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NWABA.ORG

HELP CHANGE LIVES BY MAKING A MONTHLY GIFT TODAY! Envision Your Experience Monthly Giving Program



E.Y.E. GIVE

By making a monthly gift, you are providing life-changing opportunities to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Your support provides a sustainable source of revenue, enabling NWABA to continue enhancing and expanding critical programs that promote a better quality of life.



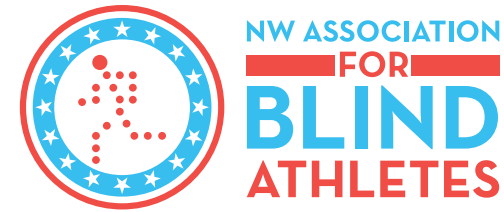
\$250/month
Supports outreach clinics for 10-15 students



\$100/month
Allows eight athletes to attend local competitions



\$25/month
Adds equipment to our Lending Library, like a beeping ball



GRATITUDE REPORT

FALL 2019

Enriching Lives. Providing Opportunities.

Featured Athlete: Janet Witt

"I am a 69-year-old woman who has been blind in one eye and limited vision in the other eye for about 2 1/2 years. I've struggled with adapting to how I do things differently and wasn't sure how I was going to be able to keep myself busy since I'm an active person."

Janet Witt discovered Northwest Association for Blind Athletes (NWABA) through peers in the Eugene Low Vision Support group. This summer she decided to join us for her first hiking and biking experience. Leading up to Janet's first events with NWABA, she was nervous and unsure what to expect. She worked closely with staff and other community resources to find accessible transportation and to ensure that her service dog, Escher, would be able to join.

To her surprise and delight, both the hiking and bicycling became positive, exciting experiences for her to connect with others who understood her and to feel like she belonged. She could be herself, engage in meaningful conversation, and trust that her guide would keep her and Escher safe and stress-free along the way.

"At the end of the weekend, I was looking forward to the upcoming month with more activities...I'm glad I gave it a try; it's exactly what I needed to get me out and involved with others who have so much in common."

We are grateful that Janet felt inspired to join us and participate in NWABA programs. Most importantly, she is now empowered to get back to her active, independent lifestyle, to stay healthy and fit, and to connect with a community of athletes who share and understand her experiences.

"I felt stuck in my home with my vision disability. Adjusting to the changes was scary. I could feel my brain turning to mush. I was worried for myself and my mental state. It was refreshing to be with others whom I do have something in common with. I feel like this organization has saved my life!!"



Left: Haley Musack, NWABA Volunteer
Right: Janet Witt, NWABA Athlete

Thank you!

CAMP SPARK

Registration opens online Dec. 2, 2019



Camp Spark is a comprehensive sports camp for individuals who are blind or visually impaired which uses sports and physical activity as a catalyst to promote independence, life skills, and greater quality of life. NWABA hosts camps in Oregon and Washington each summer and winter to reach over 80 kids, ages 8-16.



Edward, NWABA Camper

"I want to share some great news, Edward started middle school and is on the cross country team. Thanks to Camp Spark and NWABA, he is enthusiastic about doing sports, giving physical activities a try, and being part of a team. He has the confidence to try. So thank you so much for exposing him to the gains of sports and being active."

- Karolina, Parent of NWABA Camper

DONATE TODAY at nwaba.org to support life-changing programs for children, youth, and adults who are blind and visually impaired.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

NWABA continues to expand our reach and provide more activities across the Northwest. Please visit nwaba.org/events to learn more about upcoming program events in your area.

WASHINGTON:

November 2 - Swimming Experience
Vancouver, WA

November 9 - Paralympic Experience
Tacoma, WA

November 10 - Swimming Experience
Seattle, WA

OREGON:

December 8 - Skiing/Snowboarding Experience
Mt. Hood, OR

December 14 - Snowshoeing Hike
Eugene, OR

December 15 - Goalball
Eugene, OR

IDAHO:

November 16 - Boise Goalball Clinic
Boise, ID

Year-round - Competitive Goalball Teams
Boise, ID & Moscow, ID

MONTANA:

November 8 & 9 - MSDB Fall Enrichment Weekend
Great Falls, MT

Year-round - InstiGators Youth Goalball Team
Missoula, MT

BE A CHAMPION. LEAVE A LEGACY.

Champion Legacy Giving Member Spotlight



Patty Heffner, NWABA
Champion and Volunteer

Patty Heffner stumbled upon Northwest Association for Blind Athletes after moving to the Pacific Northwest. Having prior experience in coaching sports for people with visual impairments, she signed up to volunteer as soon as she could. She helped with beep baseball, was a referee for goalball, and observed a variety of programs to understand the full scope of NWABA. Eventually, Patty became such a strong champion for NWABA that she attended outreach events on behalf of our growing organization.

"WHEN YOU WATCH A KID OR AN ADULT DO SOMETHING THAT THEY HAD NEVER DONE BEFORE...IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN HOW HEARTWARMING AND INSPIRING IT IS."

The impact of NWABA truly resonated when Patty heard the first-hand experience of a young girl who was being left out of P.E., to sit in the hallway alone, simply due to her visual impairment. The girl, her mother, and the girl's teacher worked with NWABA to find simple, inclusive solutions for the child to participate in sports and physical activities. Not only did they find solutions to include her in P.E., but she was also now able to connect with new friends and she had access to the same opportunities that her peers did.

"I THOUGHT WOW, THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT SPORTS...IT PUT ME RIGHT OVER THE EDGE."

Years later, Patty was seeking a meaningful way to continue supporting NWABA's athletes and found the Champions Giving Legacy Society. There are many ways to leave a legacy gift such as options that allow you to earn income, options that reduce taxes for your heirs, and options that are as simple as adding a line to your will.

It was important to Patty that her legacy would thrive in an organization she trusts, a place that would use the funds transparently, and where the gift would be transformational for many years. Based on her experience with NWABA, she decided to join our Champions Legacy Giving Society by designating a gift in perpetuity.

"I TRULY BELIEVE IN THE MISSION AND PROGRAMS OF NWABA TO HELP CHANGE LIVES, ENCOURAGE ABILITIES, BUILD CONFIDENCE, AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES. I WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT DURING MY TENURE ON THIS GOOD EARTH AND MADE PROVISION FOR PLANNED GIVING FOREVER AFTER."



JOIN THE CHAMPION LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY

To discuss your options for making a planned gift, please call Billy Henry, Founder, President/CEO at **360.448.7254** or visit nwaba.org to discover more ways to get involved.