



Visually Impaired/Blind Athletes of Northern Arizona

2022 Year End Review

MAJOR SPONSORS

Cameron Trading Post

Osprey

Vicki Numkena

Foreseeable Futures

Shannon Gleckler and family

GEOST

Northland Rural Therapy Associates

Dorinda and Chris Rife

Kristy Whelan, DO PC

Susan Greer

Ralph Sovran

Bill Pincock and Janet Koller

Ann Zweber

Jane Erin and Ken Kalina

Carol Stuart

FUND RAISING

VIBA-NAZ held the following fundraising events during 2022:

April 1, 2022 Virtual Trivia Contest

June 4, 2022 2nd Annual Camp Abilities Poker Run in SW Colorado

November 2022 1st Annual Silent On-line Auction

November 5, 2022 Fiesta de Camp Abilities Four Corners at Reforma, Tucson

GRANT WRITING

Grants were written to the Foreseeable Future Foundation and generous funding was received. Many grants require data which we can not provide until we have had several camps. Going forward, we will be looking to Lion's Clubs, Optimist and Rotary clubs, Vocational Rehab offices and major league sports teams in the four corner states.

BUDGET

Camp Abilities Four Corners 2022 provided a camp experience for 6 students and 18 adult coaches, instructors and behind the scenes helpers. Last minute changes to the schedule due to the Flagstaff Pipeline fire resulted in many free activities in Page, AZ. Overall, Camp 2022 cost \$13,320.50. This included a one-time travel stipend for coaches traveling from the east, and hotel rooms needed due to the fire and resulting detour to get everyone to camp. 2022 fund raising efforts and budget surplus leftover after Camp 2022 is reflected in our bank account of \$13,298.96 as of December 12, 2022. A budget for 2023 has been developed and will be approved in January 2023.

PUBLICITY and INFORMATION SHARING

A list of local newspapers and radio stations was developed and used to send out press release information in the spring of 2022. 12 publications and 9 radio stations were contacted. A very nice article was published in the Durango Herald and Cortez Journal about our camp. Several camp coaches joined President Vicki Numkena, in Phoenix, for a presentation about our first camp at the Fall AER conference. Attendees were given informational and recruitment flyers. We also sold camp t-shirts at the conference. On Saturday, Nov. 5 several coaches and board members joined supporters for Fiesta de Camp Abilities Four Corners event at Reforma, in Tucson. A slide show was presented to interested supporters and a book of photographs from camp was shared. We are very pleased to have a new website manager, Michele Beck, and our website and Facebook pages are being constantly updated. We continue to use our camp email list serve and AZAER list serve to share information with folks who want to keep informed about the camp.

BOARD CHANGES

The board of VIBA-NAZ voted to add new member Kathryn Hammond (AZ) this year. Kathryn attended camp as a golf assistant and behind the scenes helper and "caught the camp bug." She has been very active in fund raising and writing for various camp documents. Currently, the board has 8 members and continues to search for at least one additional member. Our Advisory committee consists of 3 members. Together the Executive Board and Advisory board includes 4 members of the Navajo Nation and one member with a vision impairment. Members live in the four corners states of CO, UT, NM and AZ.

CAMP

Camp consisted of 6 student athletes (3 boys and 3 girls) with an average age of 14. This year all campers were from Arizona. We had 18 adults which included Camp Directors, Nurse, Coaches, Instructors and behind the scenes helpers. The Pipeline fire resulted in many of the athletes and coaches having to detour to get to camp thus time for coach training was not available. We had to reschedule the first two days of camp as we had planned to have activities in Flagstaff. Coach Alissa and Tori, from Page AZ helped us to set up activities in their hometown and we included swimming in Lake Powell, hiking, golf, paddle boarding and rock climbing in a gym. At the Grand Canyon, athletes hiked down the Bright Angel trail, played basketball and blind soccer. The last day of camp athletes enjoyed a presentation about the history of horses and the Navajo people and had a chance to ride, both with a saddle and bareback. Camp ended with an awards ceremony, ice cream and watermelon at Louise Yellowman Park in Tuba City. Camp Nurse, Lita Manygoats skillfully administered COVID tests at the beginning of camp and on Wednesday. Everyone tested negative, although one person came down with COVID the day after camp ended. We are also happy to report that we had no injuries during camp! Many athletes and coaches expressed that they want to come back for camp 2023!