### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In the adaptive sports world, we are adaptable by nature. There have been many times the Adaptive Sports Foundation has had to borrow the U.S. Marine Corps' mantra, *Improvise, Adapt, Overcome*. This past year, we lived it every day. On August 27, 2011, Windham experienced the devastating wrath of Hurricane Irene. In a span of 18 short hours our beautiful mountain town was transformed into a scene that rivaled something out of a disaster movie. However, community spirit and pride took over, and Windham Mountain Resort and the Town of Windham rallied. In just two short months, both were ready to greet visitors, eager to show the world that they had survived and were better than before. The devastating circumstances of fall turned into anticipation for winter and the ski and snowboard season.

A rare October snowstorm got everyone excited, and we awaited the next storm, positive it would come by Thanksgiving. Didn't happen. Christmas? Came and went. Martin Luther King weekend? Nothing. Okay, no snow, no problem for the snowmakers at Windham Mountain. They could cover our trails with world class snow in a heartbeat with a little help from Jack Frost. Unfortunately

Jack rarely showed up this winter, the rains came frequently, and by March we were in flip flops and shorts and scratching our heads. Had winter just passed us by?

To say the tribulations caused by Miss Irene, combined with a winter sans snow and freezing temperatures, tested our ability to Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome is an understatement. Despite the set backs, Adaptive Sports Foundation students showed up in numbers; smiles all around and dancing in the rain. They

# Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...it's about learning to dance in the rain...

danced through the cloudy skies, they danced through the up and down temperatures, and they definitely continued to dance when the mercury approached 70 degrees for the annual end of season Ralph Hartman Tribute Race. When it was all said and done, ASF students had visited us a record number of times and our volunteer instructors taught the most lessons in our history.

As Gene Kelly sang, those many years ago, "What a glorious feeling, I'm happy again. I'm laughing at clouds, so dark up above. The sun's in my heart ... and I'm singin' and dancin' in the rain." Thanks to the amazing enthusiasm and positive attitudes of our students and their families, the volunteers and staff, and the many donors who help keep the doors to the Adaptive Sports Foundation open, ASF will enter its 29th year stronger than ever. At the Adaptive Sports Foundation, we don't wait for the storm to pass. Whatever the 2012-2013 season brings, we'll be ready to dance!

Sincerely,

Chensore Gaing-

Cherisse Young, Executive Director

# ABOUT US

The Adaptive Sports Foundation (ASF) is a non-profit organization that provides profound and life changing experiences for children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities and chronic illnesses through outdoor physical activity, education, support and community.





SPORTS FOUNDATI

ASF students are five years of age and older and live with disabilities ranging from relatively mild learning disabilities to more severe disabilities such as paralysis, autism, amputation, cerebral palsy and traumatic brain injury.

The ASF's winter programs include recreational skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing. Additionally, the ASF supports a competitive race team for athletes with both physical and cognitive challenges, as well as a 12-week residential competition program for Paralympic eligible athletes.

The ASF Summer Program includes paddling, windsurfing, hiking, cycling, fitness training, yoga, golf and waterskiing.

The ASF is also an adaptive sport program provider for the Wounded Warrior Project. The ASF runs a year round program called Warriors in Motion; a program for troops injured in the Global War on Terrorism post 9-11-2001. ASF staff members conceived of and created this comprehensive program to provide participating warriors with a basic understanding of wellness and the importance of lifelong healthful living. Participants are acquainted with such topics as healthy behavior change, stress management, mental health, nutrition and weight management, and physical fitness and activity.

#### SUCCESS STORIES

#### **DEAR ASF:**

I just wanted to say thank you for an excellent weekend. I totally enjoyed the snowboarding experience. My instructor, Tim was excellent and very patient. I would also like to thank you on behalf of my 3 boys who had a great time snowboarding. The whole weekend was a ton of fun. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Sincerely, LTC Timothy P Byrne – Salem, MA We are so thankful for all that ASF has done for Patrick. The program is wonderful and the volunteers are dedicated angels. When Patrick was 5 months old, we were told that as the result of a stroke, a large part of his brain was damaged. We were told that he may never walk and would never run. Watching him snowboard is an inspiration to me. Thanks for being part of what I truly feel is a miracle!

Sincerely,

Christy & Joseph DeCrescenzo – Brooklyn, NY

Saturday's race will probably be a lifelong memory for my son Max. He feels so proud of himself and is telling everyone about how he won. This was his second year at the Adaptive Sports Foundation and he has always had phenomenal instructors. We are very grateful to everyone who works there.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Smith, Max Smith-Yee's mom – New York, NY



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#### **SUCCESS STORIES**

#### **DEAR ASF:**

I am writing you this letter to tell you what a great experience my family had at your adaptive ski program. My son, Brent, is eight years old and autistic. The staff was wonderful from Ginny at the front desk, to the instructors, to the volunteers cooking the food. And the lodge is such a nice place for families to meet for lunch, away from the noise and crowds, that can often upset/over stimulate our kids.

The instructors were wonderful! They showed patience and kindness, with lots of praises, smiles and hugs for Brent. On the morning of his second day, Brent had a tantrum prior to going outside. The instructors took Brent outside without me. When I saw Brent, a few minutes later, skis were on, they were headed down the slope AND Brent was happy. I did see him several times throughout both days and every time there were smiles from Brent and encouragement and praise to him from your staff. He even progressed to the next slope!

You have a wonderful program and terrific volunteers!

Sincerely, Anne-Marie Scala – Brielle, NJ









WINDHAM

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