & Jeanne Geiman in  
Memory of Peter Yount Geiman  
Heinle Family  
Mike Mollison & Family  
Sue & Jim Oates  
Meg & Michael Smith  
Kimber Felton & Mike Ukropina  
W.M. Keck Foundation

### **Under \$25,000**

Susanna & Kevin Adams  
Anonymous  
Ben Banker  
Brian Barker

Allison & Mike Butcher  
Meg Clark  
Raemon & J. Robert Davis  
Logan DeMarcus  
Janet R. Farmer  
Emily Girdwood & Mark Cram  
Virginia Greenway  
Robert Guenther  
Lindsay Hallvik  
Lisa & Mark Hastings  
Kelzey Haun  
Sally & Christopher Hensley  
Emily Katz  
Tina & Nicholas Kempin  
Robin & Jeffery Kerber  
Laurie Kindel  
Dan Klim  
Chris Koeppe  
Barbara Silverman & John W.  
Kozvak  
Hannah Lang  
Brittany Leal  
Jo Ann Macy & Danek  
Bienkowski  
Pam & Craig Maestro  
Kay Mize

Janet & Tom Murphy  
Alex Norton  
Richard Paylor  
Alexandria Petropoulos  
Elizabeth Philbin  
Brian Raftry  
Jennifer & Chris Read  
Kelly & Scott Redding  
Dayna Regan  
Gabe Robbins  
Sarah Robbins  
Barb & Clay Robinson  
In Memory of Art Rogers  
Luke Scheffler  
Janet & Lewis Shaw  
Sieck Family  
Pete Steinberg  
Maureen & Christopher Stenger  
Nicole Swaggerty & Sean  
Pettersen  
Traci Van Pelt & Pat Wilson  
Loree & Ward Weisman  
Nick & Patricia Williams  
Windsor Refrigeration

## SUMMER FORECAST

# 22

Group Visits  
Scheduled For Summer 2017

# 3,150

Participant Lessons  
Expected For Summer 2017

# 7

Groups of Veterans  
Scheduled For Summer 2017

### JUNE

Peace of Adventure  
People with visual impairments and veterans  
June 4 - 9

Ride the Rockies  
June 10 - 17

Roger Pepper Adventure Camp  
Teen burn survivors  
June 11 - 17

DC Burn Rehabilitation  
Adult burn survivors  
June 18 - 24

Living Journeys Campout  
Cancer survivors  
June 19 - 20

Griffith Center  
Teens at-risk  
June 26 - 30

### JULY

Mountain Mobility  
Teens with visual impairments  
July 2 - 7

ARC of San Diego  
Adults with cognitive disabilities  
July 5 - 10

Serendipity  
Children with learning differences  
July 9 - 16

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children  
Children with orthopedic challenges  
July 16 - 22

International Neurorehabilitation Institute  
Adults with spinal cord injuries  
July 27 - August 2

### AUGUST

Expedition School  
Teens with visual impairments  
August 8 - 14

Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Hospital  
Adults with spinal cord injuries  
August 13 - 19

Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Veterans with spinal cord injuries  
August 20 - 25

Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Adults with spinal cord injuries  
August 27 - September 2

### SEPTEMBER

Craig Hospital  
Adults with spinal cord injuries  
September 3 - 9

Peace of Adventure  
People with visual impairments and veterans  
September 10 - 14

Team Semper Fi  
Veterans  
September 14 - 18

Brooke Army Medical Center  
Warfighter Sports Week  
September 17 - 23

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago  
Adults with physical disabilities  
September 24 - 30

University of Colorado Health Burn Center  
Adult burn survivors  
September 24 - 30

### OCTOBER

Peace of Adventure  
People with visual impairments and veterans  
October 1 - 7

# 30 YEARS OF ADVENTURE!

The Adaptive Sports Center was founded in 1987 as the Crested Butte Physically Challenged Ski Program. We delivered 33 lessons that year. This year, we provided more than 6,000 adventures.



An early photo of the Crested Butte Physically Challenged Ski Program before our name change. President Jimmy Carter is standing next to Kirsten Atkins. First Lady Rosalynn Carter is in the pink ski suit.



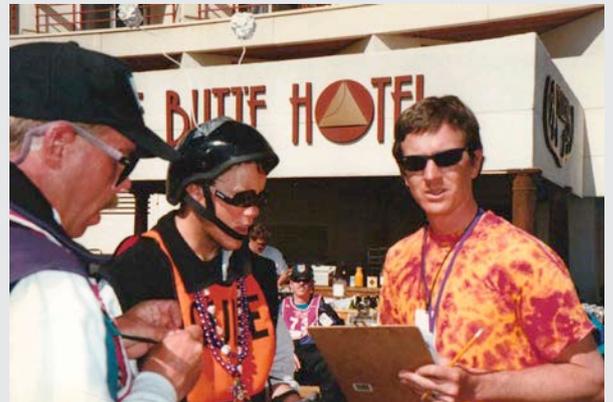
Hosting the National Disabled Veteran Winter Sports Clinic at CBMR.



ASC participant and US Disabled Ski Team member Rick Isom poses with the sit-ski he invented in the late 1990s.



Kelsey Wright, one of the ASC's longest participating clients, with an instructor in the late 90s.



Christopher Hensley coordinates hundreds of participants at the National Disabled Veteran Winter Sports Clinic.



Clown skier Alan Schoenberger performs with Kirsten Atkins and a participant.



1998 Winter Staff photo. Christopher Hensley served alongside co-director Mary Fent.



Cyclists roll out on Elk Avenue at the beginning of the 2010 Bridges of the Butte 24 Hour Townie Tour.



ASC participant Zachary Hunt with grandparents Ed and Mary Jones and instructors Cara Bosco and Nina Jarnot in 2010.



Chris Read guiding Mitch and Aimee Dryer near the summit of Italian Mountain.



Mike Fahrlander with Elizabeth Philbin and a Roger Pepper Adventure Camp participant.



ASC Instructor Daniela Runge charging hard at 24 Hours of the Banana in 2014.



ASC Board Member Linda Fialkoff and Christopher Hensley celebrate the ribbon-cutting ceremony at The Adaptive Building in 2013.



ASC staff and volunteers parade down Warming House Hill during the ASC 30th Anniversary Ski Parade in March 2017.

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Michael Werner



Operation Rise & Conquer participant Michael Frazier with Michael Werner.

Michael Werner combined his passion for helping veterans and his expansive business network to inspire an entire industry to change the lives of hundreds of veterans and active-duty military. It all started five years ago when Michael, who was running Gerber

Plumbing Fixtures, a company that makes faucets and toilets, listened to Medal of Honor recipient Dakota Meyer speak at a plumbing industry trade association meeting. “You could have heard a pin drop in that room,” said Michael. “Everyone

was mesmerized by his story of valor and commitment,” he continued.

The next summer Michael saw that the Adaptive Sports Center was constructing a new facility on Bellevue.

"I thought maybe I could help, so I offered to donate plumbing fixtures for the showers and bathrooms," Michael remembers. "Shortly after that, my friend Chris Perry, the owner of VAMAC, a plumbing distributor, and I were enjoying fresh powder on Paradise and saw a blind skier on the mountain. He was clearly a veteran. Chris and I share a passion for helping veterans, so I looked at him and said, 'Do you think our industry would be interested in helping other veterans have a similar experience in CB?' He responded, 'I'd be happy to help you make that happen.'"

Michael went to work and reached out to another friend, Mike Adelizzi, the Executive Director of the American Supply Association. ASA is the trade association for the plumbing, heating, cooling, and industrial piping industries. At the time, Mike Adelizzi's son was serving in Iraq. Together, they hatched a plan to ask industry executives to support a new effort called Operation Rise & Conquer, which they developed to fund veteran programming at the Adaptive Sports Center. Werner said that he would cover all the administrative costs and Adelizzi offered to help get him industry exposure.

"Supporting the men and women

who have given selflessly to protect the freedoms that we all enjoy as Americans was a very easy decision to make as leaders of the American Supply Association," Mike Adelizzi says. "When we visited Crested Butte and saw firsthand the powerful therapeutic role Adaptive plays in helping those who sustained injuries protecting our nation, we collectively decided to make Operation Rise & Conquer our primary philanthropic endeavor."

Michael, whose grandfather served in both World Wars and whose father is a Korean War veteran, says his core value is to be a positive force in the world and that value is shared by the industry. "People in the plumbing, heating, and cooling trades are the mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and cousins of veterans," he says. "If we don't support our veterans, who will? We can never fully repay our debt to them," Michael continued.

Michael started pitching Operation Rise & Conquer at industry conferences around the country and the response was overwhelming. His message was very simple: "Operation Rise & Conquer is designed to empower and to inspire, while helping our most deserving citizens regain confidence and trust in themselves and others," Michael would explain at each event as

he introduced a military veteran and ASC program participant to a typical crowd of 500. And at each event, the audience gave the veteran a standing ovation. It was clear that people were touched by the mission and wanted to help.

The Adaptive Sports Center's relationship with the American Supply Association has resulted in over \$1.5 million in cash and in-kind contributions, allowing the ASC to deliver more than 3,000 lessons to veterans while also building for the future. In addition, the Young Executives Division of ASA has adopted Operation Rise & Conquer as their philanthropic mission.

"The American Supply Association's values are in absolute alignment with the Adaptive Sports Center," Michael says. "We believe that you never leave a wingman. Operation Rise & Conquer allows us to provide just a modicum of help to those who've given and sacrificed so much for our country."



Michael Werner

A group of people, including children and staff, are paddling canoes on a calm lake. They are wearing life jackets and using yellow and blue paddles. The background features a dense forest of evergreen trees and a large, rocky mountain peak with patches of snow under a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent grey box with white text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

## PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT TEXAS SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

When 16 year old Cassidy Moore stepped off of a chartered airplane in Gunnison along with five other participants and five staff members from Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, she knew she was in for a life-changing experience.

Moore and the rest of the group from the Dallas-based hospital have cerebral palsy and were on their first trip to Crested Butte. “I am in this bubble and I need to learn how to get out of it and learn to do things I’ve never done before,” she said. “I’m really excited to challenge myself.”

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children is a world-renowned hospital known for treating children with orthopedic conditions, neurological disorders and learning disorders. The hospital provides services regardless of a family’s ability to pay and has treated more than 270,000 children since its inception.

Their trip to visit the Adaptive Sports Center was funded entirely through donations, and was the culmination of years of relationship building between the two organizations.

The group spent the week rock climbing, hiking, and boating. They also had an opportunity to push their limits on the Ropes Challenge Course on Mount Crested Butte and spent their evenings at the Adaptive Sports Center’s Gothic House in Crested Butte.

ASC Program Director Chris Read says bringing groups like Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children out for a week of programming is a great way to ensure participants get the most out of their experience.



“Having groups focus on skill development and teamwork during their visit is the best way to ensure a powerful transfer of experience when they return home,” Read says.

The team of doctors and nurses from the hospital named their trip Breaking Boundaries. Dr. Lori Karol, the hospital’s Assistant Chief of Staff, says the experience made a profound difference for all of them.

“I don’t think one of these kids this week thought they had cerebral palsy because they broke their boundaries and pushed themselves beyond what they would normally be doing physically. They found ways to experience the outdoors just like anyone else would,” Dr. Karol said.

As Cassidy Moore worked her way across the Ropes Challenge Course, her fellow participants and the doctors

and nurses who accompanied the group from Texas were there to support her. The entire week was a bonding experience for the group as they navigated challenges together and encouraged each other to push their limits.

Mark Bateman, Senior Vice President of Public Relations for Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, joined the trip to Crested Butte and says the Adaptive Sports Center team felt like an extension of the hospital family.

“We believe every child deserves to experience a full and happy childhood without boundaries, regardless of their physical condition,” Bateman says. “Adaptive provided the right mix of adversity, discovery, achievement and pure joy to give our kids a special experience they’ll never forget.”

“Every single thing I’ve done this week has proven to me that I can do something when I thought I couldn’t,” said Cassidy Moore. “And I felt so many emotions, happiness and being scared and every emotion that you can think of, that’s what it was.”

At the end of the week, as the group wrapped up and prepared to head back to Texas, 14 year old Emmanuel De La Cruz reflected on his week.

“I wanted to meet new people like these people around me right now,” he said. “We became best friends, all of us. I also wanted to do more activities that I hadn’t done before. This is the best thing I’ve ever done and hopefully I can do it again next year.”

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children is scheduled to visit the Adaptive Sports Center again in Summer 2017.



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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WWW.ADAPTIVESPORTS.ORG  
INFO@ADAPTIVESPORTS.ORG  
970-349-5075  
10 CRESTED BUTTE WAY , MT. CRESTED BUTTE, CO 81225  
PO BOX 1639, CRESTED BUTTE, CO 81224