

Adaptive Sports New England



FOUNDED: 2003

CURRENT ORGANIZATION BUDGET: \$245,000

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Investment Opportunity

Adaptive Sports New England is seeking an investment of \$600,000 over the next two years to increase its impact across Greater Boston and additional Eastern Massachusetts locations. Adaptive Sports NE will build its program and communications functions to connect more youth with disabilities to sports that are closer to their homes. Additional staff, contractors, and equipment will all contribute to strengthening Adaptive Sports NE partnerships, increasing opportunities for young people to get involved with sports and supporting them as they continue playing sports.

Sports participation leads to improved fitness and physical health for children around the world. In addition, it builds self-confidence, resilience, and friendships. Sports teach important life skills such as teamwork, goal setting, and time management.

The value that American society places on youth sports is evident in the prominence of sports in nearly every high school in the country.

Unfortunately, children with disabilities face significant barriers to participating in sports. A lack of appropriately trained coaches, a small and geographically dispersed population of peers, and lack of specialized equipment are all-too-common challenges. A federal study showed that only 20% of students with visual or mobility impairments play sports, while the number is 60% for students without disabilities.

Adaptive Sports New England provides programs, services, and advocacy that facilitate increased participation in sports among youth and young adults who have visual or mobility impairments.

Two-year Goals

- Increase the number of youth served from the current 100 to 300
- Establish a youth wheelchair basketball league with at least four teams
- Establish Sport Club programs in three additional locations

Ways to Invest

FINANCIAL

- \$50,000 funds a full-time Program Manager (annual)
- \$24,000 funds communications support for 1 year
- \$10,000 funds a set of 12 basketball wheelchairs
- \$2,500 funds 1 racing wheelchair

IN-KIND

- Storage facility for equipment
- Van (with or without driver) to transport equipment
- Public relations/web/social media support

Leadership & Governance

Founder and President Joe Walsh is a two-time Paralympian in cross-country skiing and the former Managing Director of Paralympics for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee. Joe holds Masters' degrees from Dartmouth College and Umass, Amherst. He currently serves on the Board of Adaptive Sports USA and was Vice President of the International Blind Sports Federation from 2013-2017.

Adaptive Sports NE is governed by an active board of 10 directors including experts in sport management, exercise science, medicine, sport, law, and finance. Included on the board are two Paralympians and one Olympian.

ADAPTIVE SPORTS NEW ENGLAND'S MODEL



Adaptive Sports NE: a) conducts specialized adaptive sports programs; b) works with athletes and families on individualized sports plans; c) develops programs and policies that allow youth with a disability to participate in sports; and d) promotes quality sports programs offered by its regional network.

Adaptive Sports NE's **Sport Club** programs in swimming, track and field, wheelchair basketball, rowing, and sailing are led by Paralympians and other coaches who are experts in sports for athletes with a visual or mobility impairment. Weekly practices bring together peers from across Greater Boston for expert coaching, mentorship, and camaraderie.

Adaptive Sports NE's **Sport Concierge** services include training or other support for school or community-based coaches, as well as assistance securing appropriate adaptive sports equipment. The program assists athletes, families, coaches, teachers, and local sport leaders in identifying and cultivating the opportunities that best match the interests and abilities of the individual athlete. Referrals to a local YMCA or cooperating adaptive sports organization often facilitate individualized and/or specialized programs that are close to participants' homes.

Adaptive Sports NE collaborates with the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, the Bay State Games, YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, and other sports organizations to create rules and policies, develop programs, and train staff so that youth with a disability can participate in typical sports settings.

Adaptive Sports NE uses a wide variety of broad-reaching and targeted communication channels to raise the awareness of sport opportunities for youth with a visual or mobility impairment. Additionally, Adaptive Sports NE partners with the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, Boston Children's Hospital, and other like-minded organizations to promote participation of youth in sports and physical activity.

“

I love the people that are in my rowing program with me. I met one of my best friends who is also in a chair and it is really nice to have that camaraderie.

”

LILLIAN
Age: 17





Think about how much your life was impacted by being part of a team, whether you were competitive or not - it doesn't matter. Learning to win, learning to lose, learning how to work as a team. These boys and girls don't have that opportunity and Adaptive Sports New England gives it to them.



CHRIS BABCOCK, Parent and Board Member

Key Investors

- THE LENNY ZAKIM FUND
- THE JANEY FUND
- MARTIN RICHARD FOUNDATION
- RUDERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Collaborators

- BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
- COMMUNITY ROWING, INC.
- MA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND
- MA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
- SPAULDING ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTERS
- YMCA

IMPACTING SOCIETY

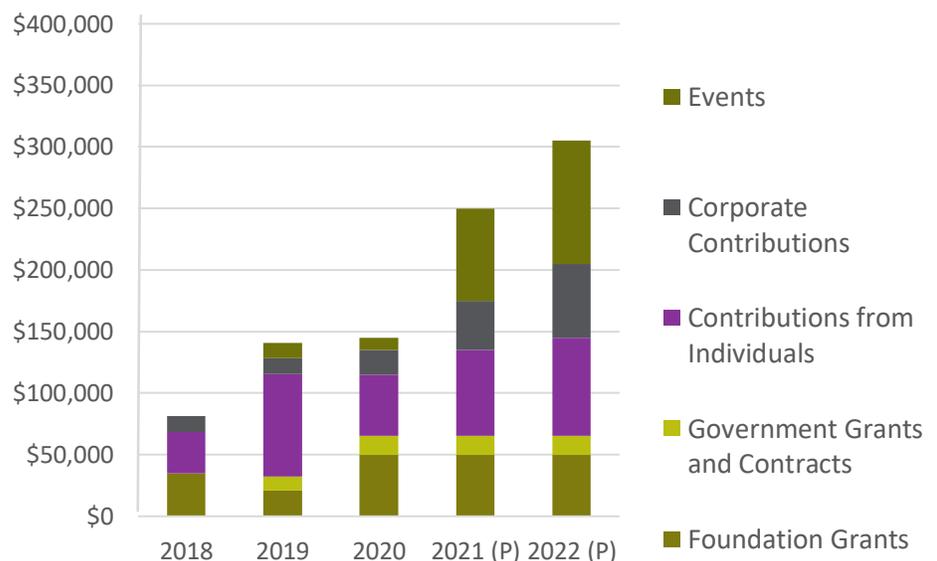
Adaptive Sports New England is the region's only organization focused on outreach, program expansion, and barrier reduction to enhance the opportunity for youth with a visual or mobility impairment to participate in sports. Increasing their participation in sports is shown to yield the following results:

- More kids playing more sports more often leads to happier and healthier youth who not only cost society less in medical expenses, but who are wage earners, taxpayers, and contributors to the social fabric.
- The physical activity of sports reduces the prevalence of obesity, diabetes, depression, and other chronic medical conditions that are major challenges to the health of Americans and even more common among people with disabilities.
- Participation in sports by youth with disabilities changes the perception and expectation of them among others in school and community sports programs.
- Students who participate in extracurricular sports exhibit improved academic performance.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Adaptive Sports NE is a young organization that has been growing over the past seven years with steady support from foundations and angel investors. 2019 was a pivotal year that featured a successful fundraising dinner, a marked increase in major gift donors, and a small, multi-year government contract. With a stable and diversified revenue base, Adaptive Sports NE is prepared for further growth in 2020 and beyond.

Revenue by Source



Success Story: Mikayla

Mikayla Chandler stands tall in the world of athletics in spite of her short stature. A four-year letter winner at Old Rochester Regional High School, Mikayla competed on the field hockey, indoor track, and outdoor track teams. She was a standout in the Para track and field events at the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association state championships, and now studies and competes at San Diego State University.

Mikayla was introduced to track and field as a high school freshman by a senior teammate who also has dwarfism. With guidance from the Adaptive Sports New England Sport Concierge program, Mikayla has progressed in national and international Paralympic competition. Mikayla joined Team USA for the 2019 Parapan American Games in Lima, Peru and is presently training for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.



PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

Below is a summary of the key measures Adaptive Sports NE tracks to demonstrate progress, create internal accountability, capture lessons learned, and evaluate strategy.

	FY 2020	FY 2021 (P)	FY 2022 (P)
PROGRAM PERFORMANCE			
Number of participants	100	200	300
Number of program hours	200	300	500
Number of user days	500	1,400	2,100
ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH/CAPACITY-BUILDING			
Number of staff	3	4	5
Number of hub locations	1	3	4
Number of board members	10	12	13
Total Revenue	\$175,000	\$290,000	\$375,000

SOCIAL IMPACT

Playing sports is tied to improved physical health, mental health, social relationships, academic performance, and other positive outcomes. Adaptive Sports New England seeks to increase participation in sports among youth who have a visual or mobility impairment. Adaptive Sports NE will over time use qualitative and quantitative methods to assess specific outcomes such as those below. Specific metrics and parameters will be developed during 2020 in cooperation with SIF collaborator Analysis Group.

INDICATOR	FY2022
Percent of participants reporting improved physical well being	>75%
Percent of participants reporting increased confidence	>75%
Percent of participants reporting improved social connections with peers in school and/or community	>75%