



News Release

For Immediate Release: December 12, 2006

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Senator Steward secures \$1.2 million for Adaptive Sports Foundation

*Funding helps settle outstanding construction debt of
Gwen Allard Adaptive Sports Center*

Windham, NY – Senator James L. Steward today announced he secured \$1.2 million that will be used to settle all outstanding debt associated with constructing the Gwen Allard Adaptive Sports Center.

“The Adaptive Sports Foundation is grateful to receive funding from New York State for our Capital Campaign. Senator Seward has been instrumental in helping us to provide services to people with disabilities,” said Cherisse Young, Executive Director of the Adaptive Sports Foundation. “The Gwen Allard Adaptive Sports Center and Windham Mountain are not only great places for people with disabilities to experience a variety of snow sports but is also a model for other adaptive sport programs and ski resorts.”

ASF is a non profit organization that provides special ski and snowboard lessons and equipment to individuals with cognitive or physical challenges. The Gwen Allard Adaptive Sports Center was constructed slope side at Windham Mountain in October 2005 to provide a permanent home for ASF that would accommodate more disabled students.

The foundation has 180 volunteer instructors and seven full time staff members, eight of whom serve as Adaptive and Alpine educational staff members for the Professional Ski Instructors of America and the American Association of Snowboard Instructors. ASF provides over 2,800 lessons annually and is recognized as the largest adaptive sport program on the east coast and among the leading in the country.

ASF has been providing services to children and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities since 1984. Starting out as the Ski Windham Adaptive Ski Program,

Gwen Allard began teaching approximately 20 students with 10 or less volunteer instructors.

“Windham Mountain has been working with Gwen Allard and the Adaptive Sports Foundation since 1984. We’ve seen first-hand how the program helps so many experience the therapeutic benefits of mountain snow sports. People in the program build strong friendships, overcome adversity, and manage to have fun in the process,” said Tim Woods, General Manager of Windham Mountain. “I applaud Senator Seward for securing this funding; the grant will go a long way toward ensuring that the Adaptive Sports Center will continue to serve the disabled community well into the future.”

Senator James L. Seward is well aware of Gwen Allard’s work with the disabled community. In 2004, Senator Seward chose Allard as a recipient of the New York Senate Achiever's Award. The prestigious award recognizes an individual’s accomplishments on behalf of the disabled or the person’s ability to overcome daunting personal or physical challenges.