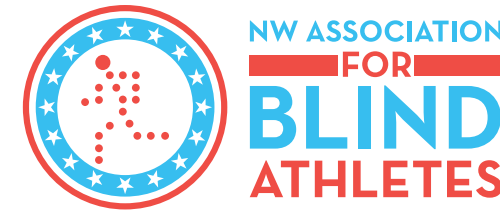




P.O. Box 65265
Vancouver, WA 98665-0009



GRATITUDE REPORT

SPRING 2018

Enriching Lives. Providing Opportunities.



OUR IMPACT IN ACTION:

NWABA's programs are a catalyst to help individuals with visual impairments break through barriers and achieve success in all areas of life.

- 95%** of participants said NWABA has encouraged them to be more independent in their everyday life.
- 94%** of participants said NWABA has inspired them to advocate for themselves in their home, school and community.
- 96%** of participants said NWABA has encouraged them to try new things out of their comfort zone.
- 95%** of participants said NWABA has helped them build new friendships.

On behalf of the individuals and families that we serve, thank you for believing in our mission and helping us transform lives.



We are honored to have been awarded a Platinum Seal, the highest level possible, by Guidestar, demonstrating our commitment to transparency.

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION FOR BLIND ATHLETES wants to say thank you to YOU! Because of our inspiring athletes, dedicated volunteers, and committed supporters, NWABA has been able to reach over 1500 children, youth, adults and military veterans this year, and is on pace to serve more individuals than ever before to close out the fiscal year on June 30th. As we head into spring, Our Board, Volunteers, and Staff would like to take a moment to celebrate the wonderful community that makes it possible for individuals with visual impairments across Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana to have life changing opportunities through sports and physical activities. Through sports like skiing, snowboarding, swimming, and goalball athletes have been able to challenge themselves physically, develop friendships, build confidence, and experience success. It is because of your support, NWABA is able to transform the lives of these individuals every day.

In this newsletter you will read about a few important members of our community and the impact that each of you are having. Margaret Hill has been a steadfast volunteer for NWABA for many years. Ken Rivernider is an athlete that has experienced the joy of NWABA's expanded programs in the Southern Willamette Valley.

Thank you!

MEET MARGARET HILL:

Volunteer, Supporter and NWABA Champion



Margaret is helping athlete, King how to float!

As someone who loves live music, reading, and movement, Margaret settled in Portland in year 2000, and she has been exploring the Pacific Northwest ever since. In 2013, Margaret was invited by one of her sorority sisters from the Delta Gamma Portland Suburban Alumnae Chapter to attend Northwest Association for Blind Athletes' Vision for Opportunities Fundraising Breakfast. It was there she was introduced to our mission, heard athletes' powerful testimonies, and she decided to get involved. Margaret has been a dedicated volunteer to Northwest Association for Blind Athletes ever since. We had a chance to ask her why she got involved with our mission and programs and what has motivated her to continue to come back. She said,

“ I LOVE MOVEMENT, whether it be walking, bicycling, hiking, swimming, etc., and loved the idea of sharing that love with others. I keep coming back [to NWABA] because I have received far more from my interactions with NWABA staff, volunteers and athletes than I have given. I don't know anywhere else where I can not only experience the joy of watching an athlete tackle a physical challenge and beam with accomplishment, but also develop relationships with the athletes and see their confidence grow. They challenge me to be a better, stronger version of me.

NWABA lives and breathes its mission to provide life-changing opportunities through sports and physical activity to individuals who are blind and visually impaired. Time and time again, I have seen athletes blossom and change as their relationship with NWABA has deepened. NWABA has provided life-changing opportunities through sports and physical activity to me as a volunteer. It's a pretty special organization that can provide that not just for those it serves, but for its volunteers as well. ”

Whether it is skiing, hiking, helping kiddos learn to swim, or helping at special events, Margaret puts her whole heart into carrying out NWABA's mission. When she isn't helping delivering programs, Margaret goes above and beyond to support Northwest Association for Blind Athletes with a monthly donation. Monthly donations provide sustainable support so that NWABA can continue to enhance and expand programs across the region. While she contends that she has, “received far more from her interactions with NWABA staff, volunteers, and athletes” than she has given, NWABA is still profoundly grateful to have a supporter like Margaret Hill. Without volunteers and donors like Margaret, NWABA would not have the resources to transform the lives of nearly as many children, youth, adults, and military veterans who are visually impaired.

FEATURED ATHLETE, KEN RIVERNIDER:

A Lifelong Athlete Up for Any Challenge



Ken, pictured here in the straw hat, with a group on top of Mt. Pisgah in Eugene, OR

Ken Rivernider has always been active. After obtaining his undergraduate degree in Outdoor Recreation, Park Administration, and Environmental Interpretation at University of Massachusetts, Ken decided to head west.

While living in Aspen, Colorado, Ken began volunteering at a program called **Blind Outdoor Leisure Program** as a ski guide for individuals who were visually impaired. As fate would have it, Ken got into a ski accident where he sustained injuries that left him blind. Ken, always optimistic and compassionate, recalls this story saying, “I am so glad that I got to give back to this organization before they gave so much to me.”

Ken never let his accident slow him down. He got back on the mountain, and he became the only individual to ski as both a guide and a participant in BOLD. But it didn't stop there. Ken was also an avid runner, and he found ways to adapt his love of running after his accident. In 1986, he got second place in the Blind Division at the Boston Marathon!

It isn't any wonder that when Ken heard about NWABA programs that he wanted to get involved immediately. He has been an active athlete for the past two years as NWABA has been able to expand to the Southern Willamette Valley. He enjoys tandem biking, swimming, and hiking- in that order!

As NWABA has expanded programming to the Southern Willamette Valley, we have been able to meet and serve wonderful athletes like Ken. The athletes we serve overcome obstacles and meet their challenges with perseverance and heart. We are so grateful to be able to reach new communities and serve more people of all ages and abilities to help them reach their highest potential.

Kayaking/Paddleboarding

Greater PDX/Vancouver
June 2, 2018

Powell Butte Hike

Greater PDX/Vancouver
June 3, 2018

Seattle Family Paralympic Experience

June 9, 2018

South Ridgeline Trail

Southern Willamette Valley
June 10, 2018

Kayaking/Paddleboarding

Greater PDX/Vancouver
June 16, 2018

Tandem Biking

Greater PDX/Vancouver
June 17, 2018

Kayaking/Paddleboarding

Greater PDX/Vancouver
June 23, 2018

Tandem Biking

Greater PDX/Vancouver
June 24, 2018

Youth WSSB Summer Camp

Kayaking/Paddleboarding, Vancouver Lake
June 28, 2018

YES 1 Summer Camp

Kayaking/Paddleboarding, Vancouver Lake
June 28, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS