

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 / 2017



“Let No One Sit on the Sidelines”



GLASA Changes Lives

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When we launched the Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association nearly 20 years ago, my goal was simple: to find a way for everyone to benefit from health and wellness programming, no matter their physical ability. Nobody in the area was doing this. I saw an opportunity to make a difference.

GLASA started with a small footprint — less than a dozen participants. But as we saw their lives change and people spread the word about our work, GLASA blossomed. We added more programs, built new relationships, and hired people to support our aspiring athletes.

Today, GLASA serves nearly 800 athletes across Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin — everyone from young recreational athletes to military veterans and elite, Paralympic athletes. This number continues to grow. In fact, GLASA has grown more than 40 percent in the past five years. Next year will be GLASA's 20th Anniversary and we are not slowing down.

In addition to the local and international success our athletes have had across track, field, tennis, goalball, power soccer and sled hockey — to name a few — almost 100 percent of our participants say GLASA has helped them improve their overall health and wellbeing. This is as important as any medal or trophy.

We're also broadening our regional and national outreach. By hosting events such as the Adult National Open Great Lakes Regional Games and U.S. Paralympics Gateway to Gold Clinics, we're attracting athletes from across the country and beyond. And our school inclusion outreach allows GLASA to connect our younger and emerging athletes to school sport programs where they can continue to grow in confidence and skill.

I'm especially grateful to our more than 425 volunteers who have given countless hours to our athletes, events and programs. None of what we do at GLASA would be possible without everyone's hard work and dedication. With the continued support of our board, staff, and sponsors, I'm proud that GLASA lets no one sit on the sidelines. ●



Sincerely,

Cindy Housner

Cindy Housner

Executive Director and Founder
Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association

GLASA STAFF

Cindy Housner

Executive Director and Founder

Tom Daily

Program Director

Cherie Hrusovsky

Development Director

Diana Helt

Grants and Program Evaluation
Director

Micaela Fedyniak

Program Director and Volunteer
Coordinator

Jourdan Thunberg

Program Director

Cathy Wittmann

Accountant

Shannon Hellen

Office Manager and Assistant
to the Executive Director

Flo Cheek

Office Assistant

Cindy Clement

Special Projects

GLASA BOARD

Beth DeRosier, President

Walgreens

Susie Duttge, Vice President

Fit for Life Rehab and Fitness

David Brearton, Treasurer

Mondelez (Retired)

Brian Uhlig, Board Secretary

GCG Financial

Cindy Housner

GLASA - Executive Director

Natalie Blatnick

GCG Financial

Bob Gruensfelder

Grainger

Andy Burkhart

Johnson Controls

Michael Sorkin

Hollister, Inc.

Stuart Reid

Law Offices of Stuart A Reid PC

Marilyn Wieland

GLASA Women's Auxiliary

Matt Williams

Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard PC

John Landsell

Merrill Lynch



Mission + History

NO ONE ON THE SIDELINES SINCE 1999

Founded by Cindy Housner in 1999, Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association (GLASA) strives to 'Let No One Sit on the Sidelines.'

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization powered by a skilled staff and a strong cohort of volunteers, GLASA's mission is to promote and support the optimal development and well-being of youth, adults and military veterans who have a physical or visual disability by providing inclusive recreation, fitness and competitive sports activities.

GLASA empowers athletes of all skill levels with education, leadership and training in collaboration with community-based organizations.

In addition to the nearly 800 athletes served every year through GLASA's direct programming, the organization provides support to more than 3,000 youth, adults and professionals through diverse education and outreach initiatives. Clinics

and elite level competitions bring in athletes, teams and families from around the country.

GLASA participants report better physical health, better weight management, better endurance and better strength. Ability gained through sports can make it easier to be successful in school, be active in the community and become more independent. In fact, more than 90 percent of the organization's athletes say that GLASA has helped them increase their overall strength, endurance, health and wellbeing.

GLASA is one of only 12 Paralympic Sport Clubs in the country to earn a "Gold Medal" designation by the U.S. Olympic Committee and U.S. Paralympics, through the Paralympic Sport Club Excellence Program.

For nearly 20 years, GLASA has demonstrated leadership on a local, regional and national level. GLASA serves on national advisory boards and supports systemic change as a recognized United States Olympic Committee - Paralympic Sport Club, a chapter of Disabled Sports USA and a chapter of Adaptive Sports USA. ●



ADDRESS + CONTACT INFO

Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association

27864 Irma Lee Circle #101
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Phone

847-283-0908

Fax

224-513-5077

Email

info@glasa.org

www.GLASA.org

GLASA Highlights

2016 / 2017

797

individual athletes served



250

days of
programming

60

program locations
in Northern
Illinois + Southern
Wisconsin

40

percent growth
in program
participation
over the last 5 years

25

unique sports
available
to GLASA
athletes

COMPETITIVE

All young Aubrey ever wanted to do was play sports. But the harder she tried to compete, the harder it was to fit in.

Sometimes she would fall or lag behind and get sad and disheartened. As Aubrey's parents saw it, there wasn't much room for a budding athlete with cerebral palsy to play sports in rural Illinois.

That's when Aubrey and her family found GLASA.

"It was 2006 and Aubrey was only 6 years old when we got involved with GLASA," says Aubrey's mom, Cass. "It was amazing to be able to show up somewhere and be surrounded by people like her, and play and compete with other kids like her."

With the playing field leveled by GLASA, Aubrey got bit by the competitive bug.

Now at age 17, Aubrey is starting her junior year of high school and is a national adaptive track star. She's been selected as one of the Paralympics Track & Field High School All-Americans. She runs the adult 100- and 200-meter races. She holds the adult Paralympic world record for long jump in her category. She's also an active Illinois High School Association (IHSA) swimmer. And with high school almost done, college sports are on the horizon.

"GLASA has been instrumental for Aubrey," said Cass. "She has a lot more confidence, talks to more people, and even seeks out people like her, actively helping them get involved in adaptive sports." ●

2,411

hours of yearly programming

96

percent of athletes report increased health and wellbeing

GLASA Highlights

2016 / 2017

88

percent of participants say GLASA has helped them accept their disability

Athlete/ Team Highlights

GLASA offers a diversity of programming suited to athletes of all abilities. We're especially proud of our athletes who have used GLASA to step up their game in a big way.

In 2017, ten Team GLASA athletes were selected as [U.S. Paralympics Track & Field High School All-Americans](#)

— out of 71 total athletes chosen. Congratulations to **Noah Scherf, Chance Milledge, Brian Nelson, Sam Grewe, Jessica Heims, Audrey Kleiss-Garcia, Lauren Gates, Margaret Beaudoin, Amanda Malawski, Aubrey Headon, and Jacob Zalewski**, who represented GLASA on the national stage. **Sam Grewe** was named as the [U.S. Paralympics Male Field Athlete of the Year](#).

Both the **GLASA Falcons Sled Hockey team** and the **GLASA Power Soccer team** were named [National Champions](#) in their divisions for 2017.

Additionally, four of GLASA's athletes competed in the [2016 Paralympic Games](#) in Rio. **Sam Grewe, Nick Slade** and **Jessica Heims** were three of 40 men and 26 women who were selected to the [U.S. Paralympics Track & Field Team](#). **Alyssa Gialamas** was named to the [U.S. Paralympics Swimming Team](#) which included 21 women and 10 men. ●

PROGRAMS

Air Rifle • Boccia •
CrossFit Training •
Cycling • Fishing •
Goalball • Golf • Judo
• Kayaking • Personal
Training • Powerlifting
• Power Soccer • Road
Racing • Running •
Sailing • Sled Hockey
• Swimming • Table
Tennis • Tennis •
Track and Field •
Wheelchair Football •
Wheelchair Basketball
• Water Skiing • Yoga

PHOTO BY KEITH FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHY

RJ Anderson / TENNIS

Our Athletes

VETERAN

As far back as he could remember, RJ wanted to be a pilot. As a kid growing up on the south side of Chicago, he watched the planes flying overhead in and out of Midway Airport and imagined a future in the clouds.

RJ enlisted in the service in 2008, aiming for the pilot's seat. But in November 2012, riding on his motorcycle on the backroads near his duty station in Tennessee, he lost the use of his legs in a nearly fatal accident, and with them, the hopes of being a military pilot.

"I wanted to jump into sports immediately after the accident," RJ says, always optimistic. "I needed to stay active, stay positive, and make the most of a bad situation."

That's when he heard about GLASA. He'd never heard much about adaptive sports, but as soon as he started heading back to the gym, it was as if GLASA was there waiting for him.

"GLASA opened new doors for me," RJ says. "GLASA has helped me see what life looks like in an adaptive situation. This is more than just sports — it's an identity, and it has helped me find my new goal in life: to help other people like me."

Through GLASA, RJ is now active in both tennis and competitive shooting. He has aspirations to go pro in tennis and is actively training in shooting in preparation for the 2020 Paralympics. He also spends his free time providing instruction for other adaptive athletes and recovering veterans.

"I want to inspire others," RJ says. "I'm thankful for GLASA; the program has been nothing but love." ●



225

injured military
veterans are served

20+

ongoing military
sports programs,
clinics + events

GLASA Highlights

2016/2017

96

percent of GLASA
participants report
increased self
confidence

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE SLEDS ARE COMING
January 2018



GLASA GALA
April 2018

ADULT NATIONAL
OPEN + GREAT LAKES
REGIONAL GAMES
May 2018

NATIONAL VETERANS
WHEELCHAIR GAMES
July 2018

MIDWEST VALOR
GAMES
August 2018

11TH ANNUAL 5K
TWILIGHT RUN,
WALK + ROLL
September 2018

BANK OF AMERICA
CHICAGO MARATHON
October 2018

Learn more at GLASA.org

Volunteering with GLASA

None of our work would be possible without the support of our valued volunteers. Whether they're active adaptive athletes, experienced youth and professional coaches, referees, fundraisers and even marketers and administrators, there's always an opportunity to get involved with GLASA.

As a nonprofit organization that provides year-round sports, clinics, camps and special events, GLASA relies on the generosity of more than 425 volunteers every year to help make our programs and events a success. ●

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

Athlete Assistance

Camp Counselors

Coaches

Concessions

Fielding

First Aid

Fundraising

IT

Legal

Logistics

Marketing + Administration

Mentoring

Setup and Cleanup

Social Media

Spotting

...and more!

RECREATIONAL

For Julia, age 9, it's all about getting the goal. And thanks to GLASA, she's getting her shot.

"My favorite part is when I get to play on the ice," Julia says. "It feels great to score a goal."

Like many of the recreational athletes on GLASA's sled hockey teams, Julia and her family wanted to find a place where she could be with other people like her. People who didn't just see a girl in a wheelchair, but a budding athlete looking to make new friend — and, as a Wisconsin native, get some much-needed time on the ice.

"Julia has three older siblings who are all very active in sports and she always wanted be just like them," Julia's mom says. "GLASA has given her a major confidence boost. And the people are amazing — everyone cheers us on."

While Julia is new to GLASA and sled hockey, the diversity of her teammates ages and abilities is inspiring her to branch out from hockey and try new sports, as well. Next summer she'll be part of the GLASA sports camp, water skiing, wheelchair basketball, and even a local triathlon.

But for now, Julia likes to keep it fun. And her advice to other aspiring sled hockey players is simple and from the heart: "Try your best, and try to get your goals." ●

3K

youth + adults
impacted through
education + outreach

14

member organizations
on the Disabled
Sports USA Athletics
for All Taskforce,
including GLASA

GLASA Highlights

2016 / 2017

100

percent of GLASA
athletes went to college
last year



CAMPS, CLINICS, ONE DAY EVENTS

GLASA HOLIDAY PARTY

Annual December party introducing families and friends to our sports and adaptive programs

CAMP TREK

Week-long summer sports camp introduces youth with disabilities to tennis, basketball, fishing, water skiing, kayaking and more

GATEWAY TO GOLD SPORT CLINICS

Co-hosted with US Paralympics, these clinics give athletes the chance to participate, assess their fitness and plan their future in elite competition

ADAPTIVE WATER SKIING

Summer fun on the water with the Aquanuts at Lance Park in Twin Lakes, Wisconsin

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CAMP

Elite-level coaches teach fundamentals of the game and give youth the chance to play with high-performing college athletes

Equipment, Inclusion + Outreach

Whether it's playing wheelchair basketball on the playground, biking through the forest preserve or running in the local 5k, **GLASA has a vast equipment lending program**

so athletes can access the tools they need, whenever they need. Equipment includes court sport wheelchairs, racing wheelchairs, handcycles, sleds, tandem bicycles, recumbent catbike bicycles and more!

Additionally, as one of the leading members of the [Disabled Sports USA Athletics for All Taskforce](#), GLASA teaches coaches, athletic directors and administrators about adaptive sports and life possibilities for youth with physical disabilities.

GLASA also leads training sessions with athletic departments and educators on how to include students with disabilities and provide adaptive sports equipment for school inclusion.

In recognition of GLASA's comprehensive school outreach, the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, & Nutrition awarded GLASA the prestigious [2016 Community Leadership Award](#). The award is given annually to individuals or organizations who improve the lives of others within their community by providing or enhancing opportunities to engage in sports, physical activities, fitness, and nutrition-related programs. ●

Financial Performance + Outlook

As a **501(c)(3) nonprofit organization**, GLASA depends on the generosity of our donors and grantors to support our athletes and programs.

GLASA now operates with a **budget of over \$1 million**, making it one of the largest and strongest independent **Paralympic Sports Clubs** in the U.S. By being good stewards of the money we receive, we're able to put our athletes and people first.

For every dollar we receive, **more than 86 cents goes directly into our programs** — far exceeding

the national average of charity overhead costs and earning GLASA a **Guidestar Silver Participant** ranking.

Nearly a third of GLASA program needs are supported by **in-kind donations** (e.g., volunteer commitments from professional coaches, facilities rentals, etc.) and other donated services. This helps keep costs low and maximizes our impact.

GLASA meets all 20 accreditation standards for charity accountability by the Better Business Bureau's **Wise Giving Alliance**. All donations are tax deductible (EIN: 36-4285965) ●



	2017	2016
Total Revenues + Program Support	\$1,040,332	\$923,943
Total Expenses	\$1,019,298	\$981,064
Net Income	\$21,034	(\$57,121)
Current Assets	\$393,141	\$331,857
Current Liabilities	\$53,068	\$56,301
Total Net Assets	\$456,031	\$411,244



Sponsors + Donors

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

\$50,000+

David Olson
Healthcare Foundation
of Highland Park

\$25,000+

Veterans Administration
Nielsen Foundation

\$15,000+

Anonymous Foundation
Cardinal Health Foundation
NorthShore University
HealthSystem

\$20,000+

AbbVie Inc.
Disabled Sports USA
Northern Illinois Hockey League
Rust-Oleum Cares
The Grainger Foundation

\$10,000+

Buchanan Family Foundation
Carl R. Hendrickson Foundation
Grace Bersted Foundation
Salvi Schostok & Pritchard
Trustmark Foundation



WE THANK OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT!

\$5000+

A 2 Z Mobility
AbbVie Employee
Engagement Fund
Claddagh Foundation
David & Louise Brearton
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Eddie Olczyk (Chicago Blackhawks)
Edmond & Alice Opler Foundation
Lake County Bar Foundation
Town of Vernon
Watershed Development
Corporation

\$2,500+

Abbott Employee
Engagement Fund
Advantech Plastics, LLC
Anonymous Donor
Anthony Navarro
Bill Bass Foundation
Brian & Melissa Uhlig
Coloplast
Consolidated Trading
Futures, LLC
Cynthia & Robert Clement
Grainger Matching
Funds Campaign
Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics
Hollister, Inc.
Johnson Controls
Libertyville Sunrise Rotary
Medline Foundation
Pfizer

Schreiber Foundation
Starcom Worldwide, Inc.
Matching Funds Campaign
US Paralympics
World Sport Chicago

\$2,000+

Chicago Bears Football Club
Cohn Family Foundation
Ed Uihlein Family Foundation
Lake Forest High School
Student Activities Fund
Leahy Family Foundation
Moore Family Foundation
Robert & Denise Gruensfelder
Sarah Wagner
Smith Family
The Gutman Family
Foundation Trust
William Wrigley Jr. Co. Foundation

For a complete list
of sponsors and donors,
please visit our website.

GET CONNECTED TO

GLASA

GREAT LAKES ADAPTIVE SPORTS ASSOCIATION



facebook.com/GLASASports



twitter.com/GLASASports



youtube.com/user/GLASASports



instagram.com/GLASA_sports

www.GLASA.org



ADDRESS

27864 Irma Lee Circle #101
Lake Forest, IL 60045

PHONE 847-283-0908

FAX 224-513-5077

EMAIL info@glasa.org



GOLD MEDAL
PARALYMPIC SPORT CLUB
EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

