



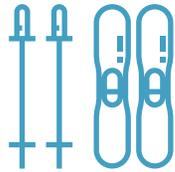
WASATCH™

adaptive sports

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



Photo: Dan Finn



Dear Friends,

*This year the world amplified what WAS has been saying since 1977 – let's take it outside. The mountains and trails in our backyard have ensured that freedom from day-to-day routines and invaluable outings with friends and family are still possible. For many in the adaptive community, access to these vital experiences is made possible through WAS's specialized equipment and individualized instruction. We are humbled by the circumstance yet energized by this global shift. Each day at WAS, we respond to what's new and yet remain steadied by Peter Mandler's founding belief that immeasurable opportunity lies within adaptability.*

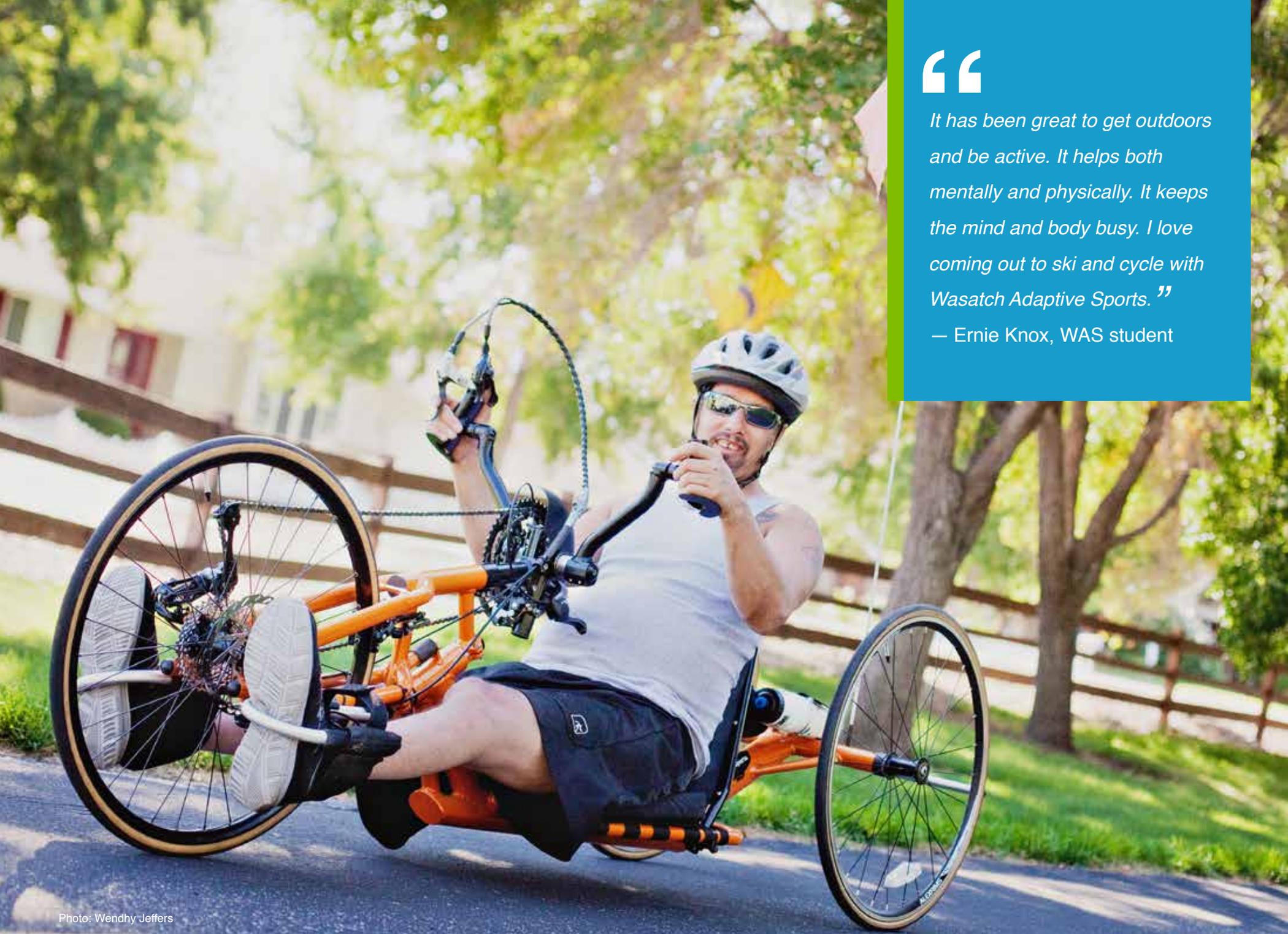
*Since returning to in-person cycling this July, our team has learned a lot about going the extra mile to deliver high-quality programs in this changed environment. As we welcome winter, safe and impactful in-person and virtual programs will continue through our commitment to creative ideas and adaptive solutions. Thanks to our valued partnership with Snowbird and our shared desire to make the mountains more accessible, winter ski and snowboard lessons will be offered in-person with supplemental safety measures. Additionally, for the first time ever, winter lessons will be offered on Sundays to ensure school-aged students and working individuals have greater opportunity to be active on snow. Building on the success of our virtual programs this spring, yoga and indoor cycling sessions will take place online through the expansion of our rental program which ensures at-home adaptive equipment is available for students wanting to stay active in a social, yet remote, format. Finally, we are thrilled to announce the recent approval of a 3-year strategic plan. The goals of the adaptive community are at the heart of this plan: expanded accessibility, inclusion, and resources, to name a few. We cannot wait to get to work and hope you'll join us!*

*WAS's wildly passionate team of staff, volunteers, donors, board members, and community partners is more dedicated than ever to fulfilling the unique goals of each and every one of our students and their families. On behalf of our team, I want to thank you for sharing your passion for the outdoors with Wasatch Adaptive Sports.*

*Be safe and stay active!*

*Sincerely,*

*Elizabeth Jahp  
Executive Director*



“

*It has been great to get outdoors and be active. It helps both mentally and physically. It keeps the mind and body busy. I love coming out to ski and cycle with Wasatch Adaptive Sports.”*

— Ernie Knox, WAS student

Photo: Wendy Jeffers

# OUR MISSION

The mission of Wasatch Adaptive Sports is to encourage individuals with adaptive needs and their families to realize their potential and engage in active living through recreational, educational, and social programs. WAS empowers students to maximize independence and live healthier, happier lives through the following outdoor activities:

SKIING  
SNOWBOARDING  
SNOWSHOEING  
INDOOR CYCLING  
YOGA



Photo: Dan Finn

“

*WAS gave my family the opportunity to try out recreational activities that we couldn't have otherwise. We enjoyed being out in the community with other similarly-abled people, and those who were there to support and normalize our experience.”*

—Amelia, parent of WAS student Oliver



Photo: Dan Finn





Photo: Breonna Burnett

**CYCLING  
MOUNTAIN BIKING  
KAYAKING  
PADDLE BOARDING  
HIKING**



“

*Our experience at WAS has given my son the ability to do things we could have never imagined. Not only has he participated but he has excelled in each of the activities he participated! As a parent it has been a dream come true to see Lucas ride a bike, stand up while paddle boarding, and gain the confidence to overcome any obstacle he might encounter. WAS is an amazing program and the staff has a true passion to serve everyone no matter what their needs may be!”*

—Leslie, parent of WAS student Lucas



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW



## PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

WAS students are empowered to meet their goals in recreation through private lessons that are customized to each unique participant. Experienced instructors work with students to increase their strength, build skills, and develop independence.

## EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAM

Students and their families are able to rent from WAS's fleet of adaptive bikes and skiing equipment to continue developing independence without incurring the cost of purchasing these expensive devices.



## VETERANS PROGRAM

Through private instruction and group-based sessions, WAS aims to promote community and healthy living for veterans with adaptive needs.



## GROUP PROGRAMS

For students looking to recreate in a communal and social setting, WAS provides group-based activities for students with an average 4:1 student-to-instructor ratio.



RAMMP hosts an adaptive yoga program with WAS



"Wheelz" aka Aaron Fotheringham and WAS student Owen

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, WAS hosts community gatherings and local outings for the organization's students and families. This past year included access to a private BYU football practice hosted by former BYU and NFL athletes Lee Johnson and Chad Lewis, a Wheelchair Palooza hosted by the Intermountain Spina Bifida Support Group showcasing the infamous "Wheelz" from Nitro Circus, and a Family Bike Day at Liberty Park!



WAS student Cole and the BYU football team

# BY THE NUMBERS

**32%**

**CHILDREN**

**52%**

**ADULTS**

**16%**

**VETERANS**



**530**

Students Served



**2,178**

Lessons Provided



**820**

Rental Activity Days

**82%**

Lessons on Scholarship

**85%**

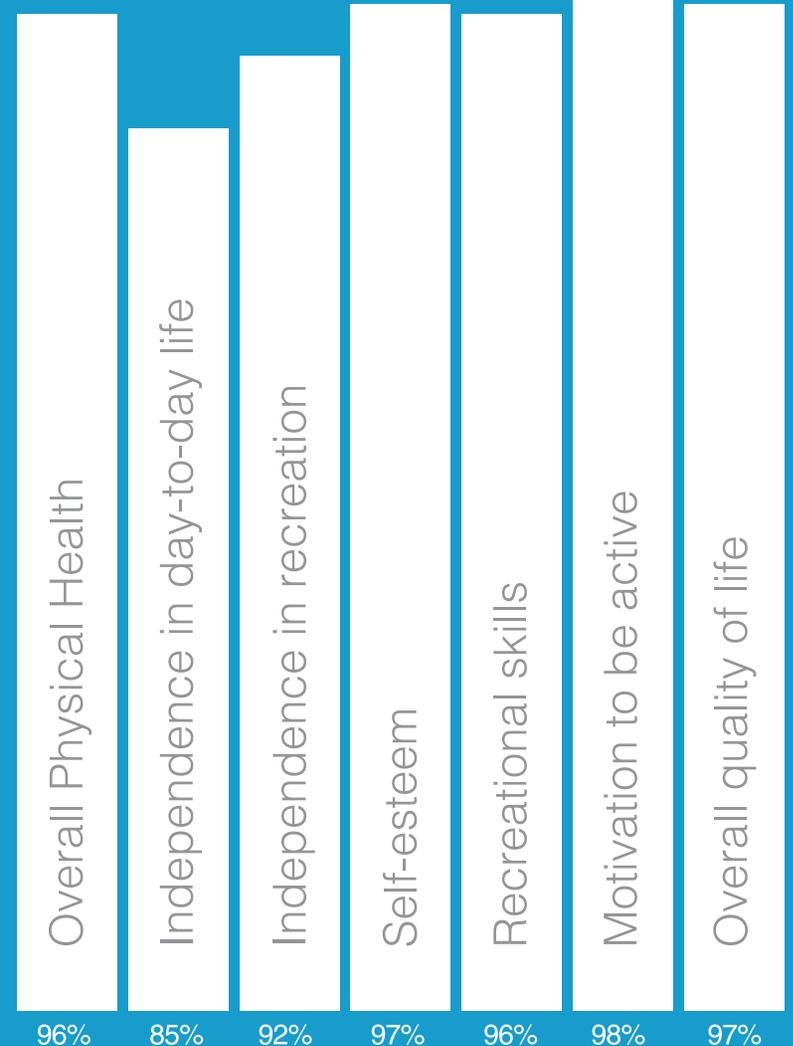
Students Local to Utah

**96%** of students achieved their goals at WAS programming

**97%** reported an overall positive experience with WAS

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The following percentage of students and families reported improvements in the below areas due to participation in WAS programming:





“

*Participation in WAS Programs has not only improved my mobility and endurance, but it has helped me make connections and improve my confidence in myself! WAS Winter Programs has been so beneficial to me and I will be back next year!”*

—Emma, WAS student

“

*WAS Programs provided a great opportunity for kids like Lily to try things that they would not be able to do otherwise. It gives her a huge amount of self-confidence and joy to be able to ski. It is also a great opportunity for her to get out and get active!”*

— Meilani, parent of WAS student Lily



# POWERED BY THE WAS COMMUNITY

WAS's donors and volunteers fuel the organization's mission and make the impossible possible each and every day for our students! Some highlights of how our generous community of supporters came together in support of WAS in 2019-20 include:

**SIGNATURE EVENTS** Through WAS's two signature annual events, Highly Decorated and the virtual HGGC Steve Young Ski Classic, hundreds of supporters came out (or stayed in!) in support of the organization as event sponsors and attendees, auction participants and donors, and Fund-A-Cause contributors.

**COMMUNITY BASED EVENTS** The WAS community excels in creatively raising funding for the students and families the organization serves, from riding 100 miles with 10,000' of elevation gain as a member of WAS's Ultimate Challenge team to growing out an epic beard or moustache as a competitor in the Salty Saints' annual Snowbird Oktoberfest Beard and Moustache Competition and many other incredible local events in between!

**CAMPAIGNS AND YEAR-ROUND GIVING** Whether it was through the incredibly successful year-end Limitless Campaign or at another time during 2019-20, a host of individuals, businesses, foundations, and other supporters generously invested in WAS's mission this past year.

**VOLUNTEER PROGRAM** WAS's dedicated corps of volunteers deepened the organization's impact by giving their valuable time and talent through a number of avenues this year including lending a helping hand on lessons and assisting at events.



From July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020:

**360**

Donors gave to WAS

**\$100**

most common donation amount

From gifts of \$5 to \$250,000, every dollar received this year made a difference in the lives of the students and families that are a part of this organization!



*The WAS Scholarship Program allows me to go downhill skiing, when ordinarily I couldn't afford to pay for it. Over the previous seasons I've skied with the help of WAS, I have really enjoyed every instructor I've skied with. Always great personalities, sense of humor, patience and fun to interact with.*

— David Wood, WAS student

**145**

Volunteers

**1,391**

hours of service to WAS's students

Here's what a few of WAS's all-star volunteers had to say about their time working with the organization and its students:



*"The thing that has surprised me the most from volunteering with WAS is how inclusive the program is. It doesn't matter what the adaptive need is, they have a way of getting students out there."*

— Breezy Burnett

*"We wish that other people knew that anyone can contribute to WAS in their own way. Whether you think you are athletically inclined, a good teacher, or more of a quiet listener, anyone can bring positive experiences to our students and the WAS team."*

— Holly & Maddy Grainger (Mother & daughter)



*"I strongly believe in a sense of a shared responsible community. Adaptive sports helps integrate those with disabilities back into their community. It helps educate others by showcasing what disabled people can do rather than not do. Volunteering for WAS is my way of sharing this goal."*

— Wally Lee



# STAYING SAFE DURING COVID-19

With the health and safety of our entire community as the main priority, on March 15th, 2020, WAS suspended in-person programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This unique time gave the organization an opportunity to engage with our students and supporters in new and creative ways!



## THE HGGC STEVE YOUNG SKI CLASSIC

The 34th annual HGGC Steve Young Ski Classic pivoted from the typical in-person weekend event at Snowbird to a week-long virtual affair. Through sponsorships, the online “live” and silent auctions, and Fund-A-Cause, WAS’s incredible community of supporters raised over \$350,000! There’s no doubt about it, this virtual event was a huge success!

 **\$350,000**

## THE SUBARU ATHLETE CHALLENGE

While the typical downhill ski race on the morning of the HGGC Steve Young Ski Classic was postponed until 2021, the Subaru Athlete Challenge took new shape this year when professional athletes partnered with HGGC, Forever Young Foundation, and WAS instructors to lead students and their families in virtual home workouts, ending each session with a push-up contest!

Thanks to all of the athletes and their families who participated: Chad Lewis, Steve Young, Brandi Chastain, Taysom Hill, Lincoln DeWitt, Junior Bryant, Gary Plummer, Vince Biegel, Chad Lewis, and Lee Johnson



## VIRTUAL WORKOUTS AND ADAPTIVE YOGA

Through WAS's social media channels, fitness instructor Ali and adaptive yoga instructor Abigail invited students to use whatever they could find in their house as weights and blocks (such as soup cans and books!) to workout and practice yoga.



## EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAM

Through the Equipment Rental Program, students were able to borrow an adaptive bike from WAS to continue recreating and pursuing their fitness goals while in-person programs were on hold. This resulted in a 147% increase in rental days over the prior year.



*Having the opportunities WAS provided is essential for my mental health. I would not be where I am today without the programs. I started coming in January. I've pretty much been every week since. It keeps me mentally refreshed and out of the rabbit hole. I'm the most fit I've ever been mostly because I've had access to the equipment, the knowledge, and the people to get outdoors and go play.*"

— Marshall Evans, WAS student

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community partners help connect WAS to more children, adults, and veterans with adaptive needs who are able to discover the life-changing experiences that recreation offers with the organization's support. Learn more about some of the experiences WAS provided in collaboration with community partners this past year:

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERMOUNTAIN HEALTHCARE**, WAS was able to serve groups of inpatients, outpatients, and former patients alike from Intermountain Medical Center's Rehab Advocate Mindset Mentorship Program (RAMMP) patients and the outpatient rehabilitation group at TOSH. WAS provided Intermountain's students adaptive yoga practices at the hospitals, cycling sessions at nearby parks, and skiing lessons up at Snowbird.



WAS community partner RAMMP came out for a day on the slopes at Snowbird Resort



*Through my rehab at TOSH the adaptive yoga started up for the first time! It was such a positive thing for a good group that they decided to keep it going! I loved it and I felt so good after it was done!"*

— Lucy Duran, WAS student



*If somebody was trying to get back into skiing or snowboarding, I would highly recommend doing it through Wasatch Adaptive, they've got an incredible program, incredible volunteers, employees, and they're on one of the best mountains in the world!"*

— Matt Tyschen, RAMMP mentor

## VA SALT LAKE CITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

By partnering with recreational therapists at the Salt Lake VA, veteran groups are able to get outside and participate in activities such as hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, skiing, and snowboarding.



*The goal of my Recreational Therapy Programs is to help Veterans with SUD and PTSD maintain their sobriety and minimize the negative thoughts and behaviors associated with their PTSD. To do so, I seek to provide positive recreation activities in a safe, sober and supportive environment. WAS is the perfect community partner to help veterans achieve these goals as you have the best instructors, best equipment and serene environment. Veterans increase physical strength, experience camaraderie, relieve their stress, increase their self-worth and self-esteem and improve their athletic skills which all contribute to their healing."*

— Dr. K, WAS partner

## COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: JORDAN RIVER COMMISSION

WAS partnered with the Jordan River Commission to help create a more accessible Jordan River Trail, which the organization utilizes four times a week during the summer. WAS instructors surveyed over 100 miles of the Jordan River Trail and provided feedback on areas that require improvement so that individuals with adaptive needs are able to use it. This partnership helps keep the trail safe and accessible not only for WAS programming but for the entire Salt Lake community that chooses to utilize the trail.

*Wasatch Adaptive Sports is a great partner for the Jordan River Commission. In 2020 our Governing Board awarded \$5,000 — our largest “small grant” to date — to support their valuable programming.*

*Wasatch Adaptive Sports staff recently helped complete a trail inventory of the entire Jordan River Parkway Trail corridor, providing vital information for areas of improvement to ensure everyone in our community can have access to the trail. Their keen understanding of the challenges people face accessing and using the Jordan River Parkway Trail helps guide needed improvements to ensure inclusion of everyone.*

*Our vision for the Jordan River Parkway includes everyone having the ability to recreate and enjoy open space, nature and parks along the beautiful Jordan River. Wasatch Adaptive Sports is integral in working with us toward accomplishing this goal.*



Soren Simonsen  
Jordan River Commission  
Executive Director



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: DAVID GARDNER



“

*Our son, David, who is 29 years old has Prader-Willi Syndrome, which affects his mental, physical, emotional, and intellectual ability. We were introduced to WAS when he was in high school and started to participate with the skiing and biking programs. It was a lifesaving opportunity for David and our family. Not only did his quality of life improve but he also started to build his confidence and self-esteem. Peter and one of the WAS instructors became determined to teach David how to ride a bike. After a lot of persistence and hard work, they succeeded! What a day for David and everyone who were helping him. Now he rides a bike with WAS with confidence and even always tries to be the first one in the group. His story of learning to ski is very similar. These things truly help him enjoy his life. He is a totally different person, with big smiles, confidence and stability. Skiing and biking with WAS have helped David to be a better individual, family member and community member, as he even contributes and gives back to others. We are deeply thankful for WAS's scholarship program, funded through many generous donations. WAS is a wonderful and unique organization helping under-privileged people with dignity, respect and friendship.”*

*—Duff & YuneJa Gardner, David's parents*

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Individuals

## Other

## Program Revenue

## Corporations

## Government

## Foundations

## In-kind

## Events

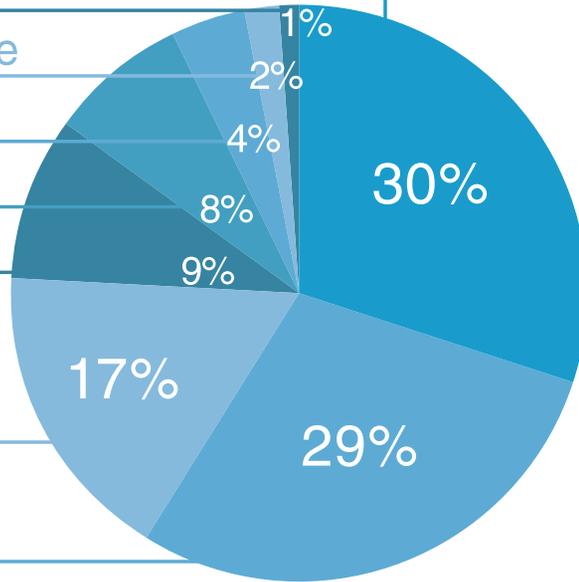


Photo: Dan Finn

Operating Revenue

**\$1,397,511**



Operating Expenses

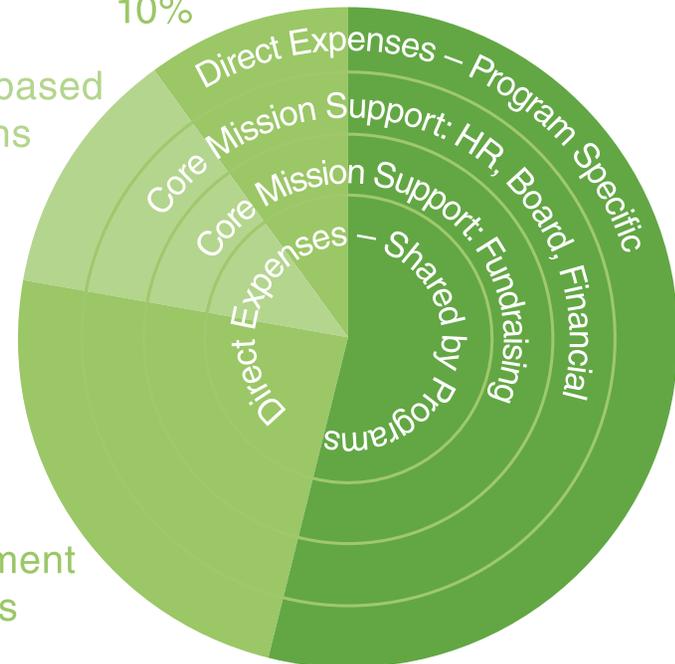
**\$1,100,083**

Support Network  
10%

Group-based Sessions  
12%

Private Lessons  
54%

Equipment Rentals  
24%



# THE 2019-20 TEAM



Photo: Dan Finn



Photo: Wendy Jeffers



*Getting back on a bike and spending time outside was liberating for me. I felt that the instructors/directors were genuinely concerned for me and my situation. They went above and beyond to adapt a bike for me as my situation is very unique.*

— Daniel Bingham, WAS student

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Miguel Rovira, Chair  
Rob Carpenter, Treasurer  
Jill Atwood  
Scott Beck  
Matt Carter, DPT  
Phil Case  
Dave Fields  
Mark L. Fox, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Melissa Fromm  
Chris Redgrave  
Jennifer Romesser, PsyD  
Ellen Winkler

## EX OFFICIO BOARD

Bob Bonar  
Rich Lawson  
Steve Young

## STAFF

Elizabeth Jahp, Executive Director  
Eileen May-West, Program Director  
Abbie Rice, Development Director  
Stephanie Medlin, Community Relations Specialist  
Jason Malczyk, Program Coordinator  
Jared Dangerfield, Program Coordinator  
Dani Nelson, Operations Coordinator  
Robin Cecil, Special Events Manager  
Olivia Olsen, Special Events Assistant

## INSTRUCTORS

Leandra Bitterfield  
Tyndall Bounous  
Breanna Bozzuto  
Adalee Buchanan  
Sara Burgos  
Ed Chauner  
Jodi Flickinger  
Adam Glos  
Maddy Grainger  
Megan Harmon  
Tom Hofmann  
Terese Horner  
Amanda King  
Danielle Kuykendall  
Justin Latimer  
Peter Mandler  
Justin May-West  
Christine McCormick  
Steve Mersereau  
Cassidy Murphy  
Allison Peterson  
Amanda Pierson  
David Schoeneck  
Bob Simon  
Bryson Webb

Dear Friends:

It was a privilege to serve my first term as board chair of Wasatch Adaptive Sports during 2019-2020. I realized that our organization has been built to last and withstand the ebbs and flows of business cycles. Personally, I have been continually inspired by the instructors and volunteers who live and breathe our mission. They are commendable in their efforts to encourage participants to break barriers and achieve their dream to access and enjoy outdoor experiences.

The 2019-20 Adaptive Ski & Snowboard Program was off to a strong start, experiencing a 9% increase in lesson volume in February and January over the previous year.. Then the world changed. Overnight, COVID-19 isolated people around the globe. The need to stay safe confined many of us to our homes. Humankind was not prepared but we pivoted and continue to move forward as best we can. The medical community is rallying against the virus and families and friends are protecting each other and those that are immunocompromised.

As a global community, many of us find beauty, invigoration and peace in the great outdoors. The WAS community is focused on making sure its participants also enjoy those benefits, especially during these uncertain times.

Faced with the pandemic challenge, we transformed our annual Steve Young Ski Classic fundraiser into a virtual event in a matter of days. Once again, our donors' generosity demonstrated unwavering support for WAS, notwithstanding the



many uncertainties created by the pandemic.

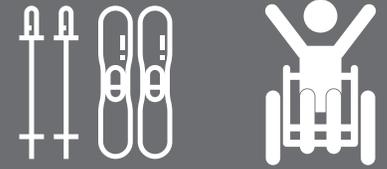
Further, with the support of the Board of Directors, our donors and our incredibly talented staff, we started our summer programming on July 21. Countless hours were dedicated to consulting and assembling the safest environment possible for our participants and our instructors. It is gratifying to see increased participation in our summer programs.

We have learned that social distancing and disrupted lifestyles especially affect mental and physical wellbeing among those we serve.

In response to an increased need for support among those we serve, the WAS team has demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment and resiliency. While facing unprecedented operational and fiscal challenges, they are finding ways to meet that need and more.

For these reasons and more, I am hopeful for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Many thanks to all those that have supported WAS as donors and supporters. I look forward to cycling and skiing with many of you this season.

Miguel Rovira  
Director of Business and Community Relations  
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah  
WAS Board Chair



“WAS is the best group we work with. Quality, reliable, and skilled instructors make all the difference. I think participation with WAS has increased my son's physical, social, and communication skills and has added noticeable improvement to his overall quality of life.”

— Michelle,  
parent of WAS student Leo





**VISIT [WASATCHADAPTIVESPORTS.ORG](http://WASATCHADAPTIVESPORTS.ORG) TO LEARN MORE!**

**STAY IN THE KNOW**   

Photo: Breonna Burnett



**WASATCH ADAPTIVE SPORTS**

Snowbird Resort  
9385 S. Snowbird Center Dr.  
Snowbird, UT 84092

Murray Location  
417 W. Winchester St.  
Murray, UT 84107

801.834.0476  
[wasatchadaptivesports.org](http://wasatchadaptivesports.org)