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Empowering Vision

2023 – 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear Friends,

Seventeen years ago, I saw what others did not—an opportunity to create a world where blindness and visual impairment did not mean limits. With determination and a passion for change, I, along with a group of friends, founded Northwest Association for Blind Athletes (NWABA) so that everyone, regardless of ability, could experience the camaraderie and connection that sports bring.

Today, NWABA is more than an organization—it’s a game-changer. It’s the first swim lesson for a child who never imagined gliding through water. It’s the exhilaration of crossing the finish line. It’s the deep bonds of friendship formed on hiking trails and ski slopes. Every moment is a step toward independence, confidence, and a future without limits.

Thanks to your generosity, this past year we:

* Delivered over 550 in-person and virtual events, bringing adapted sports opportunities to communities far and wide.
* Surpassed 5,000 program interactions for the first time in our 17- year history.
* Expanded our reach nationwide and globally through our virtual programs and YouTube channel.

I am incredibly grateful to you—the athletes, the families, the volunteers, and the supporters who make this work possible. Together, we are proving that vision loss is not a barrier—it’s an opportunity to redefine what’s possible.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Billy Henry,

Founder, President & CEO

Erik Selden,

Board Chair

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## 17 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

What started with Billy borrowing $50 and setting up shop in his parents’ garage has come a long way! Today, we celebrate 17 incredible years in Vancouver, WA, where NWABA has grown from a humble beginning into an organization that proves that sports open doors to confidence, independence, and community.

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# PROGRAMS & SERVICES: SPORTS OUTREACH

## Our Reach, Our Results

Sports have the power to transform lives, and at NWABA, we make sure every individual who is blind or visually impaired has the chance to experience that power. Our Sports Outreach Program brings adapted sports to athletes of all ages and abilities, providing more than just competition—it’s about confidence, connection, and breaking barriers.

## New for This Year: Rock Climbing

We’ve expanded our Sports Outreach Program to include rock climbing, giving our athletes the chance to challenge themselves in a thrilling, hands-on activity that builds strength, confidence, and teamwork.

## Triathlons Across Two Cities

Triathlon events were held in both Boise, Idaho, and Vancouver, Washington, with over 15 athletes and 30 guides rising to the challenge. These races were a true testament to the spirit and resilience of our community, making for an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

## 49% Growth in Engagement

We delivered 2,856 program interactions this year, marking a 49% increase from last year.

“Thank you, NWABA, for such an AMAZING [climbing] experience!!! You guys are my reason for wanting to get out of the house and experience new things in my life. Thank you for what you do.”

* Humberto, NWABA Athlete, Puget Sound

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# PROGRAMS & SERVICES: SPORTS OUTREACH

## Expanding Our Impact

NWABA’s Sports Outreach Program is dedicated to expanding in-person access to sports and physical activities for individuals of all ages who are blind or visually impaired. We have identified three key growth areas where we are providing in-person, ongoing programs:

* Greater Vancouver & Portland: Covering Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties as well as Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Yamhill, and Columbia Counties.
* Puget Sound: Serving Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties.
* Southwest Idaho: Focusing on Treasure Valley and Gooding County.

## Impacting Idaho

In just two years, our Boise office has significantly expanded its reach—serving more children, youth, and adults, hosting more events, and deepening program engagement. This momentum ensures more individuals in Idaho have the opportunity to experience the power of sports.

Together, we will continue transforming lives by improving the well- being of individuals who are blind and with visual impairments.

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20+ Sports Offered

355 Athletes Served

2,856 Program & Service Interactions

343 Program Events

1,059 Program Hours

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# PROGRAMS & SERVICES: VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

## Breaking Barriers, Expanding Access

Since becoming a core program in 2022, NWABA’s virtual programs have opened new doors for athletes worldwide. These 60-minute live and pre- recorded audio-described workouts provide a fully inclusive fitness experience, allowing participants from remote areas and beyond our service zones to stay active.

### YouTube Success

Our channel saw remarkable expansion, with 163 new subscribers joining our community.

### Expanded Reach

We boosted our virtual offerings by delivering 214 online events.

### Recognizing Achievement

Our NEW milestone program celebrates athletes’ commitment, marking key accomplishments at 100, 300, 500, and even 1,000 classes and beyond.

### Learn the Burn

Launched in November 2023, this program helps athletes deepen their understanding of the kinesthetics of movement.

“We are like a family of sorts, and it’s awesome to have people to workout with who are also blind and need descriptions. I never thought I would find a workout place that could help me the way that NWABA has these past couple of years. I would be lost without them. Every one of the instructors is very helpful and knowledgeable on our needs and the different classes that we take.”

Dana, NWABA Athlete, Virtual Program

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# PROGRAMS & SERVICES: VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Our reach is extending far beyond the Northwest, year over year!

118% Increase in YouTube views

41% Increase in virtual program offerings

## Milestone Highlights:

NWABA’s Virtual Milestone Program honors athletes who push their limits and stay committed to their fitness journey. These achievements exhibit dedication, perseverance, and the power of adaptive sports:

* 5 athletes reached 100 classes, demonstrating consistency and determination.
* 10 athletes surpassed 300 classes, leading by example with perseverance and grit.

From Dancing Through Decades and full-body cardio challenges to deep stretch and yoga workouts, there is something for everyone!

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# PROGRAMS & SERVICES: CAMP SPARK

## Igniting Confidence, Independence, and Adventure

Camp Spark is more than just a sports camp—it’s an adventure-packed experience for children, youth, and young adults who are blind or visually impaired. Through adaptive sports, adventure, and teamwork, campers build confidence, independence, and lifelong skills in a supportive and inclusive environment.

In 2023, Camp Spark expanded with six in-person sessions, including a new program for campers with visual impairments and additional disabilities. Athletes from across the region gathered in Oregon and Washington to help make this year unforgettable.

124 Program Interactions

88 Camp Spark Athletes Served

6 Camp Sessions

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## A GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY

It costs approximately $4,000 to send just one athlete to our week- long summer session. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, sponsors, and partners, Camp Spark remains completely free for families, so every athlete has the chance to grow, connect, and thrive.

“I’m beyond grateful for my 8 years at camp. It’s helped me grow so much as a person, become more independent, and create lasting memories. Camp has had a huge impact on my life, from building meaningful relationships with staff and campers to learning that it’s okay to fail as long as I give my best effort. I’ve learned to appreciate the little things and push myself to new limits. Thank you for everything.”

Ruth, NWABA Athlete, Camp Spark

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# PROGRAMS & SERVICES: SPORTS ADAPTATIONS

## Empowering Through Inclusive Education

NWABA’s Sports Adaptations Program is committed to making sports accessible to everyone, regardless of visual impairment. Through instructional videos, equipment lending, and expert consultations, we make sure that schools, educators, and families have the resources to create inclusive, accessible opportunities.

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

### Video Resource Library

Developed over 70 free instructional videos to guide adaptive sports education for teachers and families over the last five years.

### Adaptive Equipment Lending Library

Completed 64 equipment loans at no cost to schools, families, and athletes, ensuring access to critical adaptive equipment for individuals who are blind in their local communities.

### Adapted P.E. Consultations

Saw a 20% increase in virtual consultations with teachers, Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams, administrators, and organizations throughout our four-state region.

### Ensuring Access for All

Delivered 404 program and service interactions through Sports Adaptations, supporting inclusive education and training.

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# PROGRAMS & SERVICES: VISIBILITY & OUTREACH

## Embracing New Possibilities in a Changing World

We are raising awareness across the region by actively engaging with the communities we serve. Through our presence and participation in public speaking engagements, we strive to increase the visibility of the life-changing opportunities we offer.

1,193 In-Person V&O Interactions

749 Virtual V&O Interactions

1,942 Total V&O Interactions

## Mini Grants for Athlete Success

We provide mini grants to our athletes and their families to help reduce financial barriers, offering vital resources and specialized equipment necessary for success in various sports activities.

### Breaking Financial Barriers

* Provided 58 mini grants to support athletes with equipment, training, and competition costs.

### Competitions and Athlete Support

* Sponsored 10 athletes in the Hood to Coast Relay.
* Sent 2 teams to the National Goalball Tournament.
* Enabled 21 athletes to compete in the Portland Rose Festival.
* Helped 10 athletes participate in the Treasure Valley Triathlon.

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# GROWTH: LEADERSHIP

## OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

We are so proud of all we have accomplished this fiscal year, while maximizing our resources and keeping our mission and values top of mind.

* Continued to strategically invest in our growth areas of Portland/Vancouver, Puget Sound, and Idaho.
* Served 441 unique children, youth, and adults across the Northwest.
* Mobilized 316 passionate volunteers to power programs and support our athletes.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair, Erik Selden
Senior Vice President,
Washington Trust Bank

Board Vice-Chair, Scott McCallum Superintendent,
Washington State School for the Blind

Secretary, Jeff Gray
Vice President, Global GTM and Corporate Functions Recruiting and Internal Mobility,
ServiceNow

Finance Committee Chair, Karen Holterhoff Community Volunteer

Megan Bishop
VP, Finance & Business Operations,
Comcast

Ben Campbell
Publisher/CEO,
The Columbian

Rod Cook
Community Volunteer

Dr. Jennifer Drean
President/CEO,
Gem State Eyecare

Jason Fish
Owner,
Main Event

Alex Hutchinson,
Associate Attorney,
Miller Nash

Eric Merrill
Community Volunteer

Scott Miller
Community Volunteer

Jonathan Nelson
Senior Writer, Legacy Health

Angel Reyes
Corporate Social Responsibility Officer,
Key Bank

Don Rhodes
President,
The Convenience Group

Robert Stewart
Sr. Financial Consultant,
Laurus Wealth Management

Marc Timm,
Chief Lending & Credit Officer,
Columbia Credit Union

Mike Williams
Community Volunteer

Ex Officio Board Member,
Billy Henry
Founder, President & CEO

## AREA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL: PORTLAND & VANCOUVER

Area Leadership Council Chair, Ben Campbell
Publisher,
The Columbian

Area Leadership Council Vice-Chair, Monica Santos-Pinacho
Director of Community Engagement,
PointNorth Consulting

Neil Daly
Insurance Agent,
State Farm

KaDo Gorman
Community Volunteer

Sunny Golden
Director of Catering & Events,
AC Hotel Vancouver Waterfront

Alan Hwang
VP, Demand Generation
Later

Brian Lott
Business Development,
Hudson River Trading

Harrison Lynch
Community Volunteer

Colleen Madigan
NWABA Athlete & Community Volunteer

Shelan Stritzke
Vice President, Human Resources,
iQ Credit Union

Tina Vlachos
Owner, Tina Vlachos Agency LLC,
American Family Insurance

Trina Latshaw
Business Development Manager
Robinson Restoration

Kelly Love
Marketing Director
The Vancouver Clinic

## AREA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL: IDAHO

Nick Aldinger
CEO,
IBL Events

Dr. Jennifer Drean
President & CEO,
Gem State Family Eyecare

Madison Ediger
Tax Senior Manager,
Deloitte Tax LLP

Paul Fleming
Senior Account Manager
Boise Metro Chamber

Scott Schlange
Idaho Market President,
Key Bank

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# GROWTH: FINANCIAL IMPACT

## Directly Driving Results

NWABA values your generosity and is committed to full transparency and stewardship of our resources. We are honored to have earned the 2024 Platinum Seal by Candid, which is the highest level possible and demonstrates our commitment to transparency.

For more information, a copy of our Form 990 is available upon request or on our website at [nwaba.org/financials](https://nwaba.org/about/who-we-are/financial-transparency/).

### 2024

Programs & Services $1,839,433 72% of total Expenses

Development & Communications $531,763 20% of total Expenses

Management & General $194,32 78% of total Expenses

Total Expenses $2,565,523

We are honored to say that in FY23-24, 72% of all funding went directly to support our mission and programs for individuals with visual impairments.

### 2023

Total Revenue $2,661,760

Total Expenses $2,556,493

Ending Net Assets $1,528,651

### 2024

Total Revenue $2,329,548

Total Expenses $2,565,523

Ending Net Assets $1,372,028

Mission: To provide life-changing opportunities through sports and physical activity to individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

Vision: To be the national leader in transforming the quality of life for all individuals who are blind and visually impaired, through sports and physical activity.

### Values

**GROW BOLDLY.** We are committed to cultivating opportunities for individual and organizational growth.

**BE TRANSPARENT.** We operate with full transparency, bringing honesty and integrity to everything we do.

**BE INCLUSIVE.** We welcome, serve, and support all people with dignity and respect.

**STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE.** We bring steadfast determination in pursuit of our mission and our goals.

**EMPOWER PEOPLE.** We champion potential and empower people to turn their ambitions into reality.

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# COMMUNITY: GET INVOLVED

## Transforming Lives Together

Looking for ways to be a part of the NWABA community? Explore how you and your business can make a difference:

* Become a Monthly Donor
* Volunteer
* Shop for NWABA
* Leave a Legacy in Your Estate Plan
* Fundraise for NWABA
* Become a Corporate Partner
* Corporate Gift Matching
* Give Stock
* In-Kind Donations

For more information, contact us at development@nwaba.org or 360.448.7254.

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# COMMUNITY: GET INVOLVED

## Connecting Communities and Changing Lives

NWABA volunteers inspire individuals who are blind or visually impaired by fostering confidence, independence, and community. Every moment of time given strengthens our mission, creating unforgettable experiences for our athletes.

“NWABA is a gift to the athletes as well as the people who volunteer to help. Volunteering for NWABA has educated me about some of the challenges blind and visually impaired individuals face. I enjoy meeting and sharing in the adventures of the athletes. As there are many events and athletes to work with, no event is ever the same. Each time I volunteer, I come away with having learned something new and being happy to see that my athlete had a fun time.”

Heidi, NWABA Volunteer

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

* **Sports & Recreation Support:** Help with tandem biking, swimming, hiking, or other adaptive sports.
* **Camp Spark:** Support athletes throughout the week or for one day during camp.
* **Special Events & Office Support:** Help with fundraisers, awareness campaigns, athlete competitions or work in the office.

Join us and be part of something genuinely impactful! Learn more at [nwaba.org/volunteer](https://nwaba.org/support/volunteer/).

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# Celebrating Success with Our Community

Together, with the support of our donors, board members, volunteers, staff, and event sponsors, we have been able to provide critical support to our programs and make a real difference in the lives of the individuals we serve. Thank you.

HEADQUARTERS: 805 Broadway Street, Suite. 750, Vancouver, WA 98660

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[nwaba.org](https://nwaba.org/)