

NW ASSOCIATION
FOR
BLIND
ATHLETES

Empowering Vision

2023 - 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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

Billy Henry,
Founder, President & CEO

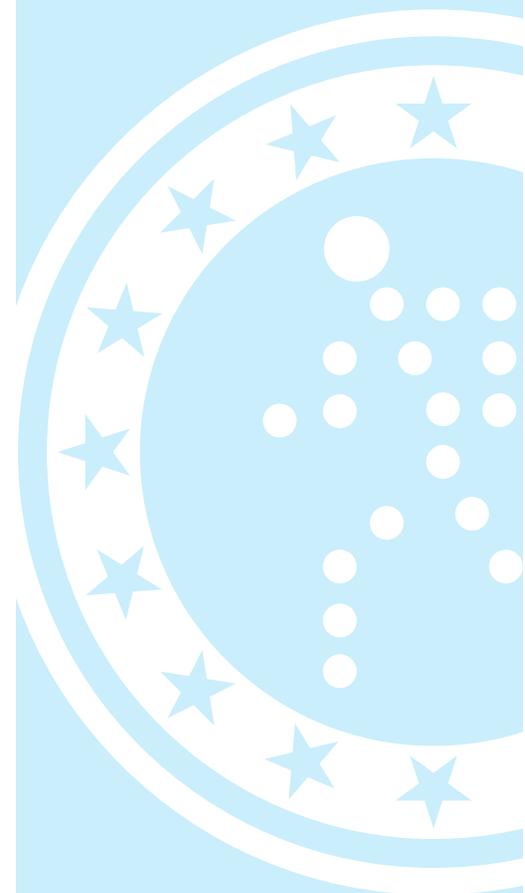


Erik Selden

Erik Selden,
Board Chair

*"We were able to deliver **more than 5,000 program and service interactions** in FY23-24 because of your generosity."*

—Billy Henry



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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.

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**

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.

20+
Sports Offered

355
Athletes Served

2,856
Program & Service
Interactions

343
Program Events

1,059
Program Hours



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.



Recognizing Achievement

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



Expanded Reach

We boosted our virtual offerings by delivering 214 online events.



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

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.



Day 1 - 60s Oldies - Dancing Through Decades Challenge



Northwest Association for Blind Athletes
1.12K subscribers

Subscribe

7



Share

Download

Clip



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



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.

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.



124
Program
Interactions

88
Camp Spark
Athletes Served

6
Camp
Sessions





"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**

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

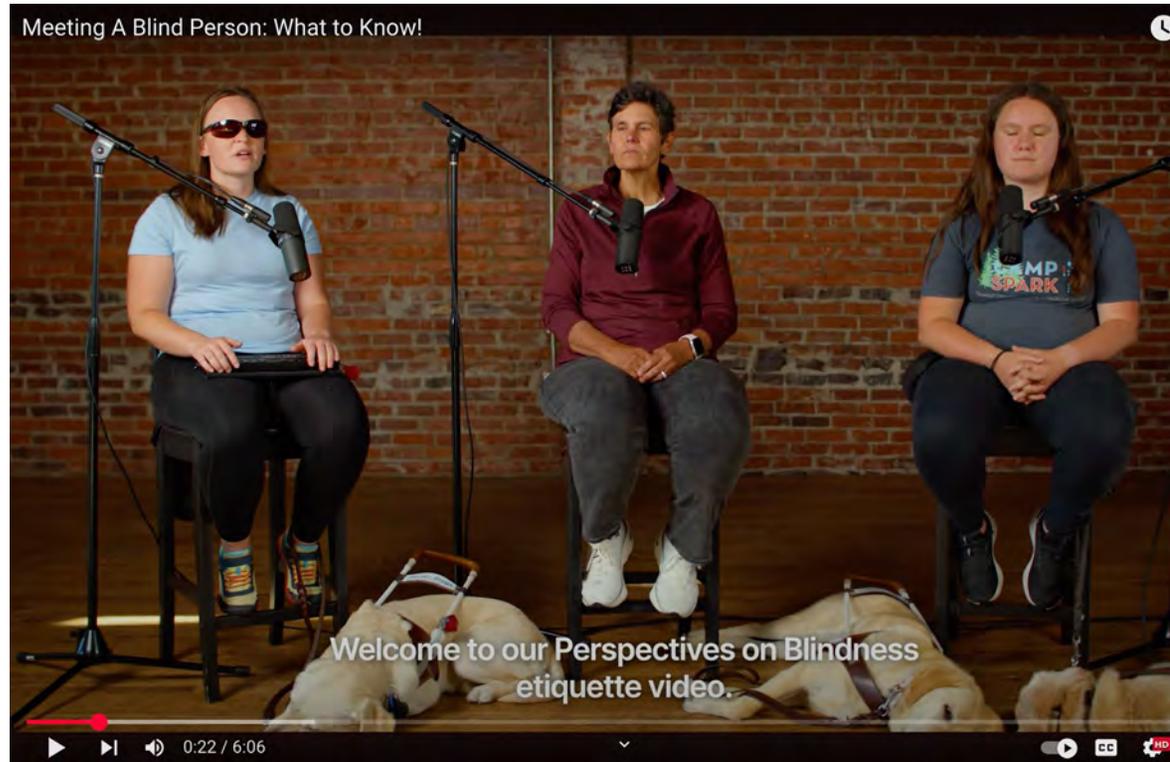
Completed 64 equipment loans at no cost to schools, families, and athletes, ensuring access to critical adaptive equipment for individuals who are blind in their local communities.

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.



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.



LEADERSHIP

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 Rhoads

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

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.

AREA LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

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

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

- **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.

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.

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.

	2024	
Programs & Services	\$1,839,433	72%
Development & Communications	\$531,763	20%
Management & General	\$194,327	8%
Total Expenses	\$2,565,523	

	2023	2024
Total Revenue	\$2,661,760	\$2,329,548
Total Expenses	\$2,556,493	\$2,565,523
Ending Net Assets	\$1,528,651	\$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.

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.



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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

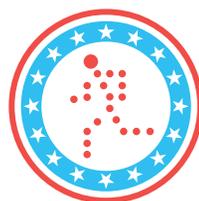
- **Sports & Recreation Support**
Help with tandem biking, swimming, hiking, or other adaptive sports.
- **Camp Spark**
Support athletes throughout the week or for one day during camp.
- **Special Events & Office Support**
Help with fundraisers, awareness campaigns, athlete competitions or work in the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

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

“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





NW ASSOCIATION
FOR
BLIND
ATHLETES

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

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NWABA.ORG

