

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### Chloe Larimore Finds Sports, Confidence and More

When Chloe Larimore was five, just like any other student, she wanted to play tee ball. But when her local program learned that she was visually impaired, they said “no.” Katheryn (Kat) McDonald remembers looking for sports programs for her young granddaughter, who was born prematurely with detached retinas. “The searching began,” she says. “She is capable. She can run and ride a bike with assistance. All it takes is a little bit of adaptation and these kids can do anything.”

What happens when you provide a sports program for a blind or visually impaired young person? You develop a student who has transformed from being excluded from PE classes and outdoor activities into a confident athlete who uses that new self-reliance in his or her everyday life.

“Chloe was really shy and NWABA gave her the courage to go out there and say ‘If other visually impaired kids can do this, I can do this, too,’” Kat says. “Confidence built confidence and gave her courage. NWABA is giving these kids the opportunity to experience new things.”

#### From Zero to More than a Dozen Sports

Now 13-years-old, Chloe is a self-assured young athlete who has tried more than a dozen sports. What a difference a little adaptation and an organized sports program can make!

Chloe has experienced tandem bike riding, judo, cross country skiing, snowboarding, javelin throwing, relays and rock climbing. She

plays beeper baseball in a Miracle League Baseball team for all disabilities. And she plays Left wing for her school goalball team at the Washington State School for the Blind in Vancouver. “At WSSB, the sports I love are goalball, track, tandem bike riding, cardio/weight room, swimming and weight lifting,” she says.

Some sports have been easier than others. “I get nervous at first sometimes but as I get better, I sort of get the hang of it,” Chloe says. Snowboarding was especially challenging. It was hard to learn how to control the board.



Chloe celebrates with her teammates after placing first at the 2015 Oregon State Youth Goalball Tournament.

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**Billy Henry**

Dear Friends,

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes is completing an incredible program-packed summer full of tandem bike rides, hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding, beep baseball, swimming and countless other activities. For the fourth summer in a row, we served a record number of children, youth, adults and veterans who are blind or visually impaired!

As we embark on a new fiscal year in July, I wanted to share with you a few of our plans for the next year which we hope will substantially increase the number of individuals served and create more consistent, on-going programming

**Expand Programs** – Fueled by an aggressive three-year strategic growth plan, our Board is dedicated to scaling our life-changing programs across the region. We believe every single individual with a visual impairment across Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana who needs our help deserves the opportunity to participate and receive services. This initiative has the goal of expanding our life-changing programming in communities, large and small, across the region.

**Increase On-going Programming** – Individuals with visual impairments need to receive more than just one-time opportunities to truly experience an improved quality of life. They need to receive on-going programming and be a part of a community of people facing the same challenges. To accomplish this, we are dedicated to increasing weekly, on-going programming in Clark County and Portland. This year, with the help of more than 300 dedicated volunteers, we implemented a bi-weekly tandem cycling program,

## LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

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and next year plan to implement kayaking, hiking and skiing programs.

Camp Abilities – Thanks to an exciting partnership with the State of Oregon and the Blind and Visually Impaired Student Fund, NWABA will be delivering a week-long camp in July, 2016 for children with visual impairments to help build friendships, gain confidence, increase physical activity, enhance muscular strength and develop the skills, tools and resources to be successful in all areas of life.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and athletes, I want to thank each of you for believing in our mission and helping us change lives. We are truly able to make a difference because of you. I would love to hear your experiences, thoughts and suggestions about our programs. Please contact me directly at any time by calling 360-718-2826 [bhenry@nwaba.org](mailto:bhenry@nwaba.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,



**Billy Henry**

Founder/Executive Director  
Northwest Association for Blind Athletes

## Chloe Larimore Finds Sports, Confidence and More

Chloe's confidence has spilled into other parts of her life. "It's not only in the sports aspect, but, because she can do these activities, she thinks 'Going to the grocery store – I can do that' says Kat. "She (Chloe) wants that independence and I think that sport is one of the huge parts of that. Hey, we live a physical life."

### Getting the Whole Family Involved

Chloe isn't the only one in the family involved with sports now. Chloe and her grandmother tried tandem bike riding and loved it. "We went around this huge loop and I thought, 'Okay, I'm hooked,'" says Kat. They recently ordered a smaller, custom-made, tandem bike that will fit Kat, who is only 5' and Chloe, who Kat says "towers above me." They are especially excited about using the bike trails around their home in Kent and the Interurban Trail through the Seattle area.

Chloe has loved the excitement of meeting her tandem bike "captain" and putting on the helmet prior to riding with the NWABA group. "I like the feeling of the fresh breeze on my face and going fast," she says. "I look forward to spending time with my grandma on the tandem bike."

Kat has a message for other parents and grandparents: "You have got to get your kids encouraged. You have to promote it because the kids today sit around and watch TV and stagnate. You've got to get them out and moving. That's what NWABA does. It gives them confidence and independence."

*Ride on, Chloe and Kat! We'll see you on the bike trails.*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes provides year-round programming to individuals through five-specialized programs. Below are a few highlights from recent program events.

### OR Track Meet

On May 15th, students and teachers from across Oregon came together in Canby for the 2015 State Track Meet. Athletes participated in short and long distance racing, throwing events, the long jump, and a variety of other challenges.



### Adult Golf Clinic

This spring, we hosted our first adult golfing clinic for adults from across Portland and Clark County. Golfers were matched-up with experienced coaches to learn proper form for competitive level putting and driving.



### Idaho Field Day & Tandem Cycling

In partnership with the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind, we hosted an all-inclusive field day complete with tandem cycling sessions and beep kickball throughout the school day.

# BRING IT!

## DINNER & AUCTION RAISES \$175,000!

On February 28th, more than 400 philanthropists and community leaders gathered at the Hilton, Vancouver, Washington to help raise nearly \$175,000 to support Northwest Association for Blind Athletes life-changing programs for children, youth, adults and veterans who are blind or visually impaired. Thank you to everyone who generously supported this event!



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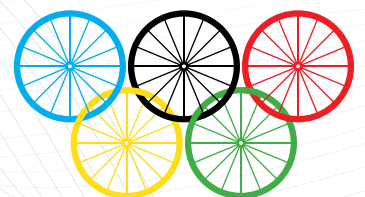


### SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 2016  
HILTON VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

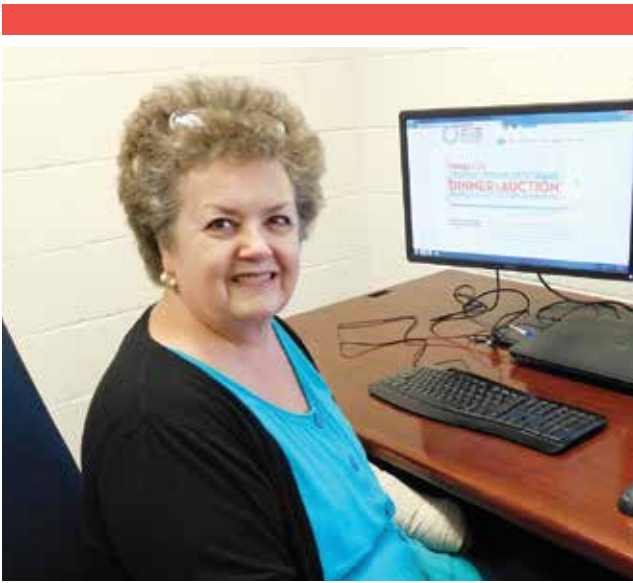
# 2016

2016 DINNER & AUCTION



Go for the **GOLD**

## Patty Heffner



Non-profit organizations dream of finding a well-organized volunteer who is happy to help keep the office and organization running smoothly. NWABA is very fortunate to have found this volunteer in Patty Heffner.

"I like the office work because my background is office and management," says the retired IT project manager. "Right now, I'm working on auction procurement for the Idaho Dinner & Auction on September 11th in Boise. I love working with spreadsheets!"

Patty's hard work was visible to NWABA supporters at the February auction and dinner in Vancouver. Each table was graced with a fun, bicycle wheel centerpiece that was procured by Patty. "NWABA needed 50 wheels, but I got 80!" she says.

Patty has a history of working with individuals who are blind or visually impaired through Lighthouse of Houston, which helps people with visual impairments live independently. When she moved to Vancouver and saw a

recruitment ad, she knew she wanted to volunteer for NWABA. "Sight has always been near and dear to my life. I saw an ad for NWABA and waited until I had some time after I retired. I knew it was going to be a good fit for me. I just love this group!"

Patty isn't just interested in office work. She is learning to referee goalball, watches service dogs while their owners participate in NWABA activities and is supports other activities like beep baseball, kickball and tandem bike riding. "Absolutely hands down sports helps build confidence," she says. "It helps with balance, all the motor skills that they need to continue a healthy life." The work accomplished at NWABA is very impressive, she says. "The amount of work that this staff of three does is phenomenal. I had no idea what was behind the scenes to do this because I was involved in the athletic side. They do their work during the week and then they go out of town for the weekend hikes and biking and then they are back in the office. "They are non-stop!"

"The staff are good for my soul," Patty says. "It's the way they interact, the way they approach their jobs. They are chicken soup for your soul!"

Watch for Patty in the future at goalball, beep baseball and kickball events. And if she isn't there, check back at the office. She may be constructing her latest spreadsheet for NWABA. Thank you, Patty, for all your great work!

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

- PATTY HEFFNER

## Become a Champion. Leave a Legacy.

Did you know that a bequest is one of the easiest ways to become a member of the Champions Legacy Giving Society? 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.

In addition to bequests, individuals can become involved by making NWABA the beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy; contributing appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) and gifting property (i.e. home, land, commercial property, etc.) to support our mission and programs.

The Champions Legacy Giving Society recognizes individuals who choose to support the organization through a planned gift. Your membership in the society will ensure that individuals who are blind or visually impaired will always have the opportunity to build confidence and self-esteem through participation in our life-changing programs.

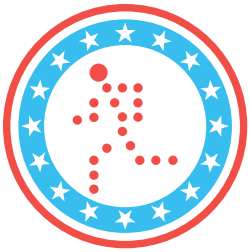
We would be honored to meet with you to discuss your estate planning goals. Please contact Billy Henry, Founder/ Executive Director directly at 360.718.2826 or [bhenry@nwaba.org](mailto:bhenry@nwaba.org) for additional information about how you can get involved.



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**We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give. - WINSTON CHURCHILL**

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NW ASSOCIATION  
**FOR**  
**BLIND**  
**ATHLETES**

P.O. Box 65265 | Vancouver, WA 98665-0009

## ENRICHING LIVES. PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved today - help change lives!

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

**AUGUST 11TH**

*Concerts for a Cause,  
featuring Petty Fever! : Camas, WA*

**SEPTEMBER 11TH**

*2015 Creating Opportunities Idaho  
Dinner & Auction : Boise, ID*

**SEPTEMBER 17TH**

*Trap Shootapalooza, benefiting  
Veteran's Programs : Vancouver, WA*

**SEPTEMBER 22ND - 2015**

*Vision for Opportunities Fundraising  
Breakfast : Portland, OR*

**FEBRUARY 27TH**

*2016 Going for Gold Dinner & Auction  
Vancouver, WA*