

Dear ASF Community,

I started at the ASF because my mom, Emily, and Karen Elder (ASF Board Member) were friends, and Karen invited me to participate in the very first Ride 2 Live snowboard event in 2009. That means I've been part of the Adaptive Sports Foundation family for 17 years!

After my first year of snowboarding, I decided to switch to skiing. The Adaptive Sports Foundation has meant so much more to me than just learning how to ski. From the very beginning, the instructors believed in me, even on the days when I doubted myself. They challenged me, encouraged me, and celebrated every accomplishment, no matter how big or small. Through skiing, I've learned courage, patience, perseverance, and how to get back up after I fall—not just on the snow, but in life. When I'm skiing, I'm not defined by my ADHD. Instead, I'm defined by my determination, my progress, and the joy I feel every time I make it down the mountain.

The ASF has also given my family and me something truly priceless—a community. Over the years, we've built lifelong friendships with so many amazing adaptive families, volunteers, instructors, and staff. We've celebrated birthdays, holidays, achievements, and milestones together. Last year, I even celebrated my college graduation with my ASF family. Some of the happiest and most meaningful moments of my life have been shared at the ASF.

Every time we drive to Windham and the mountain comes into view, I know I'm coming home. The ASF has become my second family. I also love seeing my mom volunteer, welcoming new families as they arrive and working the lunch register. Watching her give back reminds me that ASF is much more than an organization—it's a community of people who support one another and make every athlete and family feel like they belong.

I also want to give a special shout-out to my incredible Slider family. Thank you for your friendship, encouragement, laughter, and for always cheering me on. I wouldn't want to be on the slopes with anyone else.

Please help the ASF continue its mission by donating to the **ASF 2026 Annual Appeal.** Your generosity will provide more differently abled athletes with the chance to discover their potential, build confidence, and experience the life-changing programs and lifelong friendships that make the Adaptive Sports Foundation so special.

Thank you for believing in athletes like me and for helping the ASF continue changing lives, one run at a time.

See you on the slopes!

Olivia Calamita
ASF Slider