



ANNUAL REPORT

2017



OUR MISSION

Paradox Sports revolutionizes lives through adaptive climbing opportunities that defy convention.

A group of people are camping at night in a desert setting. In the foreground, a person is seated in a wheelchair, facing away from the camera towards a campfire. To their right, another person is seated in a red folding chair. In the background, several other people are gathered around a bright campfire, which illuminates the scene. A large, gnarled tree stands to the left of the campfire, and rocky terrain is visible in the background under a starry night sky.

On the Cover:
Enock Glidden, Joshua Tree National Park 2017
Photo by Will Strathmann

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Paradox Supporters,

My common answer to “How’s Paradox?” has evolved since I became executive director almost three years ago. Back then, we were a staff of three working out of a closet just trying to create as many adaptive climbing programs as possible without running out of funding.

Since then we have gone through the ebs and flows of transitioning from a start-up mentality to creating a sustainable model for the future of Paradox. As a national leader in adaptive climbing we are striving to set the bar high for what is possible for both adaptive athletes and adaptive climbing programs.

On March 23, 2017 Paradox Sports launched The Adaptive Climbing Initiative in partnership with The North Face. This was a changing point in the history of adaptive climbing and Paradox Sports. The goal of the program is to raise awareness about the importance of making climbing accessible across the country and to inspire climbing gyms to be trained in Paradox Sports adaptive climbing techniques we have tried, modified, and continued to adapt over the last 10 years.

Fifteen climbing gyms received adaptive climbing equipment and technical training in 2017, and each is now more prepared to welcome climbers with disabilities into their communities. We trained climbing gyms in major metropolitan areas including Chicago, Washington DC, New York City, San Francisco, and Boston, as well as rural areas such as Iowa City, IA, Carrabassett Valley, ME and Wichita, KS.


Through the Adaptive Climbing Initiative more than 225 climbers, gym staff, and other people in the community now have the skills needed to create and facilitate adaptive climbing programs on their own, and more than 105 people with disabilities had the chance to try climbing for the first time.

We continue to look at the future of Paradox Sports and set lofty goals – for every climbing gym and facility to be accessible for all abilities – and we need your help to reach these goals. We will continue to educate and inspire others so that together, we can grow adaptive climbing opportunities exponentially across the country.

Sincerely,



Mike Neustedter
Executive Director, Paradox Sports



“Magical. The people who run these trips as guides and volunteers are filled with a wealth of knowledge, desire to mentor, and a general love of getting other people into the sport in ways that go above and beyond the general climbing community.”

- 2017 Paradox Climber

Rocky Mountain National Park, July 2017
Photo by Will Strathmann

2017 PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Joshua Tree 2017
Photo by Will Strathmann

Our goal is to make climbing accessible to all abilities, all across the country.

Paradox Sports strives to empower climbers - both climbers with disabilities and climbing facilitators - by providing hands-on technical training. In 2017 Paradox hosted their first ever week-long adaptive climbing skills camp in Joshua Tree National Park. Paradox also returned to mountaineering programs with a trip to Rocky Mountain National Park. From our Adaptive Climbing Weekends across the country, to our indoor Climbing Club nights in the Denver area, our community continues to grow. With the support of The North Face, the Adaptive Climbing Initiative launched in early 2017 to “train the trainers” from coast to coast, increasing the opportunities for climbers nationally to have access to the sport.

“The staff was highly attentive and paid attention to safety and technique the entire time. The staff and volunteers asked each of the climbers what their goals are for the week and then proceeded to accomplish an introduction into each of the skills and topics that each of the participants were interested in learning more about. After this week long skills camp I feel that I was given a strong foundation to further pursue more skills camps and continue working the techniques gained with paradox sports along with personal climbing trips. I look forward to many more skills-based and paradox trips based off of my overall experience in Joshua tree.”

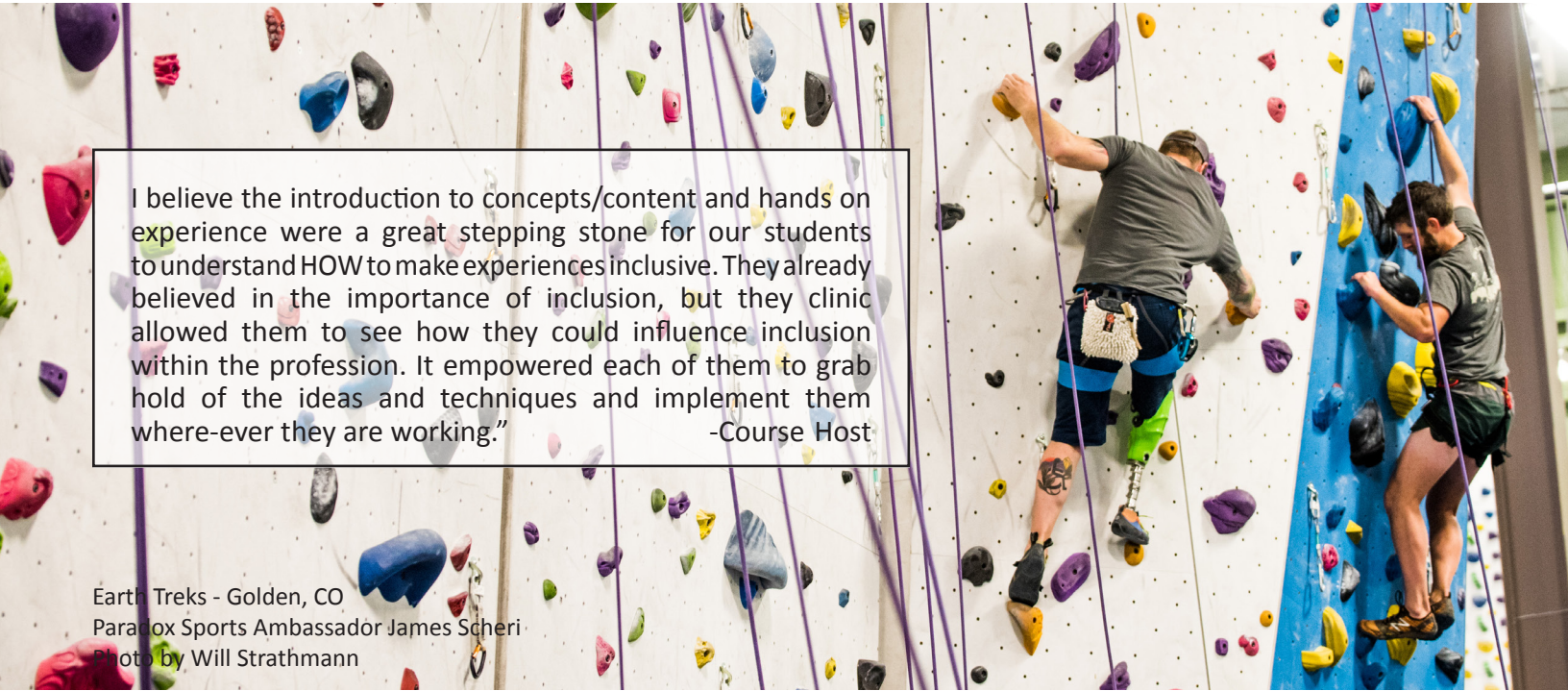
- 2017 Joshua Tree Participant

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

7 WORLD
CLASS TRIPS,
60+ CLIMBERS.



ADAPTIVE CLIMBING INITIATIVE



I believe the introduction to concepts/content and hands on experience were a great stepping stone for our students to understand HOW to make experiences inclusive. They already believed in the importance of inclusion, but they clinic allowed them to see how they could influence inclusion within the profession. It empowered each of them to grab hold of the ideas and techniques and implement them where-ever they are working.”

-Course Host

Earth Treks - Golden, CO
Paradox Sports Ambassador James Scheri
Photo by Will Strathmann



Accessibility Courses for Climbing Gyms.

Supported by The North Face, Paradox Sports launched the Adaptive Climbing Initiative in the Spring of 2017: a comprehensive training program to welcome people with physical disabilities into the climbing community. These courses get climbing facilitators the experience and equipment they need to offer quality adaptive climbing programs.

The Adaptive Climbing Initiative is an invitation to us all - adaptive athletes, recreational climbers, climbing facilitators, and volunteers - to rethink what is possible. Many people's first exposure to the sport of climbing is through a climbing gym. As climbing has recently grown in popularity throughout the United States, the sport is still not widely available to athletes with disabilities, and we have hit the road to change that by "training the trainers." This is our opportunity to impact exponentially more lives across the country, by encouraging and empowering others to launch their own adaptive climbing programs. Our lofty goal is to make every climbing gym and program in the country is accessible to all abilities.

Facilities who have hosted this course have been able to:

- Start Adaptive Climbing Clubs or host Adaptive Climbing Nights.
- Serve school groups, birthday parties and other groups that may have participants with disabilities.
- Open their doors to climbers of all abilities.
- Support adaptive competition climbers and teams.

2017 ACI COURSE LOCATIONS

Since 2015, we have run 45+ Adaptive Climbing Initiative Courses across 23 states. In 2017 alone, we facilitated ACI Courses at the following locations:

14 COURSES • 11 STATES • 225 FACILITATORS TRAINED

Sioux City Recreation Center | Sioux City, IA – Apr 22-23, 2017

Bliss Climbing | Wichita, KS – Apr 24, 2017

Earth Treks | Crystal City, VA – May 6-7, 2017

University of Maryland | College Park, MD – May 8, 2017

Climbing Wall Summit | Boulder, CO – May 17-18, 2017

Diablo Rock Gym | Concord, CA – June 3-4, 2017

Planet Granite | San Francisco, CA – Aug 5-6, 2017

First Ascent | Chicago, IL – Aug 12-13, 2017

MetroRock | Boston, MA - Aug 23-24, 2017

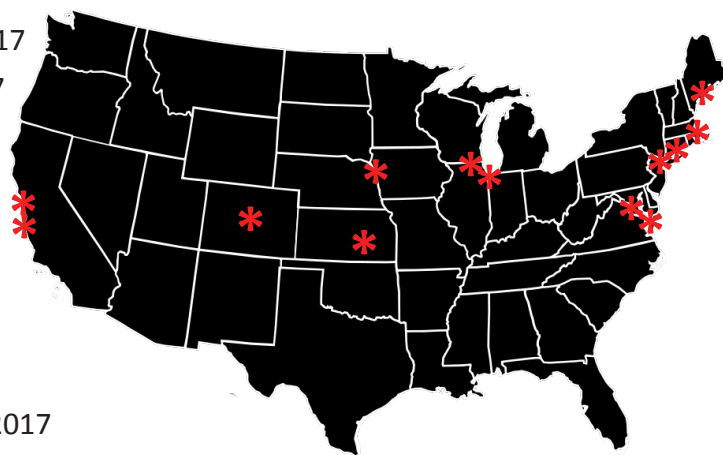
The Rock Club | New Rochelle, NY - Oct 20-21, 2017

Central Rock Watertown | Boston, MA – Nov 4-5, 2017

AOEC at EVO Rock Portland | Portland, ME – Nov 8-9, 2017

Rock Climb Fairfield | Fairfield, CT – Nov 18, 2017

Fitness Formula Club | Park Ridge, IL – Dec 18-19, 2017



Earth Treks - Crystal City, MD
Photo by Ralph Alswang

ANNUAL RECAP



Paradox Sports Ambassador Jess Sparte
Photo by Ryan Waters

The 2nd Annual Base Camp Breakfast in Boulder, CO brought together 250+ passionate climbers, outdoor enthusiasts, and the business community came together to raise over \$60k for Paradox. And for the first time in years, all three founders - Malcolm Daly, DJ Skelton, and Timmy O'Neill - were together in the same room!

Paradox Sports gained publicity while being featured on NBC Nightly News and the New York Times 360 Video of the Day (by Will Strathmann). The North Face also put Paradox in the spotlight as the proud recipient of donations from the first ever Global Day of Climbing in August, and The North Face Speaker Series which toured the country with Alex Honnold, Cedar Wright, Conrad Anker, and more TNF Athletes. The Adaptive Climbing Initiative was named as an official selection in the Nonprofit Leadership category for the 2017 SHIFT Awards, and a finalist for the Shorty Awards.

ENOCK - a film featuring Paradox Ambassador Enock Glidden - is about a community of friends, family, mentors and strangers helping a paraplegic athlete fulfill a dream of climbing El Capitan. The film received the 2017 Inspiration Award at the Adventure film festival and was nominated for the Social Awareness award at the 2018 Wasatch Mountain Film.

The Boulder and Golden Adaptive Climbing Club met 35 times in 2017 to offer indoor climbing opportunities. Our collaboration with Craig Hospital in Denver allowed us to bring more people with Spinal Cord Injuries to our climbing club nights.

Team Depot works to support communities and honor veterans across the country by transforming homes and facilities. In January 2018, with many thanks to Herb Scott, Scott Pierson and Rex Laceby, Team Depot remodeled our office in Eldorado Springs, CO!



2ND ANNUAL BASE CAMP BREAKFAST



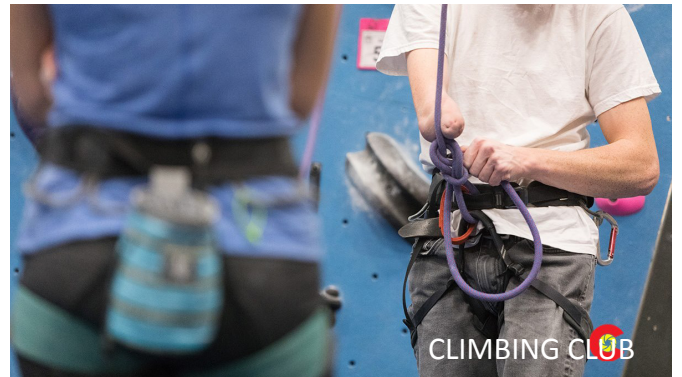
WORKING WITH CRAIG HOSPITAL



STAFF TRAINING



10 YEARS OF ADAPTIVE CLIMBING



CLIMBING CLUB



HOME DEPOT OFFICE REMODEL

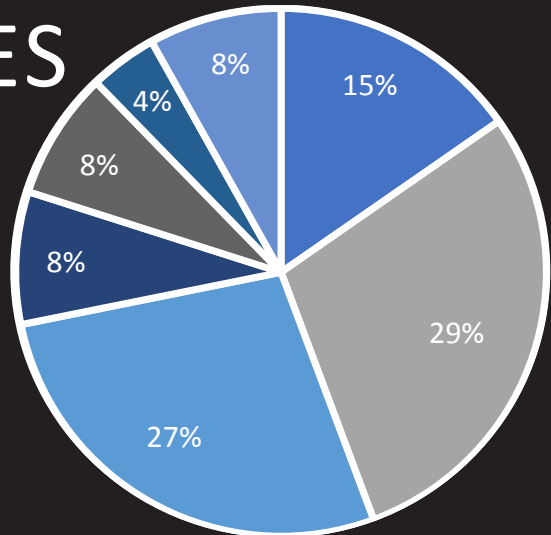
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Grants and Foundations	\$ 65,800
Corporate Donations	124,752
Individual Donations	118,201
Event Income	34,885
Peer-to-Peer Fundraisers	33,592
Program Income	53,184
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 430,413
Program Expenses	\$ 236,247
Administrative Expenses	14,495
Fundraising Expenses	66,602
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 317,344
NET REVENUE	\$ 113,069*

* Starting in 2016, Paradox Sports made an effort to guarantee longterm financial stability with a goal of establishing a cash reserve equal to one year of operating expenses. Thanks to our generous donors in 2017, we were able to begin allocating cash to the reserve fund.

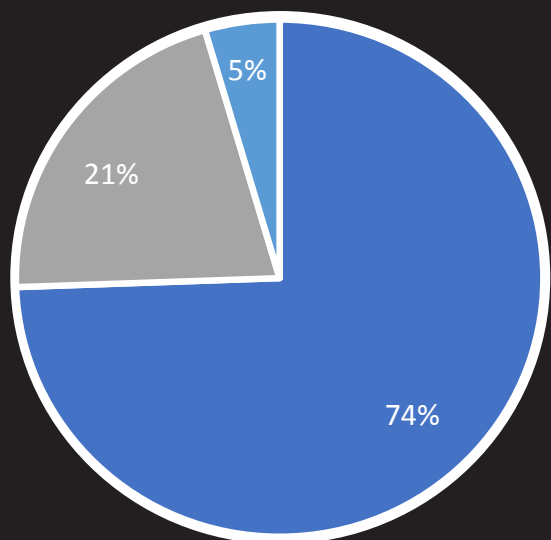
REVENUE SOURCES

- Grants and Foundations ■
- Corporate Donations ■
- Individual Donations ■
- Event Income ■
- Peer-to-Peer Fundraisers ■
- Trip Revenue ■
- Course Revenue ■



EXPENSE ALLOCATION

- Program Expenses ■
- Fundraising Expenses ■
- Administrative Expenses ■



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

In 2017 Paradox Sports had over **1000 donors** from around the globe. Support for our adaptive climbing programs came from a total of 47 states, Canadian provinces and foreign countries.

DONORS \$50,000+

The North Face

DONORS \$25,000+

Craig H Neilsen Foundation

DONORS \$5,000+

Community Foundation for
Monterey County

Craig and Cynthia Smith

Earth Treks Climbing Gyms

Ironman Foundation

Outdoor Research

Park and Taylor Family Fund

Polartec LLC

Red One Medical Devices LLC

Sun Management, Inc

DONORS \$2,000+

Claredon Cash Management

Comfort Medical

Cox Enterprises

Price Floyd

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George & Chandra Marsden

Goldman Sachs

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Santiago Suarez Vallejo

Patrick Walsh

Chris Weidner

Music Hall of Williamsburg LLC

Sterling Rope

Symons Family Fund

DONORS \$1,000+

Heather (Piper) Bianciotto

Ryan Brook

Denis Cardone

The Chris Mikesell Foundation

Tegan Corradino

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Nancy Eiring

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Bonnie Parker

Frank Robertson

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DJ Skelton and Tucker Hirsch

Jack Swift

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Camilla DiMartino

Dave Elmore

Mary-Woodson Felker

Teri and Andy Goodman

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Steven Jeffers

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Lucky Seven Foundation

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Timothy O'Neill

Outdoor Prolink

Katharina Papenbrock

Gina Polidoro

Hy and Cindy Rothstein

Reviresco LLC

Robert Sherburn

Brian Smith

Richard Thesing

Angela Topel

Karen Walker

Clyde Weller

Qualcomm Inc

DONORS 200+

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Lorna Antoniak

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Alexandra Barbella

Edward Barker

Elizabeth Benn

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Dorothy Bond

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Erik Weihenmayer
Donna Westmoreland





Joshua Tree 2017 • Adam Payne • Photo by Will Strathmann

PARADOX PARTNERS



2018 Paradox Sports Staff

Mike Neustedter, Executive Director
Dave Elmore, Director of Programs
Shelley Brook, Operations Manager
Becky Lindstrom, Development Manager

Contact

720-638-5593
mike@paradoxsports.org
PO Box 273
3330 Eldorado Springs Dr
Eldorado Springs, CO 80025

2018 Board of Directors

Trinity Wells, Board Chair
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