“IF I CAN DO THIS, I CAN DO ANYTHING!”™
I’m really glad Achieve Tahoe was able to open up this year because missing a year while learning how to mono ski would have set me back. Coming from a skiing family, learning to ski again after my accident brings me a lot of happiness. Regaining the ability to ski and to be able to independently ski again with my family is my top goal. I’ve been coming almost every weekend and Achieve Tahoe has helped me learn because of the great instructors who are able to watch my body mechanics and teach me how to adjust.”

GUS, ACHIEVE TAHOE PARTICIPANT
Dear Achieve Tahoe Supporter,

I can safely state that our fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, was a tale of two halves. We were not sure what to expect when we hit the slopes in the winter of 2021, nine months after the COVID-19 shutdown. After four years of steady growth in the number of lessons we provided, winter 2021 became our least busy season in ten years. Despite the challenges relating to the pandemic, we successfully opened a “storefront” program center in the Village at Northstar and we helped our instructors earn a record number of certifications through the Professional Ski Instructors of America and Association of American Snowboard Instructors. I’m proud of and grateful to our team of volunteers and staff who safely navigated the winter of 2021 so that we could continue to serve our participants.

As the vaccine became available and demand for outdoor recreation grew during the spring of 2021, we set our sights on summer programming. In May of 2021, we promoted five part-time employees to full-time status and increased our training for our staff and volunteers to focus on our goal of increasing accessible summer activities in the North Lake Tahoe area.

With the support of new staff, grants, donors, local venue partners (most notably Tahoe City Public Utility District, The Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District and the Tahoe Donner Association), and willing volunteers, we were able to offer three new programs: archery, climbing, and equestrian. These complemented our growing hiking, kayaking, sailing, water skiing and Sierra Summer Sports at Donner Lake programs.

We continued to build on family participation in summer programming, such as that experienced by the Reyes-Acosta family story in this report. Despite challenges due to the pandemic and smoke from wildfires in the Sierra Nevada, we conducted a record 75 days of programming in the summer of 2021, the most in our history!

The success of this past fiscal year was unmistakably possible thanks to our individual donors, businesses and community partnerships, and foundations that believe in our mission of building health, confidence, and independence in people with disabilities.

The progress we made over the past year is part of our larger goal to help more people with disabilities enjoy year-round outdoor activities in the region. As we look toward this new year, I look forward to keeping you up to date on what strides we will be making to increase accessibility in the North Lake Tahoe area.

Thank you for your ongoing support during these times.

Sincerely,

Haakon Lang-Ree
Executive Director
This image represents most of the disabilities we served in 2020–2021. The size of the word is proportional to the number of individuals with that disability.
SNOWSPORTS
Private adaptive ski and snowboard lessons ran from December to April at the following ski resorts: Palisades Tahoe (Olympic Valley), Alpine Meadows and Northstar.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 313*
NUMBER OF LESSONS: 1,222

SUMMER PROGRAMS
Adaptive summer programs ran from June to September and included hiking, archery, climbing, paddle sports, equestrian, sailing and waterskiing. We also held various multi-sport day camps in the Tahoe area.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 171*
NUMBER OF LESSONS: 771

*Number of participants include 41 individuals that participated in both the summer and winter programs.

2020–2021 IMPACT

OVERVIEW
TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED 443
TOTAL NUMBER OF LESSONS 1,993
TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAM DAYS 202

YOUTH 57%
ADULT 43%

VOLUNTEERS
Number of VOLUNTEERS 191
HOURS DONATED BY VOLUNTEERS 8,643
DAYS DONATED BY VOLUNTEERS 1,767
Percentage of SNOWSPORTS VOLUNTEER HOURS SPENT ON TRAINING 30%

MILITARY
We offer year-round discounts, scholarships and all-expense-paid sports camps to our military Veterans and active-duty service members with permanent disabilities.

VOLUNTEERS
We could not do what we do without our amazing volunteers! We want to thank every one of the 191 individuals who dedicated an average of 45 hours each to help the hundreds of children and adults with disabilities we served in the 2020–21 year.
IN THE SUMMER OF 2021, the Reyes-Acosta family decided it was time to get outside again. Though they had grown up an active family, it had been 20 years since Frances and her daughters, Dani and Kika, had recreated together.

“Participating as a family was a great motivator for me,” said Frances. “I have multiple sclerosis. My grown children and I don’t often have opportunities to get together. This will be a fond memory. My daughters got a chance to experience and applaud my progress. This memory tags onto how they remember me jogging on the beach, swimming in the ocean, camping, and skiing. It was an opportunity to say it’s all here, I’m all here, and I’m ready to move forward. The use of the GRIT Freedom Chair...made the experience all the more exciting because I did it by myself to keep up with my family. I loved that I was able to ‘show off’ health and mobility. This could be a stepping stone to other activities.”

Photos by Andrew Lizotte in collaboration with Deuter USA
STAFF

HAAKON LANG-REE  
Executive Director

CINDY SMITH  
Administrative Director

MICHAEL HUNTER  
Program Director

MARINA GARDINER  
Guest Services Director

SCOTT BEHRENS  
Program Coordinator

JOSEPHINE CORMIER  
Communications and Program Coordinator

LAUREL HOWE  
Program Coordinator

ELIZABETH KOEWLER  
Volunteer and Program Coordinator

DEMI LATHAM  
Program Coordinator

RISA MATSUMURA  
Guest Services and Program Coordinator

2020–21 INTERNS

TAYLOR COWAN

JEYNA DOSHI

KAREN PIERCE

avery RODNY

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Director

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Director

ELIZABETH TWADDELL  
Director

DOUG PRINGLE  
Chairman Emeritus
Achieve Tahoe allows Katie to do more physical activities, which are a challenge for her. These activities give her confidence. She knows she can do this! ...and the program is a great social outlet for her.”

JOHN, FATHER OF LONG-TIME PARTICIPANT, KATIE.
**FINANCIALS**

**INCOME**

- Donations (individual and business) $1,033,648 63.05%
- Grants $389,917 23.79%
- Special Events $13,188 0.8%
- Fees for Service $163,427 9.97%
- Other (interest and merchandise) $39,116 2.39%

**Total Income** $1,639,296

**IN-KIND SUPPORT***

- Volunteer Time $229,376 (based on Federal $28/hr rate)
- Other In-Kind $110,505 (i.e. venues, facilities, technology, etc.)

**Total In-Kind** $339,881

*Goods or services given to Achieve Tahoe at no cost.*

**EXPENSES**

- Programs $1,013,327 81.65%
- Fundraising $78,681 6.34%
- Admin $149,057 12.01%

**Total Expenses** $1,241,065