

Empowering News

THE BOEC NEWSLETTER Winter 2012

Great Times at Hope Mountain Camp

by Amanda Childs, American Cancer Society

Hope Mountain Camp, an American Cancer Society camp for siblings of children with cancer, happened June 24-27 and this is my traditional recap.....except this is going to be the BEST one yet!

This year we did the same activities, but in NEW places. We camped on Friday and Saturday nights, both in amazing places. We rock climbed at Camp Hale (very beautiful and very interesting place) and we rafted the Colorado River. As per tradition, we tackled the ropes course on the last day.



Why such little commentary you may ask.... well this year I have the BEST thing ever for you all.... you get to actually SEE and FEEL camp. One of our amazing campers filmed the entire weekend and made a video!! I really, REALLY hope all of you will take the 10 minutes and watch the video ALL the way through, it's so amazing and really gives you a good peek at how special Hope Mountain Camp is, and what it means to our kids who come. See the video online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM0b-IdJc8s>.

I also want to share with all of you a poem that this same camper wrote. She was inspired by our sharing circle and how the kids really rallied around each

other. This year, I saw more positivity and encouragement than I had ever seen before during our circle.... and as always their strength and insight inspires and touches me. Here is the poem:

Green, Yellow, Red, Green

A poem by Kaylee Pratt
Inspired by Hope Mountain Camp

*Yellow light, red light, green light,
GO!*

*We're born in this world
With nothing to know.
You play in the sun,
You play in the snow,
But then you get sick,
And go through chemo.*

*Life is a road,
And you are the car.
You can't control death
To be near or be far.
Of all the places,
You go and you see,
You look through a window,
With no liberty.*

*An octagon sign
That tells you to stop.
The road is too short,
But in case there's a cop,
You lay on the brakes,
And gather your thoughts,
And watch all the healthy
Pedestrians cross.*

*Sometimes you may help
Hitchhikers so sad,
A sibling, a friend,
A mom, or a dad.
They heal your scars,
You brush off their sand,
But sometimes you cry harder
When they hold your hand.*

*And sometimes a blessing
May cross your path.
A beautiful butterfly
Whose name was once Zach,
A bumper sticker
That may make you laugh,
A pretty new wig
Or a new floppy hat.*

*No U-turns,
No turning around,
One way street
Where maturity is found.
It's been quite a while
Since your feet touched the ground.
Your road is as long
As your golden heart pounds.*

*You pass all the lights,
But follow the signs.
You play it safe,
Don't cross yellow lines.
I have been here
With your hand in mine.
And really, the road
Is bumpy but fine.*

*Yellow light, red light, green light,
GO!*

*You've made it through
Much more than you know.
I've seen you hide,
And I've watched you grow.
You've reached the highway:
A long, smooth road.*

Many thanks to the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center... the staff there really worked with me on putting together the best Hope Mountain Camp we could under our circumstances and our course director remains to be the BEST we've ever had. She keeps us organized, on schedule and IN FUN. Once again, the BOEC continues to hire GREAT interns.



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Winter 2012 Interns

Alex Hutchins, Amanda Coale, Bart Lawson, Blake Cotton, Erin Anderson, Greg Murphy, Kurt Wigmore, Megan Beretta, Monica Sze, Phillip Popp, Sasha Pietkiewicz, Terrin Frey



All or part of the BOEC's programs are conducted on public lands under special permit from the United States Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service.

This issue of Empowering News is made possible by the Town of Breckenridge.

Update from the Director

The BOEC finished up an extremely busy and very successful year. The demand for our programs has not diminished in this economic downturn—both summer and winter programs have run at near capacity, serving nearly 2000 people with disabilities and special needs. We were also able to maintain support for our financially disadvantaged participants due to the longtime support of many donors. Here are some highlights of the Wilderness Program's summer:



Bruce Fitch

- The Children's Hospital brought groups from their Sensory Integrative Disorder and Cerebral Palsy clinics for multi-day Wilderness Courses.
- Two programs were run for Wounded Warriors and their families—a 7-day float on the San Juan River in July and the Breckenridge-based Family Retreat in August. This was in addition to our three annual on-snow events that focus on Wounded Warriors during the winter.
- The Brain Injury Association of Colorado did six multiple-day programs this summer, including the Ruby-Horsethief Colorado River trip and Creative Minds program in September.

Last winter, the Adaptive Ski and Ride Program conducted 3,075 lessons, an all-time high. Highlights of the winter include:

- For the third time, a group of disadvantaged youngsters from five countries in Africa skied with the BOEC in December through the B.O.L.D. Program (Building on Life's Disappointments). Twenty-seven youth had the time of their lives and spent their first day ever on snow.
- The U.S. Association of Blind Athletes had another successful program at the BOEC. Eighteen students came in March for three days of skiing and Wilderness programming, including biathlon training at the Frisco Nordic Center.
- Another notable long-time client was The Children's Hospital in Denver's Cleft Palate Camp. Thirteen kids with cleft palates and lips spent three days skiing and doing other activities. The Children's Hospital annually brings several groups to the BOEC.
- The BOEC was awarded a grant from the U.S. Olympic Committee and the DiCola Family Foundation to strengthen our work with disabled veterans. Sixty vets participated in BOEC skiing and wilderness activities.

Special Events were very successful this year. Our signature events, the second annual Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, the ninth annual Breckebeiner 60K Nordic Ski-a-Thon and the 28th Annual Cinco de Mayo dinner and silent auction, hosted by Mi Casa Restaurant, all generated community spirit and much needed support of our programs.

There has been some staff transition this year. Bob Bond, the BOEC's Wilderness Program Director for the past 15 years, left his position this spring to pursue other opportunities. We are grateful for the steady hand and deep expertise that Bob brought to the BOEC and he will be missed. That being said, we are also very excited to welcome Doug Sandok as the new WPD. Doug brings more than 20 years of outdoor education instruction, management and consulting experience to the BOEC. Doug has made his own mark on the program with his many new ideas, energy and vision.

Continued on next page ...

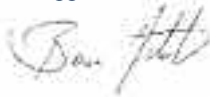
BOEC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center is to expand the potential of people with disabilities and special needs through meaningful, educational and inspiring outdoor experiences.

Looking forward, we are not anticipating major growth in the next year. Times are still hard and we will work hard to maintain our services through outreach and development efforts. The focus will be on retaining key clients (who themselves are facing funding challenges), seeking new sources of funding to enhance our traditional sources and increasing activity on our shoulder months. The Keystone Adaptive Center continues to grow as the adaptive skiing takes hold at that Resort and we are seeking to add more public and private schools to our Wilderness program schedule in May and September.

We are anticipating two major capital projects. The Town of Breckenridge has agreed to a purchase option for our currently leased administrative building on Wellington Road. We will seek funds for this purchase and badly needed renovation over the next few years. Secondly, Breckenridge Ski Resort has given approval for the BOEC to expand the current BOEC ski office space in the Maggie building at the base of Peak 9. The proposed addition would almost double the current space. Those of you who have been in the ski office on a busy day know how important this addition is for us.

We look forward to great snow later in the season and great programs this winter. Thank you all for your support!



Donor Profile – Denver Active 20-30

The Denver Active 20-30 Children’s Foundation (“Denver Active 20-30”) is a non-profit service organization for business leaders between the ages of 20 and 39. Chartered under Active 20-30 International, the Foundation members represent a diversity of professional backgrounds. The mission of the Foundation is to raise money for disadvantaged children through annual fund-raising events and projects. Since its inception in 1987, events hosted by Denver Active 20-30 have raised over \$6 million.

The 24-year old foundation is dedicated to contributing to the betterment and welfare of the children in the local

community. In its efforts to help others each member also strives to develop character, become a better citizen and learn to live and appreciate a fuller and richer life. In addition, the organization strives to raise the community’s awareness of the need to care for underprivileged children in the state of Colorado through fundraising and hands on community service. The BOEC is proud to be a beneficiary of the Denver Active 20-30 Children’s Foundation. Their contribution to our scholarship fund makes it possible for many children with disabilities to attend our programs who could not otherwise come.

Board Profile – Pat Campbell

Pat is a Senior Vice President of Vail Resorts and Chief Operating Officer of the Breckenridge Resort. Prior to that, she was Chief Operating Officer of Keystone Resort and was the Director of Skier Services for Breckenridge Ski Resort for six years. She has worked a number of positions elsewhere in the ski industry, at Grand Targhee Ski Resort and at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. Pat is an avid cyclist and hockey player and has been a valuable supporter and Board member for the BOEC. She also serves on the Board of The Summit Foundation.



*Pat Campbell, BOEC
Board Member since 2006*

Volunteer Profile – Elizabeth Ross

Elizabeth first started volunteering for the BOEC, as a snowboarding volunteer after a brief trip home to California last year. When she returned from her trip she was looking for a non-profit to get involved with and quickly contacted the BOEC to see what she could do to help. Elizabeth says, “Once I started I knew I was hooked. I could not have found a better organization to sink into. I found something far bigger than me and it was just what I needed. Being a volunteer for the BOEC is more rewarding than I could have ever imagined. I am working with people who have a dream of skiing/riding and get to help them in seeing that dream come true. Not only do I enjoy my on mountain volunteer work, but I also enjoy



helping with the off mountain fundraising opportunities.”

Elizabeth spearheads Element Events, a hospitality industry company that specializes in weddings, corporate groups

and special events. Elizabeth first started Element Events because she too had dreams and goals not unlike her students at the BOEC. Elizabeth had a dream of opening her own event planning business and was able to see that dream come to fruition here in Colorado. She has a great passion for working with brides to create unforgettable wedding experiences. “Elizabeth’s experience makes her an outstanding volunteer for our fundraisers. She has been invaluable for our special events that bring in monies to help run our programs and is always willing to help anytime we need her” states Marci Sloan, development director.

Thanks Elizabeth!

BOEC Signature Fundraisers

by Marci Sloan

The BOEC conducts several fundraisers throughout the year that generate funds in support of BOEC programs and to aid in our mission of allowing all abilities to experience outdoor adventures. Event support and committed donors have been especially important to the BOEC's success over the years. The following major fundraisers help support our adaptive programs and we thank our partners and the community leaders behind these initiatives:

Breckebeiner 60K Ski-A-Thon & Snowshoe Bash – The 9th Annual Breckebeiner 60K brought in over \$24,000 to benefit the BOEC's General Scholarship Fund. Thanks to our major sponsors: Gene & Therese Dayton, The Breckenridge Nordic Center Staff, Sir Speedy Centennial, Town of Breckenridge, Vail Resorts Echo, Summit Daily News, Alpine Bank, and the hundreds of athletes who came out to support this great event!



Cinco de Mayo – This annual event in memory of Willie Whalen, former adaptive ski instructor for the BOEC, hosted by Mi Casa Restaurant & Cantina and Storm Enterprises, drew a record of over 350 attendees and brought in over \$20,000 to the BOEC!



The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour – Hosted by the BOEC in February at the Riverwalk Center, this high adrenaline event netted over \$22,000 and sold out the Riverwalk at over 750 seats! A variety of the best sports, adventure and cultural films in the world were hot off the heels of the Banff Festival. Thanks to our sponsors: Town of Breckenridge, Grand Lodge on Peak 7, Nytis Exploration Company -Calgary Alberta, Tim and Patti Casey, Don and Mickey Sullivan, Jeffery Bergeron, Jane Barber, Mountain Outfitters, Unity Snowboards, John Warner DDS, Peak Provisions, Sulquist Mortgage, The Pine Beetles, Harvest Catering, NRC Broadcasting, Empire Burger, The Hermitage Bookshop and Summit Daily News.

“Tee It Up for Wounded Warriors & Keystone Adaptive Center” Golf Scramble –Over \$12,000 was raised to benefit Keystone Adaptive Center and our Wounded Warriors Fund.

Thanks to our major sponsors: The Scotty McFadden Foundation, Keystone Ranch Golf Club, Mountain Pride Cleaning and Restoration, Joseph Wilson, Vail Resorts Echo, Sir Speedy Centennial, Summit Daily News, St. Anthony Summit Medical Center, Bryan and Jo Ann Hartwig, NRC Broadcasting, Mary's Mountain Cookies, Copper Mountain Resort, Tim and Patti Casey, Cake LLC, and John and Kathryn Dunn. Thanks to all the golfers, volunteers and committee members who helped to make a success!



Annual Milhouse Memorial Run/Walk – In memory of Luke “Milhouse” Oldenburg this event in Fort Collins has raised over \$12,000 to benefit BOEC's Visually Impaired Programs. To learn more check out lifelikeluke.org on the Firstgiving website.



Copper Pin Program – Thanks to Copper Mountain Resort for their support of the BOEC through allowing us to sell several transferable ski passes! Thousands of dollars have been raised for the BOEC through this program.

ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) Vertical Challenge – A local effort to raise money for the BOEC ALS programs, led by Tim Casey and Larry Crispell and involving a number of local ski mountaineers, pledges funds based on the number of vertical feet they have skinned up Peak 8. Over \$20,000 has been raised as a result of their efforts!

“Deck the Hulls” – Wonderful advocates for the BOEC from Chicago, Kevin and Kirsten Hull expanded their wedding anniversary party to raise money for the BOEC's Chicago Scholarship Fund. Kevin and Kirsten collected over \$3,000 for us at the last event!

The North Face—Breckenridge – Thanks to Steve and Susan Lapinsohn and The North Face Staff for hosting a VIP Reception, featuring world renowned mountaineer, Mark Synnott, and raising \$900 for the BOEC.

Embers – Thanks to all the staff at Embers for hosting a fun Casino Night and raising \$600 for the BOEC!

Boston Beer Company and G.F. Rutkey Distributing – Through a donation of a portion of beer sale proceeds over the winter this wonderful group raised over \$1,800 for the BOEC's Scholarship Fund!



Don't miss these great future events to support the BOEC. Mark your calendars now...

SKI CHANNEL FILM TOUR “WINTER” hosted by the BOEC on Friday, March 16, 2012 at the Riverwalk Center. “Winter “ is a feature film narrated by Hilary Swank that follows amazing athletes who devote their lives to the mountains. For tickets and information visit www.boec.org.

BRECKEBEINER 60K SKI-A-THON & SNOWSHOE BASH benefit for the BOEC, Saturday, March 31, 2012 at Breckenridge Nordic Center. Get those skis or snowshoes out and start practicing your laps! Costumes, delicious food, entertainment and door prizes make this a great end of ski season celebration!

CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION at Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant & Cantina to benefit the BOEC will be on Saturday, May 5, 2012. A delectable Mexican buffet, door prizes and silent auction make this an event not to miss!

“TEE IT UP FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS AND KEYSTONE ADAPTIVE CENTER” GOLF SCRAMBLE will be on Monday, August 27, 2012 at Keystone Ranch Golf Course. Lunch, door prizes, a scenic course, and contests all to benefit our military and adaptive programs make this a great day to tee it up!

Please contact marci@boec.org if you are interested in learning more about any of these special events. We are looking for corporate sponsors, committee members, food donations, door prizes, silent auction items and volunteers. To learn more about BOEC events visit www.boec.org and/or “like” our page on Facebook under Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center.



“like” the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center on facebook to keep current and view photos on our special events.

Colder, Higher, Farther: An evening with explorer/guides Eric Larsen and Ryan Waters

March 15, 2012

Please come join the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center and adventurers/explorers/professional guides Eric Larsen and Ryan Waters for an evening of photos, movies and stories from the world's most wild and remote places. In 2009 and 2010 Eric and Ryan set separate world records: Eric skied to the North Pole, South Pole and climbed Mount Everest in the same year. Ryan, with his partner Cecilie Skog, completed the first unsupported, unassisted traverse of Antarctica. Their stories and accompanying photos and video are exciting, humorous, and awe-inspiring.

Eric and Ryan are speaking at 7:00 p.m., March 15th at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, Colorado to raise money for the BOEC's Outdoor Active Retreats for people living with Parkinson's disease. For more information visit www.boec.org.



Outdoor Active Retreats for Parkinson's (OAR)

Parkinson's disease doesn't mean giving up the joy of outdoor activities.

By Doug Sandok

BOEC will be hosting a series of programs which provide unique physical outdoor experiences in an enjoyable wilderness setting for people living with Parkinson's Disease. During the 5 day/ 4 night winter program, participants will enjoy Alpine and/or Nordic skiing, adaptive yoga, stretching and movement exercises, and will participate in creative activities such as theater, dance, singing, and art and journaling projects. In the warmer months activities will focus on adaptive (recumbent) cycling, flat-water boating (canoeing and/or rafting), hiking and peak ascents, and incorporate stretching, movement and balance exercises, adaptive yoga, and other creative activities. Each retreat is facilitated by trained, experienced staff and support people creating a vibrant, supportive group atmosphere. Participants can expect a highly active, fun filled and social week, in a unique and inspiring setting in Colorado or in the spectacular canyon country of Utah. Scholarships are available.

2012 Schedule

Outdoor Active Retreats for Parkinson's

February 22-26: Winter Ski Active Retreat #1 - Griffith Lodge in Breckenridge – *Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Adaptive Yoga and exercise* - \$850

May 15-20: Utah Adaptive Cycling Expedition for PD - mobile course in Utah – *A road cycling expedition in Utah's Canyon Country* - \$800

June Dates TBD: Summer Active Retreat #1 - Griffith Lodge in Breckenridge – *Cycling, Rafting and/or Canoeing, Adaptive Yoga and exercise*

August Dates TBD: Summer Active Retreat #2 - Griffith Lodge and camping – *Daily hikes, vehicle supported camping, and a peak climb in the beautiful Colorado Wilderness*

September Dates TBD: Summer Creative Nature Retreat - Griffith Lodge in Breckenridge – *Focused on stimulating your creative self and enjoying the outdoors*

For more information about an Outdoor Active Retreat contact doug@boec.org.

Staff Recognition

The BOEC thanks our wonderful, committed, hard working staff who reached the following milestones in their employment. We congratulate them and thank them for their work and dedication.

- 3 years –** Brittany Anderson, Ashley Christie, Casey Duncan, Larissa Galpin, Kristen Marron, Bill Moody, Kendal Oakleaf, Ben Rossetter, Margie Sinton, Marci Sloan, Shari Topping, John Waddick
- 5 years –** Erin Baird, Leslie Cancilla, Bruce Fitch, Ryan Latham, Roger Tyler
- 8 years –** Jaime Benthin, Erik Miller
- 10 years –** Alison Myers

BOEC Calendar of Courses and Events 2012

(full descriptions at www.boec.org)

Mono-Ski Camp – Mono-Skiing skills development, \$820	February 5–9
Outdoor Active Camp – For people with Parkinson’s	February 21–25
Adventures Within – For adults with Multiple Sclerosis, \$620	March 3–7
US Assoc. for Blind Athletes Ski Camp	March 9-14
Deaf/HOH Canyoneering (Age 30+):	May 6–12
Camp Big Tree (ages 12 – 16) – For sensory processing disorders, \$650	July 8–12
Adventures Within – For adults with Multiple Sclerosis, \$620	July 14–18
Wilderness Camp (ages 16 – 25) – For developmental disabilities, \$700	July 16–20
Deaf/HOH Mountaineering (Age 30+)	July 29–Aug 5
Out of Sight – For blind/visually impaired, ages 15 – 19, \$900	August 15-22
Rocky Mt. Getaway – For adults with physical disabilities and family, \$100	August 10–11
Green River Canoe Trip – For adults with traumatic brain injuries	October 1–7

Camps offered in conjunction with the **Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado (BIAC)** for adults with TBI:

April Fools	March 31–April 3
Challenge by Choice	June 2–8
Challenge by Choice	July 7–13
Challenge by Choice	July 28–August 3
Challenge by Choice	August 18–24
Canyon Canoe Trip	August 29–September 2
Creative Minds	September 7–10

For more information call 970-453-6422 or 800-383-2632 or email wildassist@boec.org.

Events

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour	February 25
Speaker Event – Eric Larsen and Ryan Waters Parkinson’s Program	March 15
Ski Channel Film Tour “Winter”	March 16
Breckebeiner 60 km Ski-a-thon and Snowshoe Bash	March 31
Cinco de Mayo Celebration	May 5
“Tee It Up for Wounded Warriors and KAC” Golf Scramble	August 27

DONOR LIST

Thanks to all our contributors fiscal year – October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. Please notify us of any errors or omissions. In-kind donations are indicated by (*) and cash plus in-kind indicated by (**).

\$20,000+

Adolph Coors Foundation
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Breckenridge Ski Resort*
Blue River Sports*
Carl and Caroline Swanson Foundation
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Colorado Rockies Charity Fund, McCormick Tribune Foundation
Denver Active 20-30 Children's Foundation
Phil and Barbara Gibbs
Keystone Ski Resort*
MaggieGeorge Foundation
Mi Casa Restaurant and Cantina/Storm Enterprises**
Olympic Opportunity Fund, U.S. Olympic Committee
RLC Foundation, Rose Community Foundation
Vail Resorts*

\$10,000+

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Matt Vega
USAA Community Affairs
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\$250-499

A Healing Feeling
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The Artist Tree*
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