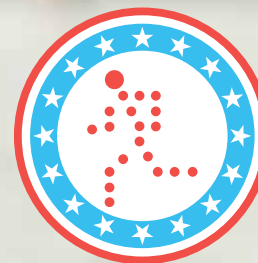
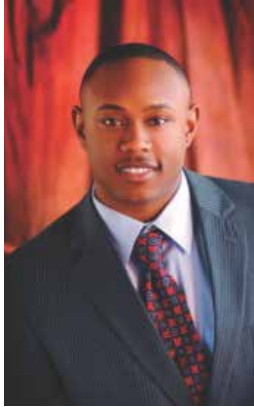


— 2014-2015 —

# ANNUAL REPORT



NW ASSOCIATION  
FOR  
**BLIND**  
ATHLETES



ERIK SELDEN

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the more than 1,200 children, youth, adults and military veterans with visual impairments served this year, we are honored to present our 2014-15 Annual Report to the community. Northwest Association for Blind Athletes achieved another year of significant and sustainable program growth to improve the quality of life for individuals with visual impairments because of the generosity of more than 400 dedicated volunteers; countless community supporters; dedicated program partners and the hard work of all of the participants and families we serve. Thank you to everyone who continues to believe in the transformative power of our mission. It is because of each of you that we are able to change lives and make a difference every day.

Fueled by an aggressive strategic plan to drive increased mission-impact, our board, volunteers and staff successfully doubled the number of individuals served by our Sports Outreach Program, drastically enhanced on-going programming and scaled proven programs into new identified growth areas to increase the number of individuals served.

Our programs reach far beyond just participating in sports for people who are blind and visually impaired. Participants build friendships that will last a lifetime, improve overall health and wellness, and, most of all, gain the skills, confidence, and joy they need to be successful in all areas of their life.

We hope that you enjoy the information and photos in this year's Annual Report. Please feel free to contact Billy Henry, Founder/Executive Director, directly at 360.718.2826 or bhenry@nwaba.org with any questions.

Thank you so much for your continued support of our mission and programs!

Sincerely,

Erik Selden  
Board President

Billy Henry  
Founder/Executive Director

**OUR MISSION:** TO PROVIDE LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**Erik Selden, Board President**  
Vice-President, First Citizens Bank

**Scott McCallum, Board Vice-President**  
Vision Services/Nursing Coordinator  
Northwest Regional ESD

**Teresa Lawwill, Board Secretary**  
Community Relations Director  
Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce

**Karen Holterhoff, Board Finance Chair**  
Director, KMR Group Foundation

**Ben Campbell,**  
Board Member/Ambassador Board Chair  
Digital Strategist, The Columbian

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Jason Reid**  
President/CEO, Reid Business Services

**Scott Miller**  
SVP, Marketing, Riverview Community Bank

**Dean Watanabe**  
VP, Oregon Region, Washington Trust Bank

**Courtney Barker**  
Owner, Veraison Wine Events

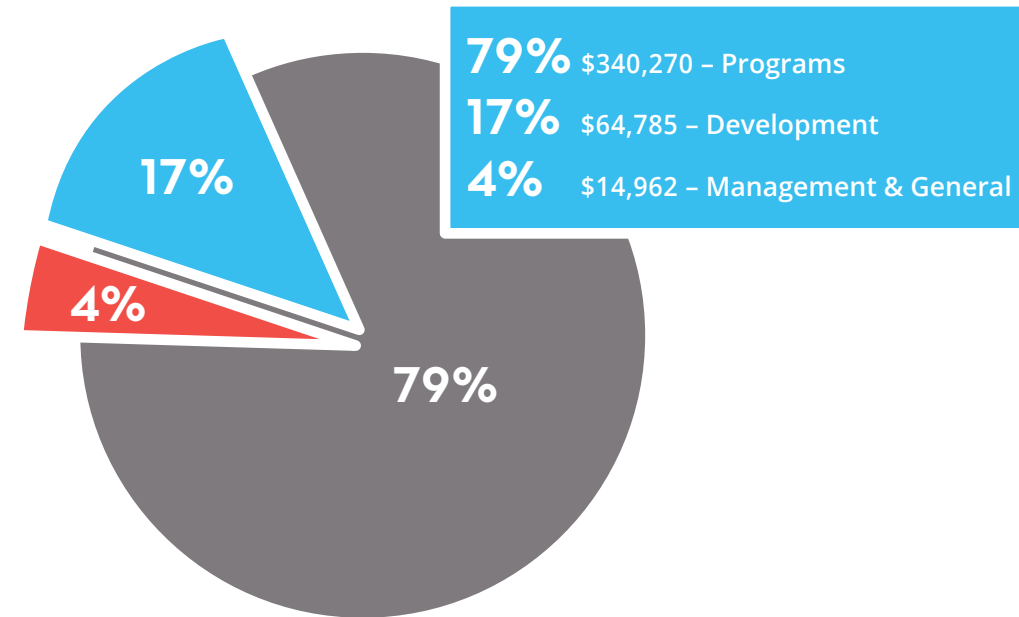
**Tracy Wasden**  
COO, The Gibney Family Foundation

**Joe Yoder**  
Director, Clinical & Support Services  
Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center

**Don Rhoads**  
President, The Convenience Group

**Scott Campbell**  
Governmental & Community Affairs Manager  
Waste Connections

**Billy Henry**  
Founder/Executive Director



Additionally, we are honored to announce that we have been awarded a Gold Seal by Guidestar, demonstrating our commitment to transparency.

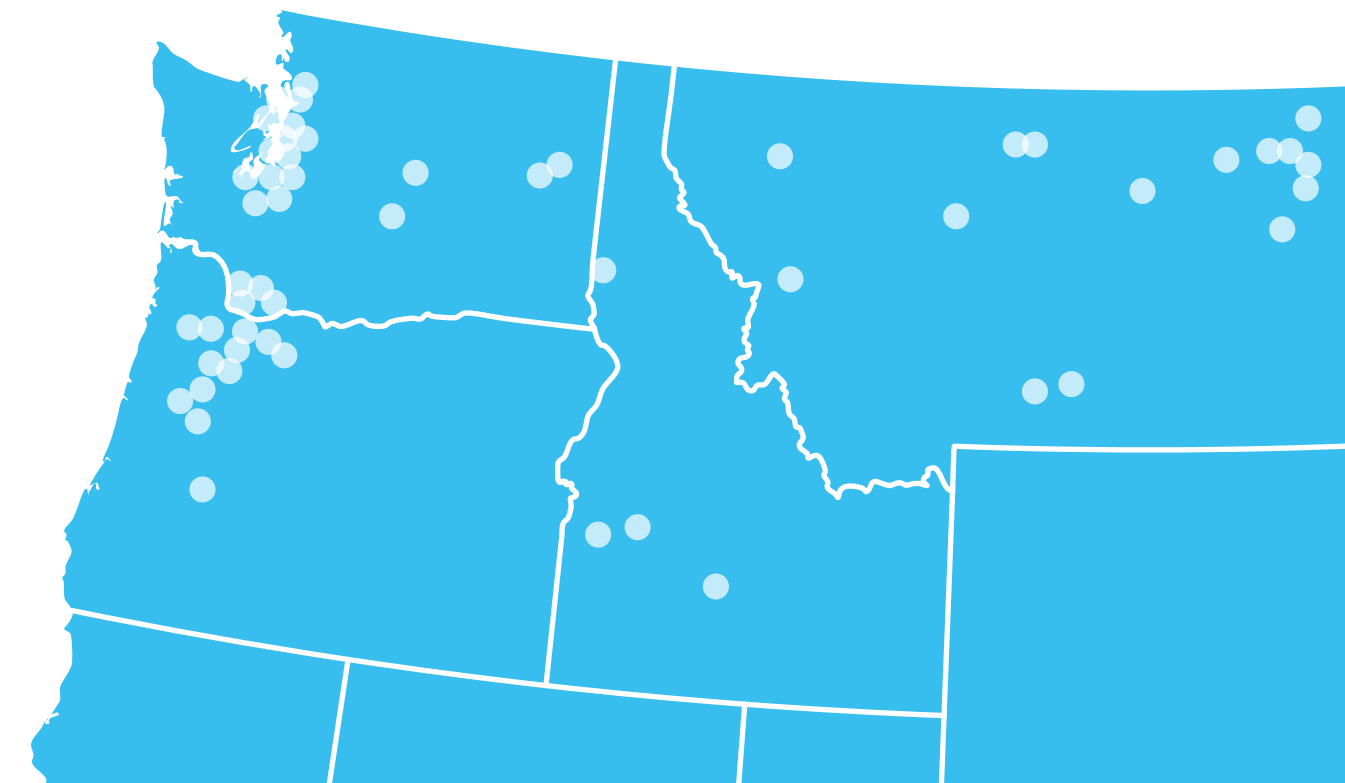
Premier Program Partner:



**FINANCIALS & IMPACT**  
JULY 1ST, 2014-JUNE 30TH, 2015

	2015	2014
Total Revenue	\$415,108.00	\$217,269.00
Total Expense	\$368,740.00	\$183,981.00
Ending Net Assets	\$46,368.00	\$33,288.00

We are proud to say that 79% of expenses go directly to support life-changing programs for individuals who are blind and visually impaired. Northwest Association for Blind Athletes values your generosity and is committed to full transparency. A copy of our Form 990 is available upon request and can be found on our organization's website ([www.nwaba.org](http://www.nwaba.org)).







## SPORTS OUTREACH PROGRAMS: PROVIDING SKILLS, FRIENDSHIPS & JOY

Sports Outreach is where Northwest Association for Blind Athletes makes a huge impact on the lives of children, youth, adults and military veterans who are visually impaired. NWABA reaches the most athletes through its Sports Outreach program. In 2014-15, **1,048 individuals participated**. Many had never experienced the joy or the numerous other benefits of sports and physical activity.

In 2014-15, NWABA offered **62 events** throughout the four-state region with **376 program hours** provided to individuals of all ages and abilities. This included a new sport, which proved to be very popular: beep kickball. Sports offered included: beep baseball, beep kickball, goalball, golf, hiking, judo, showdown, swimming, tandem cycling and track & field.

### Sports Outreach Highlights of the Year:

- The program experienced explosive growth and impact
- Programming was introduced in Missoula, MT; Kalispell, MT; Richland, WA; and Gooding, ID for the first time.
- More than 1,000 individuals experienced programming in 2014-15 as compared to 495 in 2013-14.

“ You have got to get your kids encouraged. You’ve got to get them out and moving. That’s what NWABA does. It gives them confidence and independence. ”

KAT MCDONALD, grandmother of an NWABA athlete

### CLINICS

NWABA held more than **50** clinics and Paralympic Experiences in the four-state region. Clinics introduce children, youth, adults and military veterans with visual impairments to sports and physical activity, often for the first time. The joy at these events is tremendous as individuals experience the impact of sports.

### SCHOOL VISITS

In 2014-15, **7** school visits were made by NWABA. During visits, NWABA works with teachers to adapt sports and physical activity for their students and encourages young people who are blind and visually impaired to get more involved with sports and recreation.

### AWARENESS EVENTS

NWABA held **2** awareness events in 2014-15. At these events, NWABA showcased programming to individuals with visual impairments, family members and peers in schools. The events inspire potential participants and showcase the abilities of people who are blind.



## SPORTS TEAMS PROGRAM: PROVIDING COMMUNITY, INDEPENDENCE & CONFIDENCE

Why participate in team sports? What does joining a team give to a person who is blind or visually impaired? Ask one NWABA athlete: "Paddling for Lethally Blind dragon boat team has allowed me the chance to be successful at a team sport and gives me confidence and courage," says Chari Chauvin, who has severe stage glaucoma. "I don't think I can truly put into words the pride I feel in my ability and in my team."

NWABA's Sports Teams Programs provides opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities with visual impairment to participate in weekly, on-going programming. The program allows individuals to become involved in their community, develop friendships, and gain the confidence and self-esteem they need to be successful.

A few of the many benefits of competing on sports teams include: learning to be a team player, relieving stress, conquering isolation, experiencing success, improving academic skills, and having fun.

In 2014-15, **105 athletes** participated in NWABA-sponsored team sports. NWABA supported five teams across the region for individuals of all ages and abilities with visual impairments. Teams participated in **16 tournaments and competitions**, and they logged in **617 program hours**.

### Sports Teams Highlights of the Year:

- **Year-round dragon boating program implemented**– Now, along with seasonal competition at the Rose Festival, NWABA sponsors a year-round dragon boating team, Team VIP, due to a huge demand by adults and its ability to build community.
- **An NWABA athlete moved to the national level of his sport** –A member of the Northwest Avalanche Goalball Team, Nathan Purcell, was invited to train with the U.S. Goalball Team in Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- **A local team took first place** - Northwest Storm Men's Goalball Team from Clark County placed first in the South Sound Throw Down Tournament, which was co-hosted by NWABA in Tacoma.

“ I don't think I can truly put into words the pride I feel in my ability and in my team. ”

CHARI CHAUVIN, dragon boat team member



Mike Bicknell Photography



# Celebrating 2014-15: A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITIES & GROWTH



## JULY 2014

We hosted our first Sports Outreach Program event in Boise, Idaho with youth from across the state.



**NWABA** Board of Directors voted to award scholarships for eight athletes who are blind and visually impaired to attend the World Powerlifting Championships and twenty athletes to participate in a dragon boat race.

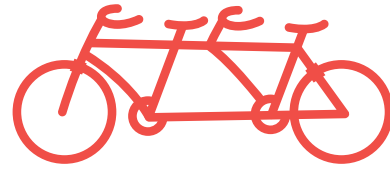
## AUGUST, 2014

Nine athletes were members of Team Eye Rock in the Portland to Coast Walk.



## OUR OCTOBER

Paralympic Experience in Salem, OR attracted the most participants in NWABA history! Students were introduced to judo, tandem cycling, beep baseball and track & field.



**WE LAUNCHED** our first ongoing tandem cycling program in Portland, OR and Clark County, WA.



## NWABA HOSTED

Paralympic Experiences in Missoula, MT and SeaTac, WA.



## SEPTEMBER, 2014

Speakers James Nealey, Shawn Williams and Sara Scheetz inspired our guests at NWABA's 2nd Annual Vision for Opportunities Fundraising Breakfast in Portland.



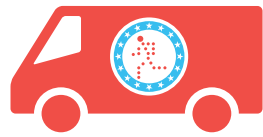
## NOVEMBER, 2014

NWABA's Director of Programs, Stacey Gibbons, traveled to Great Falls, MT to provide our first ever, in-service training for educators from all over the state in the field of visual impairments and blindness at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.



## WE HELD

a High Performance Training Camp for Boise Blaze and Northwest Avalanche Goalball teams in Camas, WA.



## DECEMBER, 2014

Corwin Beverage Company helped brand our organization's van!



## JANUARY 2015

NWABA had its first event in Tri-Cities, WA. Families and friends came from as far as Yakima to learn the sport of goalball.



## HOSTED THE

2015 Oregon Youth Goalball State Tournament with teams from across Oregon and Southwest Washington.



## WE PROVIDED

sports opportunities including goalball, beep baseball and beep kickball to children and youth at the Idaho School for the Deaf & Blind in Gooding, ID.



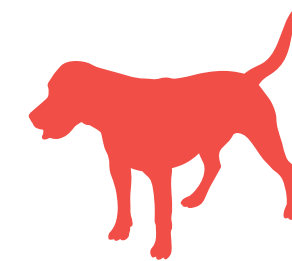
## WE HOSTED

the organization's first event in Kalispell, MT. Goalball, beep baseball and track & field were the sports played in the Paralympic Experience.

# BRING IT!

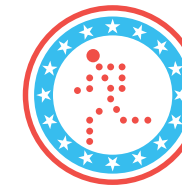
## FEBRUARY, 2015

More than 450 enthusiastic supporters attended the 2015 Bring It! Dinner & Auction, which raised a record amount to grow programs and services.



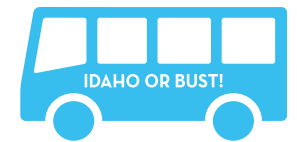
## APRIL, 2015

NWABA held its first ever Volunteer Orientation. Participants learned how to human guide, guide dog etiquette and how to interact with people who are blind or visually impaired in a respectful way. We also taught beep baseball and tandem cycling.



## MAY, 2015

NWABA celebrated a new office in downtown Vancouver with an official Vancouver Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting and a Business After Hours event.



## WE TOOK

a week-long Idaho bus tour with stops in Moscow, Boise and Gooding where we offered goalball, beep kickball and tandem cycling.



## JUNE, 2015

Our dragon boat teams Lethally Blind and VIP competed in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat races.



## MARCH, 2015

NWABA and CenturyLink Pioneers of Portland co-hosted their first Beeping Easter Egg Hunt on the Washington School for the Blind's campus.

## ADAPTING SPORTS, PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS, REACHING OUR REGION

### ADAPTATIONS

When NWABA provides adaptations of sports activities, individuals who are blind and visually impaired can participate in any sport. NWABA is very adept at teaching teachers and parents how to adapt sports so that no one is excluded from participation due to vision loss.

In 2014-15, NWABA conducted **13** adaptations, such as:

- Providing physical education classes with beeping balls.
- Using tether ropes for guide running and track & field events.
- Supplying specialized poles to assist with hiking.
- Applying Adapt Tap to allow athletes to swim straight.

### SCHOLARSHIPS:

NWABA provided **66** scholarships in 2014-15 for athletes who are blind or visually impaired. These scholarships ensure that all who want to participate in sports have that opportunity. Scholarships were provided for:

- Three dragon boating scholarships impacting 30 paddlers.
- One Portland to Coast scholarship impacting 12 team members.
- One scholarship allowing a youth athlete to attend an international competition.
- And countless others!

The total amount awarded was **\$12,072**.

### INCREASING VISIBILITY:

In 2014-15, NWABA continued to increase its visibility in the four-state region. Approximately **10,000** community contacts were made throughout the year. NWABA was also featured in more than **10** media stories, showcasing the growth and abilities of countless individuals who are blind or visually impaired.



## VOLUNTEERS – CHAMPIONS OF OUR MISSION

Volunteers are the lifeblood of NWABA. We simply couldn't do our work without them. In 2014-15, NWABA had a **184% increase** in volunteers with a whopping **332 volunteers** involved with our programs. This is quite a leap from the three volunteers who were involved with NWABA at its inception 8 years ago!

Our volunteers were constantly on the move throughout our region. Imagine this: our volunteers helped deliver programs on **35 out of 52 Saturdays this year**, and sometimes they even put on events throughout the week.

Volunteers donated approximately **1500 hours** to ensure that individuals who are blind and visually impaired could have the opportunity to experience our life-changing programs.

"NWABA has an incredible volunteer group," says Board of Directors member Karen Holterhoff. "These are people who spend weekends and weeknights helping to drive participants, set up the equipment, guide athletes through the events and cheer the victories...both big and small along the way. They come to safety trainings. They travel. They give."

Leadership volunteers made a major difference in 2014-15, too. "The Board comes together every month with the sole purpose of executing the mission of providing life changing opportunities through sports and physical activities. We are a laser-focused group that ensures that every dollar is being directly applied to our mission," says Karen Holterhoff. "Every Board member is also a volunteer who has gotten out to help execute the mission and meet the athletes."

### What did our volunteers do in 2014-15?

- piloted tandem bikes
- assisted with water sports programs
- coached athletes
- assisted with office tasks
- transported athletes and equipment
- helped at fundraisers
- served on the Board of Directors and committees



“Sight has always been near and dear to my life. I saw an ad for NWABA. I knew it was going to be a good fit for me. I just love this group!”

PATTY HEFFNER, NWABA volunteer



## GET INVOLVED: HELP CHANGE LIVES TODAY!

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes relies on the generosity of the community to support our life-changing programs for individuals of all ages and abilities with visual impairments. We invite you to learn more about how you can change lives and get involved today!

### Make a Gift:

Please consider a tax-deductible gift to help improve the quality of life for individuals of all ages and abilities with visual impairments. Gifts can be made by returning the enclosed giving envelope, visiting our organization's website ([www.nwaba.org](http://www.nwaba.org)), or by calling 360.448.7254.

### Host an Event:

Each year, individuals, businesses and groups host events to benefit our programs and services. Please consider Northwest Association for Blind Athletes when planning your next event. To learn more visit our organization's website ([www.nwaba.org](http://www.nwaba.org)) or call 360.448.7254.

### Volunteer:

We rely on volunteers to help make a difference in the lives of individuals with visual impairments. There are countless opportunities for individuals, groups and businesses to get involved. **Please contact us for more information.**

### Upcoming Events:

**2016 Go for the Gold Dinner & Auction**  
Saturday, February 27th, 2016  
Vancouver, WA

**2016 Idaho Dinner & Auction**  
September, 2016  
Boise, ID

**2016 Vision for Opportunities Fundraising Breakfast**  
September, 2016  
Portland, OR

## CHAMPIONS LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY BECOME A CHAMPION. LEAVE A LEGACY.

The *Champions Legacy Giving Society* was created to recognize individuals who have chosen to support Northwest Association for Blind Athletes through a planned gift. The society helps to ensure that children, youth, adults and military veterans with visual impairments will always have opportunities to build confidence, improve self-esteem, develop friendships and gain the skills, tools and resources they need to be successful for a lifetime. Below are several ways you can become involved:

**Bequests** – Through a bequest gift, you can designate Northwest Association for Blind Athletes to receive cash, appreciated securities or property included in your estate plan. Your bequest can be a percentage of your estate, specific dollar amount, or the balance remaining after the will has given away other bequests. It can also be designated to the program of your choice or directed toward the organization's long-term endowment fund where it will make an impact in perpetuity.

**Beneficiary Designations** – Individuals can select Northwest Association for Blind Athletes as the beneficiary of their retirement accounts or life-insurance policies. This is another easy way to improve the quality of life for individuals with visual impairments while receiving a tax-deduction.

**Securities** – Designating stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other securities to Northwest Association for Blind Athletes allows you to avoid capital gains tax while ensuring that our programs are making a difference for a lifetime.

The options listed above are only a few ways that you can get involved. Please contact us for additional gift options. Champions Legacy Giving Society members will be recognized annually in our annual report and will also receive special updates on upcoming program activities.

**Please contact Billy Henry, Founder/Executive Director, at 360-448-7254 or [bhenry@nwaba.org](mailto:bhenry@nwaba.org) for more information about how you can get involved.**

“ I chose to designate a gift in my estate plan because I want our programs to transcend my time at the organization and continue to change lives for years to come. ”

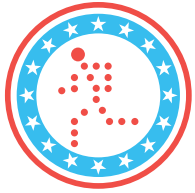
BILLY HENRY, Founder/  
Executive Director











NW ASSOCIATION  
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Mike Bicknell Photography

