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# 2015

## ANNUAL REPORT

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Chad Jukes assists a climber during the 2015 Paradox Ice Ouray trip.  
Photo by Garret Smith



# Letter from the Board



Photo by Will Strathamm

Dear Community Members,

In 2015, Paradox Sports realized a high level of success in our program delivery, curriculum trainings and building strong community relationships. The support we have received speaks volumes to the community of volunteers and donors that are such an integral part of the organization. We want to thank all of those individuals who have given their time and financial support.

This past year has been one of transition, growth and excitement for Paradox Sports. We have experienced leadership transition and now find ourselves welcoming in a renewed sense of excitement for the coming year. Paradox Sports is forever grateful to those individuals who tirelessly gave their time, treasure and talent, in order to support the growth of Paradox Sports. We have been working diligently on organizational structure, board development and delivering amazing experiences to adaptive communities across the country.

As we transition from 2015 into a new year, we are excited about the possibilities for growth, building new community relationships and ultimately structuring our organization so that we can support our refined mission of revolutionizing lives through adaptive opportunities that defy convention. We look forward to taking the next step in the evolution and development of Paradox Sports with our community.

Sincerely,  
Dave Elmore  
Board Chairman





# Our Mission

**Improve people's lives by creating physical adaptive sport communities built to inspire.**



*"After sustaining a traumatic injury or change in physical function you're forced to adapt the way you do things, which can feel like a daunting task to try and figure out on your own. There's no question that a physical disability can make a lot of things more complicated, and that's especially true when it comes to rock climbing. Climbers adapting to amputation, blindness, paraplegia, or any number of other physical or mental conditions must rely on specialized adaptive equipment, techniques, and assistance from others to make their dream of getting on the wall a reality. As a paraplegic athlete myself, I know how critical organizations like Paradox Sports are in helping me reach my goals."*

*- Vijay Viswanathan*



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Climbing, for me, is more than a personal pursuit. The climbing and outdoors community is comprised of an amazing group of individuals from all backgrounds and walks of life. It was the climbing community that helped me heal and find myself again after losing my dominant hand in an unfortunate accident. I am beyond happy and thankful to work with Paradox Sports and be able to share rock climbing with others who maybe once thought it wasn't possible for him- or herself.



-Paradox Sports Ambassador Jonathon Sedor





# Our Programs

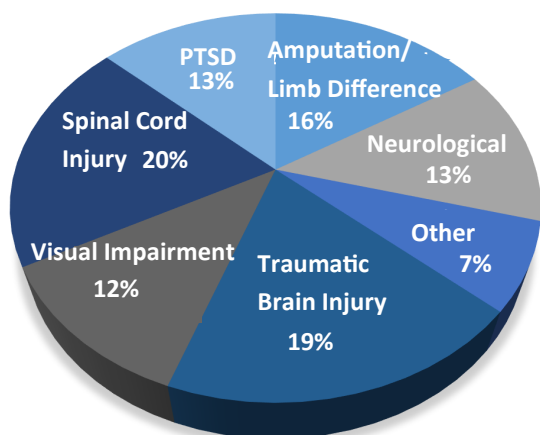


Red River Gorge, KY  
Photo by Wilkinson Visual

Paradox Sports seeks to recognize and foster an individual's potential and strength, defying the assumption that people with a physical disability can't lead a life of excellence. We provide inspiration, opportunities and specialized adaptive equipment so that anyone is able to be an active participant in human-powered sports.



## Disabilities by Category on Trips



"I had an absolute blast climbing with Paradox Sports in Red River Gorge, KY. I lost my vision a year and a half ago due to a seizure, and did not know how climbing would work when blind. I think I am braver in my disability now than I was before I became blind. When you face death, the challenges don't seem as big. My guide, Craig DeMartino, knew exactly when to help me and when to let me figure out a problem for myself. I achieved what I had set out to do - to reach the top of a wall and to come back with an awesome scar. I know I will come back again next year!"

- Avery Baggett



# Our Trips

“Paradox Sports enables me to connect with people in ways that I thought I never could anymore. I used to dream about doing things I did before I went blind, now I am climbing challenging routes with my girlfriend on belay and I have Paradox Sports to thank for turning this into reality. Being outside at the beautifully vast Gunks cliffs accompanied by the friendliest guides I have ever experienced and fellow climbers I can relate to enriches my life to an extent I never could have imagined. I have come away from my adventures with Paradox Sports with unforgettable memories and new friends that I will forever feel connected with. “

- Neil Taylor

## Our 2015 Trips

**North Conway Ice** — February  
**Ouray Ice Park** — February  
**Red River Gorge** — April  
**Eldorado Canyon** — June  
**Mount Rainier** — June  
**Grand Teton Veterans** — July  
**Grand Teton Open** — Sept  
**Yosemite** — September  
**The Gunks** — October  
**Red River Gorge** — October  
**Shelf Road** — October



In 2015, Paradox Sports ran 11 adaptive climbing trips in seven states for a total of 48 trip days. Our annual adaptive trips have a sense of irreverence and true grit that sets Paradox Sports apart. Paradox Sports integrates all abilities and skill levels, civilians and veterans, in order to create a unique supportive community. Our adaptive climbing trips run nearly year round, across the country. Paradox Sports teaches a high level of technical excellence in our trips, whether that is rock climbing, ice climbing or mountaineering.



## Our 2015 Trainings

Temple University  
Canadian Adaptive Climbing Society  
Northland College  
No Barriers Summit  
Climb Iowa  
Garrett College  
Footprints  
Climbing Wall Association  
University of Colorado - Boulder  
NE Adaptive Climbing Club  
SUNY Cortland  
Association of Outdoor Recreation and  
Education Conference  
Rock Spot Boston  
Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center  
Colorado College  
Colorado Mountain School

# Our Trainings



Enock Glidden at Rock Spot in Boston, MA

In 2015, we continued to spread the love of adaptive climbing across North America by releasing our second edition Adaptive Climbing Manual and offering 16 Paradox Sports Adaptive Climbing Trainings. These multi-day training opportunities provide climbing gyms, universities and other programs with cutting edge training and techniques in adaptive climbing, making their programs more accessible to people of all abilities.



Jess Sparte at Earth Treks in Golden, CO  
Photo by Ryan Waters





Red River Gorge, KY 2015  
Photo by Wilkinson Visual

# Our Community

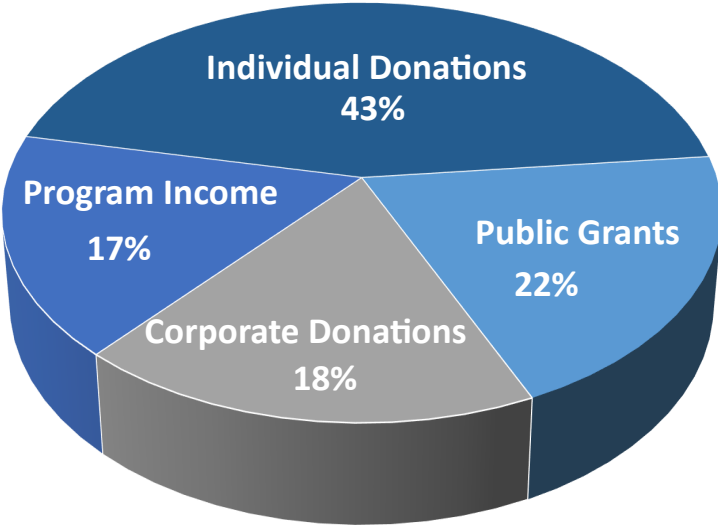
In 2015, Paradox Sports led adaptive climbing presentations at the Climbing Wall Association conference, the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education Conference and the No Barriers Summit. Paradox Sports also sponsored athletes to attend Paraclimbing Nationals. Our community continues to grow as we support the creation of local adaptive climbing clubs across the country in climbing gyms and programs that have been Paradox trained.



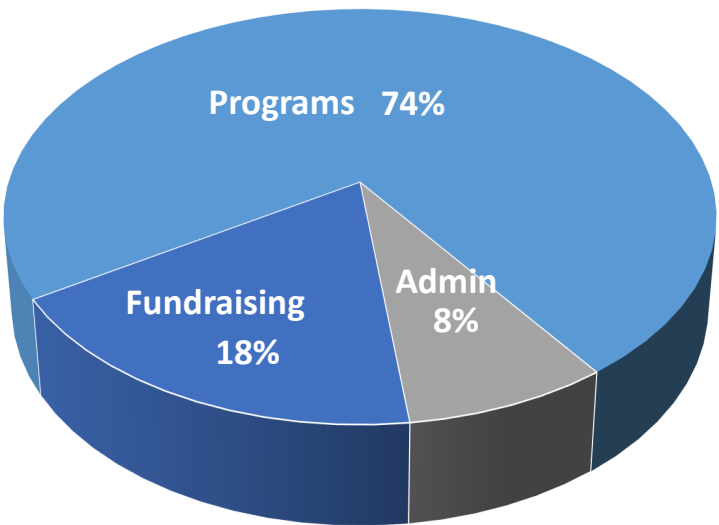




## Revenue Sources



## Expense Allocation



Grants and Foundations	\$68,383
Corporate Donations	\$55,609
Individual Donations	\$99,177
Event Income	\$37,333
Program Income	\$52,937
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$313,439</b>

Program Expenses	\$227,284
Administrative Expenses	\$24,492
Fundraising Expenses	\$57,008
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$308,784</b>





# What's Ahead in 2016



Mount Rainier, WA

## 2016 Trips

**North Conway Ice** — January 29– 31  
**Ouray Ice Park** — February 26 - 28  
**Eldorado Canyon** — June 11th  
**Youth Day CO Climb** — Summer TBD  
**Yosemite** — September 9 - 12th  
**The Gunks** — September 23 - 25th  
**Red River Gorge** — Sept 30 - Oct 2nd  
**Veterans Day CO Climb** — November 11th  
**Shelf Road** — October 21 - 23rd

[www.paradoxsports.org/trips](http://www.paradoxsports.org/trips)

## 2016 Trainings

**DSUSA** - Medford VA, White City, OR  
**DSUSA** - Houston VA, Houston, TX  
**Grand Valley Climbing** - Grand Junction, CO  
**Evo Rock** - Concord, NH  
**Evo Rock** - Indianapolis, IN  
**CU Pueblo** - Pueblo, CO  
**Pathfinder Ranch** - Anza, CA  
**CWA Summit** - Loveland, CO  
**Seattle** - Location TBD, Seattle, WA  
...and more!

[www.paradoxsports.org/training](http://www.paradoxsports.org/training)

In March 2016, the Paradox Sports athletes, staff and Board Members came together for an in depth Strategic Planning weekend to ensure continued growth and sustainability for year to come. In 2016 we will be running eight trips and ten adaptive climbing trainings as we focus on quality of our programs and connection to our tribe. Our key strategic goals will drive our engine through the next year.





# Our Supporters

5671

Facebook Followers

166

Individual Donors

170

Volunteers

2781

Instagram Followers

Maureen Beck at the Front Range Climbing Club night at Earth Treks  
Photo by Ryan Waters

Our work and growth would not be possible without the generous companies and professionals who donate their money, time and services to support adaptive climbing.

## THANK YOU



Photo by Wilkinson Visual

### Donors \$4000+

David Deniger  
John Masek  
Frank Robertson  
Craig & Cynthia Smith  
Robert Smith

### Donors \$1000+

Maury Birdwell  
Jeff Bowman  
Sharon Field  
William Givens  
David & Roberta Levin

Lee McNeely

Marilyn Owen

Bonnie Parker

Tieneke Pavesic

Aron Ralston

Michael Ray

James Tansey

### Donors \$500+

Maureen & Brian Beck  
Kim Bishop  
Ben Clark  
Timothy Courington

Kimberly Crine

Dave Elmore

Price Floyd

Jeffrey Glasbrenner

Rick Grossman

Tim Harrington

Jessica Hartwell

Dana Ivers

William Jordan

Kyle Lefkoff

Trinity Ludwig

George Marsden

Julie Meko

Angela Montgomery

Dan Nordstrom

Nancy Oberman

Michael Reddy

Dana Salomon

Franki Schafrick

Kimberly Shurlow

Dennis Skelton

John Thacker

Michael Ukropina

### Donors \$250+

Elise Ahearn

Ben Alexandra

Paul Chambers

Jimmy Chin

Thomas Davenport

Beth Davis

Adam Fisher

Christina Frain

Deanna Franco

Grace Gamble

Charles & Judy Goldman

Richard Gottlieb

Colin & Sarah Kirby

Alex Kosseff

Matt Murray

Wendy Ong

Meredith Parfet

Doug Sandok

Scott Stoveken

John Tveten

Chris Weidner



# Our Supporters

## Corporate Donors

Beitzel Corporation  
Equinix  
Marmot  
Outdoor Research  
Polartec  
Earth Treks Climbing Gyms  
Petzl America  
Native Eyewear  
Evolv  
Goal Zero  
Half Moon Outfitters  
La Sportiva  
Markel Corporation  
Misty Mountain Threadworks  
Osprey Packs  
Race LLC  
Ragnar Events LLC  
Rock and Snow  
Sterling Rope  
The Environmental Group  
Whole Foods  
Patagonia

## Grants & Foundations

Craig H Neilsen Foundation  
The North Face Explore Grant  
Christopher Reeve Foundation  
Ironman Foundation  
Clif Bar Family Foundation  
Joseph Henry Emondson Foundation  
Arkansas Community Foundation  
The Research Foundation  
Porphyry Road Foundation  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
Orfalea Foundation  
Franklin Legacy Fund  
Lucky Seven Foundation  
The Environmental Group

These partners support  
Paradox Sports and you!

***We encourage you to support them.***

Red River Gorge, KY  
Photo by Wilkinson Visual



### **2016 Paradox Sports Staff**

Mike Neustedter, Executive Director

Adam Fisher, Program Director

Shelley Brook, Operations Manager

#### **Contact**

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mike@paradoxsports.org

#### **Paradox Sports**

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Boulder, CO 80302

### **2016 Board of Directors**

Dave Elmore, Board Chairman

Trinity Ludwig, Treasurer

Maureen Beck

Rebecca Boozan

Maury Birdwell

Price Floyd

Christina Frain

Nate McKenzie

DJ Skelton



[www.paradoxsports.org](http://www.paradoxsports.org)