



Visually Impaired/Blind Athletes of Northern Arizona

2023 Year End Review

MAJOR SPONSORS

Cameron Trading Post

Osprey

The Gibney Family Foundation

Vicki Numkena

Foreseeable Futures

Shannon Gleckler and family

GEOST

American Legion Riders, Cortez, CO

Dolores Food Market, Dolores, CO

London Bridge Resort

Briar Patch Inn

Carol Stuart

Dorinda and Chris Rife

Bill Pincock and Janet Koller

Jane Erin and Ken Kalina

FUND RAISING

VIBA-NAZ held the following fundraising events during 2023:

April 25, 2023: Queens Bay Queens 1st Annual Charitable Giving Event, Lake Havasu City, AZ Raised \$1,230.00

June 4, 2023: 3rd Annual Camp Abilities Poker Run in SW Colorado Raised \$2,981.00

November 2023: 2nd Annual Silent On-line Auction Raised \$2,145.00

GRANT WRITING

During the spring of 2023, we received \$2,500 from the Foreseeable Future Foundation and \$4,000 from the Gibney Family. During the fall, 2023, six grants were written to the following organizations: AZ Diamondbacks, Phoenix Thunderbirds, Arizona Commission on the Arts, Foreseeable Futures, Arizona Tax Credit program and Delta Gamma of New Mexico. Funding was approved for the Arizona Commission on the Arts, to be granted in the spring of 2024. All others were declined except Delta Gamma, which gives its award in March 2024.

BUDGET

Camp Abilities Four Corners 2023 provided a camp experience for 5 students and 17 adult coaches, instructors and behind the scenes helpers. Overall, Camp 2023 cost \$10,850.71. 2023 fund raising efforts and budget surplus leftover after Camp 2023 is reflected in our bank account of \$22,064 as of December 29, 2023. A budget for 2024 has been developed and was approved in January 2024.

PUBLICITY and INFORMATION SHARING

A list of local newspapers and radio stations was developed and used to send out press release information after camp 2023. 22 publications and radio stations were contacted. A very nice "follow-up" article was published in the Durango Herald and Cortez Journal about our camp. Presentations about our 2nd camp were made at the annual Spring and Fall AER conferences. Attendees were given information and recruitment flyers. We also sold camp t-shirts at the fall conference. President Vicki Numkena also attended The Arizona Health and Physical Education conference where she was able to network with PE and Adaptive PE teachers in AZ. She was also able to recruit camp staff. Michele Beck and Kathryn Hammond updated our website in the fall. We continue to use our camp email list-serve, AZAER list-serve and Facebook to share information with folks who want to keep informed about the camp.

VIBA-NAZ BOARD

Ken Ball, Board Secretary, resigned in May as he has retired and relocated out of the area. Ken has been on the board since its creation. Kathryn Hammond has volunteered to become the new Secretary. Kathy Zwald resigned from the board in August after several years of service. The board of VIBA-NAZ voted to add new members Kasey Hopper (AZ) and Tracey Hughes (NM) to the Executive Board. We also added Lita Manygoats, our camp nurse, to the Advisory Board, replacing Andre Davis. 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 two members with a vision impairment. Members live in the four corners states of CO, UT, NM and AZ.

The board wrote and approved job descriptions for Camp Director, Assistant Director, Coaches, and Instructors. On-line trainings were developed, and work was started to develop a Coach In-Training program. The mission statement was revised to include recreation and arts. Water safety equipment, golf discs and security devices were purchased.

CAMP

Camp 2023 consisted of 5 student athletes (1 boy and 4 girls) with an average age of 14. We had 10 students signed up the week before camp, however, several dropped out due to health issues. This year's campers were from Arizona and Colorado. We had 17 adults which included Camp Directors, Nurse, Coaches, Instructors and behind the scenes helpers. Student athletes enjoyed disc golf, hiking, blind soccer, water games and bowling in Flagstaff. In Page they played golf, basketball, practiced yoga and went rock climbing in a gym. Golf this year included the opportunity for all student athletes to play hole #13 at the Lake Powell National Golf Course. Riding in the carts was a new experience for many as well! Athletes and staff also hiked in Owl Canyon, a slot canyon with beautiful red rocks. This year we added Taiko (Japanese style) drumming. Students played drums at the Louise Yellowman County Park, in Tuba City and at Thorpe Park in Flagstaff. On the last day of camp, athletes hiked down the Bright Angel trail and then had an awards ceremony in the Rock Garden at the Cameron Trading Post. Camp Nurse, Lita Manygoats skillfully administered COVID tests at the beginning of camp and everyone was negative. We are happy to report that we had no injuries during the camp! Many athletes and coaches expressed that they want to come back for camp 2024!