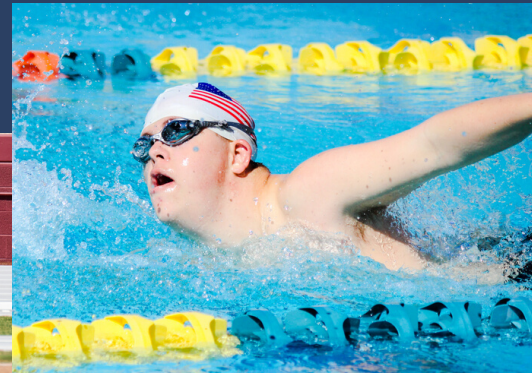




ARIZONA DISABLED SPORTS

# 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



*"Let no one sit on the sidelines."*

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF INCLUSION

When an adaptive physical education teacher (Gregg Baumgarten) and city recreation specialist (Mark Grant) came together 30 years ago to create an avenue for individuals with disabilities to participate and compete in sports, an incredible partnership formed and lives began to change in and around the City of Mesa. With the support of the Mesa Public Schools and the City of Mesa Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, individuals with disabilities were given something they had gone without for too long: opportunity. The opportunity to showcase their abilities, the opportunity to experience what it feels like to be part of a team and the opportunity to rise above their challenges and inspire others to do the same.



## RHONDA CARLSON

*Executive Director  
Arizona Disabled Sports  
59 E. Broadway Road  
Mesa, AZ 85210*

Over the years, Arizona Disabled Sports has impacted the lives of many, but those that have served as a staff member, coach, board member or volunteer can agree that we have been the ones whose lives have been forever changed by the spirit, determination and pure joy from those we have served. Providing an outlet for participation, competition and socialization has given many the ability to feel empowered, turn their challenges into triumphs and make connections that last a lifetime. For those that have been a part of facilitating those outcomes, I thank you for the work that you have done and continue to do in building a more inclusive community.



This year, we were fortunate to have over 2,200 individuals participate in our Team Mesa sports, social activities and special interest programs. We also partnered with the Arizona Coyotes and the Foundation for Blind Children to host 27 visually impaired participants at a blind ice hockey clinic - a program we hope to add to our weekly offerings in the future. The Desert Challenge Games - one of only nine World Para Athletics Grand Prix events - have proven once again to be a premier competition, as the 2019 games saw 524 athletes, coaches and guide runners from 17 countries compete, and in December, we hosted the West Coast Conference Bid Regional Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, which brought varsity teams from six states to play.

While our history gives plenty of reasons to celebrate, I continue to look forward to our future. I am grateful for the athletic accomplishments I will be lucky to witness, the new programs and partnerships that will be formed and the continued work we will all do to facilitate opportunities that "Let no one sit on the sidelines."

Sincerely,

*Rhonda Carlson*



# ABOUT ARIZONA DISABLED SPORTS

## MISSION

Recognizing the importance of recreation, leisure and competitive opportunities that contribute to quality of life, the primary mission of Arizona Disabled Sports is to provide a wide variety of programs and activities to individuals with disabilities. Through participation, the athlete will realize individual accomplishment, self-esteem, respect for themselves and others.

## VISION

Our vision is a community that creates opportunity and empowers individuals of all abilities through sports and recreation.

*"Let no one sit on the sidelines."*

## VALUES

Quality of life should not be limited by a physical or intellectual disability. It is possible to remove boundaries, elevate expectations, fulfill dreams, enhance self-worth and empower self actualization of individuals with disabilities through participation in athletic competition and recreational activities. Individuals with disabilities should be encouraged to participate fully in activities in our society.

## BROADWAY REC CENTER

Located at 59 East Broadway Road in Mesa, the Broadway Recreation Center is home to AzDS and hosts many community groups, including basketball, volleyball, roller derby, soccer and adaptive programs on a regular basis. If you are interested in utilizing the BRC for your upcoming activity, please contact Justin Murphy: (480) 835-6273 or [justin@arizonadisabledsports.com](mailto:justin@arizonadisabledsports.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mark Grant** - President  
**Barb Peacock** - Secretary  
**Shaun Clark** - Treasurer  
**Tony Leopard** - President Elect  
**Lane Gram** - City of Mesa  
**Steve Hogen** - MPS

### Board Members

Brandon Dale  
Jonathan Geib  
Jeffrey Gibson  
John Krecek  
Gary Robbins  
Bill Schwam  
Gabe Trujillo  
Edward Wessing

## STAFF

**Rhonda Carlson**  
*Executive Director*  
**Justin Murphy**  
*Program Supervisor*  
**Taylor Wilson**  
*Program Supervisor*

### BRC Site Supervisors

Ismael Gonzalez  
Rachel Kestian  
Desmond Kumi  
Adam Tinkam



@azdisablesports  
3,109 Followers



@AZDSPrograms  
753 Followers



azdisablesports  
642 Followers



4,279  
Subscribers

# ANNUAL AWARDS



## Jay Coyner Award - Gabe Castillo

As a member of the Arizona Heat track team, Jarrell "Jay" Coyner was always there to encourage his fellow teammates and cheer them on in their competitive pursuits. The Jay Coyner Award is given to an Arizona Heat athlete that exemplifies a dedication to sports, commitment to training, and a positive influence on his or her teammates. For his many years of involvement as an AzDS athlete - now participating in archery, track and field - and the effort and positive attitude he brings to every practice, this year's Jay Coyner Award winner is Gabe Castillo.



## Paula Rudow Award - Krystal Cummings

By being kind, showing compassion for others and always trying her best, Paula Rudow exemplified what it means to show good sportsmanship and encourage those around her. To remember her legacy, the Paula Rudow award is given to a Team Mesa athlete that supports others and always tries their best. This year's recipient has shown an incredible amount of resilience after surviving a stroke last year. She participates in soccer, swimming, floor hockey, basketball, Off-Broadway theater, hiking and TGIF Social Club activities and is a positive influence on those around her. Congratulations to this year's recipient, Krystal Cummings!

## Coach of the Year - Michele Romanoski

The Coach of the Year exemplifies an exceptional commitment to athlete growth, enhances adaptive programs and serves as a key member of the AzDS team. For an incredible 27 years, "Nurse Michele" has been involved with many Team Mesa programs, including Camp Carley, the California Adventure Trip and the Camp Fiesta summer camp. Always there to provide the care participants need to be involved and active in programs, Michele is a dedicated and valuable member of our team. Congratulations to this year's Coach of the Year, Michele Romanoski!



## Volunteer of the Year - Judson VanStee

The Volunteer of the Year shows their commitment to the organization and its overall mission by exemplary service and a visible, frequent presence at one or more sports programs or recreational activities throughout the year. As a Power Soccer volunteer coach and referee and dedicated volunteer during the annual Desert Challenge Games, this volunteer is always there to lend a helping hand and support the organization with whatever it needs! Congratulations to this year's Volunteer of the Year, Judson VanStee!



# ATHLETE ACHIEVEMENTS

## Archers Finish First at Junior Nationals



*Coach John Dee Schrum with Matthew Geib, Valeria Duron and Isabelle Henderson at the 2019 Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals*

Based on their performances from the 2019 Desert Challenge Games, Valeria Duron, Matthew Geib and Isabelle Henderson all qualified to compete in the 2019 Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals held in Eden Prairie, Minnesota July 14-19. With Coach John Dee Schrum's guidance to prepare them for competition, all three archers went on to place first in their respective divisions! Isabelle competed in the Cadet division, while Matthew and Valeria competed in the Junior division. We are so proud of the continued achievements of these three Arizona Heat athletes and look forward to seeing all they will continue to accomplish in the future!

## Binning & Hightower Compete for Team USA

Two-time Paralympian, Erik Hightower, and Paralympic hopeful, Stephen Binning, were selected to represent Team USA at the 2019 Parapan American Games held in Lima, Peru August 23 - September 1. Arizona Heat athletes and training partners at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Center, Erik and Stephen competed in para athletics events over the course of the games, with Erik grabbing gold in the Universal 4 X 100M Relay and silver in both the T54 Men's 100M and 400M. Stephen placed 5th in the T53 Men's 100M, an incredible achievement for his first time competing as a member of Team USA. Erik and Stephen are great examples of what can be achieved through hard work and determination. We are so proud of their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck on their road to Tokyo 2020!



*Stephen Binning, Kymberly Hightower and Erik Hightower at the 2019 Parapan American Games in Lima, Peru*

## Mesa Parks & Rec First Certified Autism Center



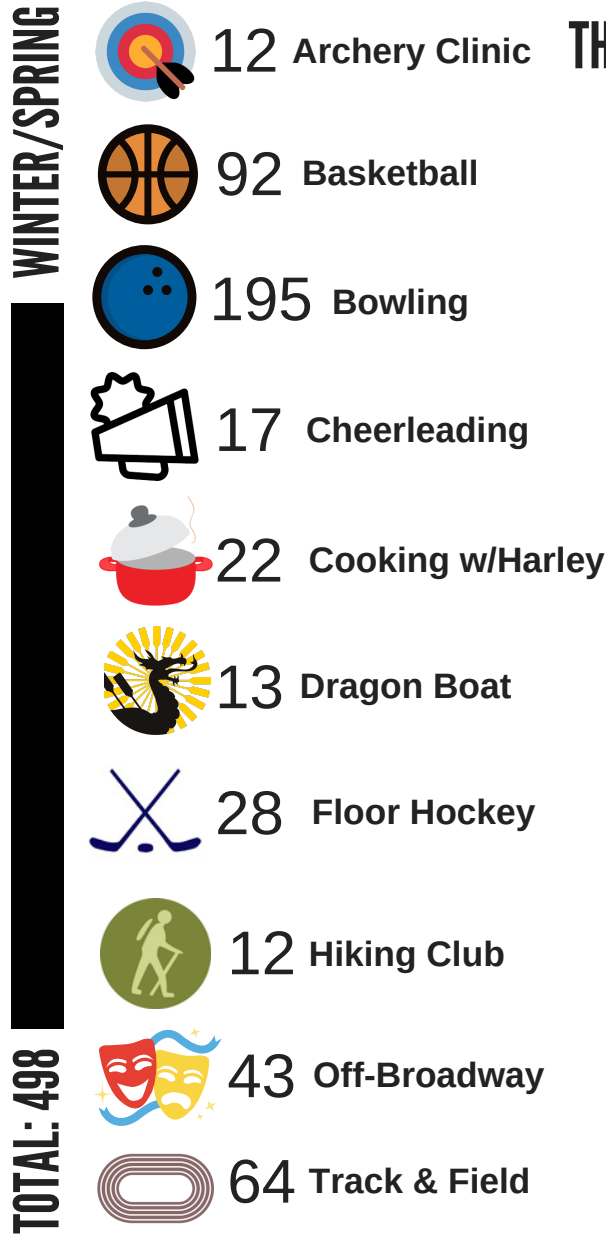
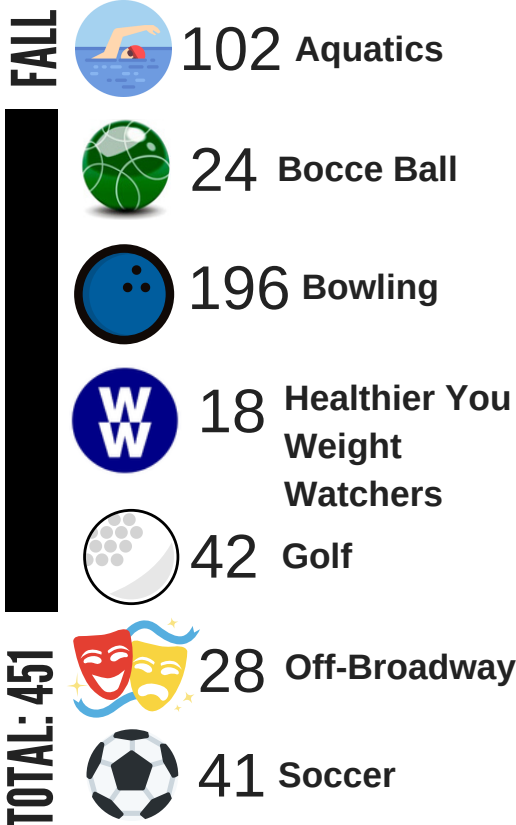
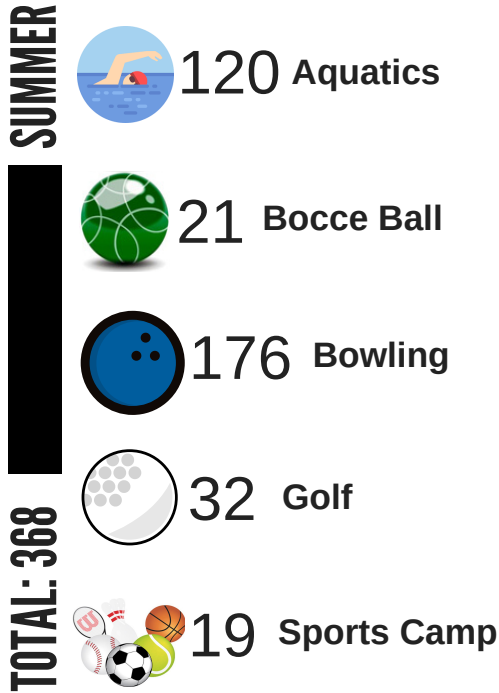
In 2019, Mesa Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities became the first Parks and Recreation organization in the world to be designated as a Certified Autism Center! Over 300 staff completed training in Autism Awareness & Sensitivity, six PRCF sites completed an accessibility audit and 10 employees completed extensive training to become Autism Certified. Staff will continue to receive ongoing training to ensure visitors can discover playgrounds and attractions that are sensory appropriate to their needs. Great work, PRCF team!



# TEAM MESA BULLDOGS

## SPORTS & RECREATION - ATHLETE TOTALS

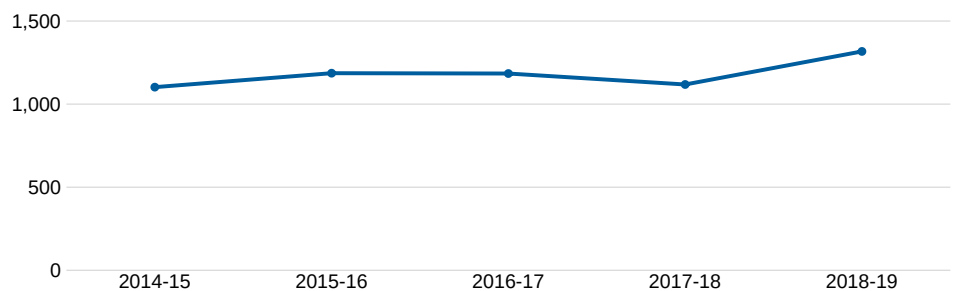
We are fortunate to have many athletes with intellectual disabilities participating in more than one adaptive sports program. The totals below reflect individual athletes who are registered for each program.



## THANK YOU COACHES!

- Nick Arneri
- Christian Atkinson
- Jamie Bauer
- Marli Bennett
- Kelly Clifford
- Olivia Connolly
- Carolyn Dean
- Liz Dean
- Eric DiBella
- Eli Duncan
- Ani Erickson
- Matt Erickson
- Nicole Havsta
- Elissa Henthorn
- Marcia Heywood
- Tyler Hoeft
- Carol Hopkins
- Madison Jackson
- Teresita Krenytsky
- Theresa Lares
- Sharon Minniear
- Joe Noel
- Savannah Noel
- Mackenzie Pagel
- Katie Pankonen
- Harley Ruda
- Rebekah Rudow
- Michelle Schultz
- Elise Sheldon
- Adam Tinkam
- John Underwood
- Cherie Vance
- Lisa Wilson
- Denise Wolf-Simmons

## REGISTRATIONS



# TEAM MESA BULLDOGS

## COMPETITIONS

- 98 Four Peaks Aquatics Competition
- 53 SOAZ Fall Championships
- 57 Four Peaks Golf
- 19 Four Peaks Bocce Ball
- 35 Mesa/Chandler Soccer League
- 155 Four Peaks Bowling
- 35 Four Peaks Soccer
- 31 Unified Bowling Tournament
- 36 Floor Ball Scrimmage with Chandler
- 77 Gold League Basketball
- 23 Unified Gold League Basketball
- 94 Four Peaks Cheer & Basketball Tournament
- 19 SOAZ State Cheer
- 72 SOAZ State Basketball
- 71 Four Peaks Track & Field
- 42 SOAZ State Summer Games

## TGIF SOCIALS

- 51 A Night at the Museum
- 81 Goodbye Summer Swim Party
- 39 Dolphinaris
- 81 Halloween Bash
- 80 Golfland BBQ & Mini Golf
- 62 Hale Theater Musical & Dinner
- 123 Mistletoe Magic Dinner & Dance
- 43 Holiday Shopping & Dinner
- 53 Holiday Movie & Games
- 40 Murder Mystery Dinner
- 45 South Mountain Picnic & Games
- 75 Sweetheart Dance
- 62 Cinemark Movie Night
- 81 Amazing Jakes
- 40 Out of Africa
- 75 Decades Dance
- 83 AMF Bowling
- 53 Game Night

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- 67 California Adventure Trip
- 65 "You Look Marvelous" Fashion Show
- 116 Camp Fiesta Summer Camp
- 31 Wiggles & Giggles Preschool





# ARIZONA HEAT

## SPORTS TRAINING - ATHLETE TOTALS

Our athletes with physical disabilities often train and compete in multiple adaptive sports programs. The totals below indicate individual athlete registrations for each sport.

**FALL**



8 Junior Wheelchair Basketball



11 Power Soccer



9 Kayaking



19 Short Distance Cycling (12)  
Long Distance Cycling (7)



15 Bowling



8 Indoor Archery

**TOTAL:70**

**SPRING**



9 Power Soccer



12 Track & Field



27 Archery



4 Swimming



11 Air Gun

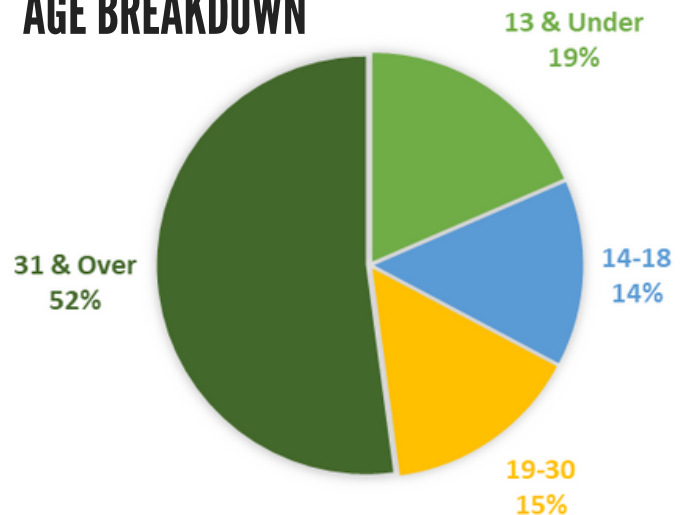
**TOTAL:63**

**CLINICS**

27 Blind Ice Hockey Clinic

30 SportsFest - Archery,  
Track & Field

## AGE BREAKDOWN





# ARIZONA HEAT

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- 20 Pedal N Paddle Fest
- 8 El Tour De Tucson
- 16 Holiday Bowling Tournament
- 83 West Coast Conference Bid Regional Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
- 26 SkiAble Adaptive Alpine Experience
- 23 AZ USPA Power League Weekend
- 524 Desert Challenge Games

## ATHLETE TRAVEL

- 10 Power Soccer MK Battery Conference Cup
- 3 Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals

## AMBASSADORS

The Athlete Ambassador Program provides our athletes the opportunity to be a spokesperson for the organization. Ambassadors raise awareness of the sports programs offered by AzDS, share their experiences with adaptive sports and help recruit individuals that can benefit from their own involvement. Our Athlete Ambassadors serve as positive role models within our organization and provide valuable feedback that help us evaluate programs. We thank them for their dedication to our initiatives and support of our mission!

- Austin Alcorn
- Kevin Miller
- John Countryman
- Michelle Nguyen
- John Foster
- Zachary Wharton
- Katie Griffith

## THANK YOU COACHES!

- Gillian Aitken
- Marli Bennett
- Tim Binning
- Gail Capshaw
- Mark Grant
- Tyler Grant
- Ed Hiebert
- Simon Holzapfel
- Justin Murphy
- Barb Peacock
- Jeff Ramsdell
- Dalton Schrum
- John Dee Schrum
- Dan Subaitis
- Judy Subaitis
- David Trujillo
- Judson VanStee
- Taylor Wilson



The overall economic impact to Tempe and Mesa, Arizona from May 22 - 26, 2019

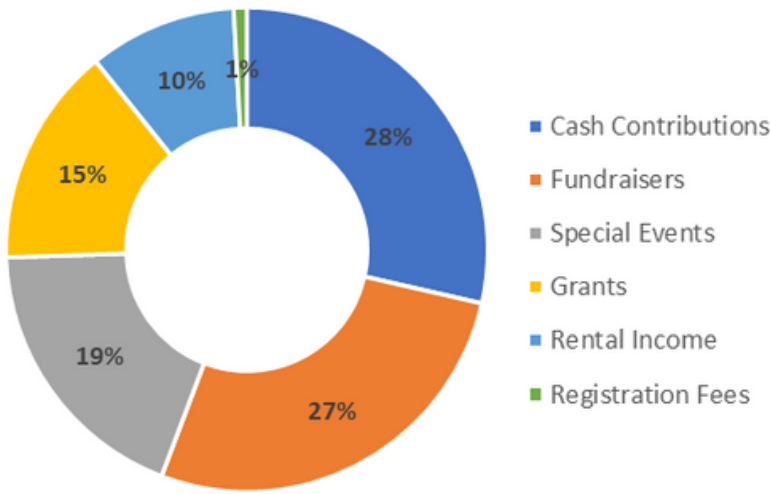
**THE 2019 DESERT CHALLENGE GAMES...**

- 524** athletes with intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities and visual impairments competed in the games
- ATHLETES, COACHES & GUIDES**
- COUNTRIES** 17 countries were represented from those that registered
- 1,032** room nights generated at a total of three hotels in Tempe and Mesa for athletes, coaches, guides, officials and spectators
- ROOM NIGHTS**
- JOBS SUPPORTED** 295 jobs supported, including lodging, food & beverage, transportation, facility management, retail, and security
- \$490K** the sum of visitor, host and exhibitor spending in Tempe and Mesa during the games
- DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT** \$\$\$

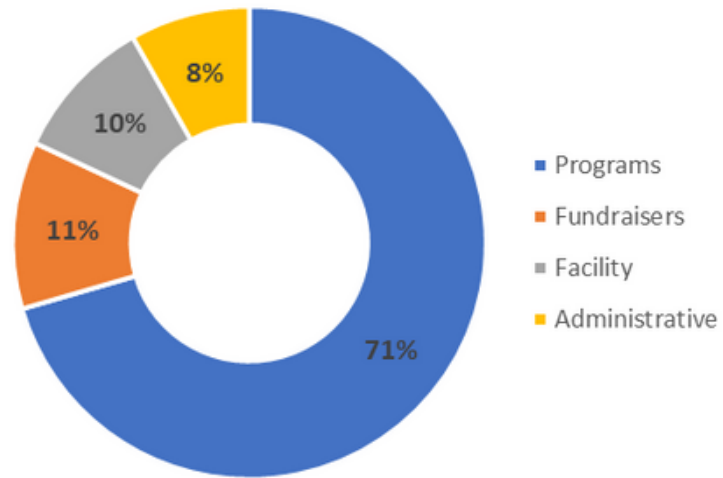
[WWW.DESERTCHALLENGEGAMES.COM](http://WWW.DESERTCHALLENGEGAMES.COM)

# FINANCIAL REVIEW

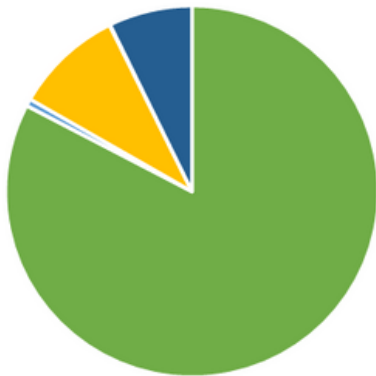
## REVENUE



## EXPENSES

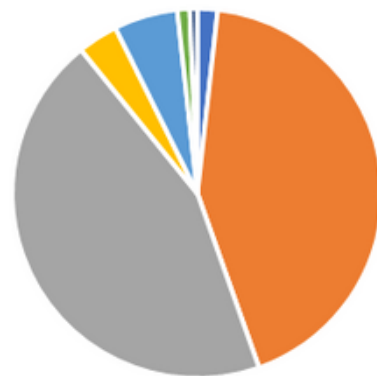


## FUNDRAISERS



- Ability Ball
- Birdies for Charity
- Fashion Show
- Athlete Fundraisers
- Power Soccer Golf Benefit

## PROGRAM EXPENSES



- Marketing
- Staff & Coaches
- Special Events
- Adaptive Equipment
- Athlete Travel
- Registrations & Fees
- Uniforms

**CASH CONTRIBUTIONS** Duck N Run Golf Tournament, Tax Credit Donations, United Way Donations, Sponsors and Donors.

**GRANTS** Restricted Grant Income.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** Desert Challenge Games, SkiAble, Disneyland Adventure, El Tour de Tucson, Holiday Bowling Tournament, West Coast Conference Bid Regional Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, SportsFest, Power Soccer League Weekend and Pedal N Paddle Fest.

**FUNDRAISERS** Ability Ball, Fashion Show, Power Soccer Golf Benefit, Birdies for Charity and Waste Management Phoenix Open Volunteer Concessions.

**REGISTRATION FEES** Program Registration Fees.

**RENTAL INCOME** Broadway Recreation Center Community Renters and Equipment Rentals.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF AzDS!

## SPONSORS

**Champion - \$25,000**  
Duck N Run Golf Tournament

**Silver (DC Games) - \$5,000**  
Adaptive Sports USA  
Bob Woodruff Foundation  
Hanger Clinic  
U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
Warfighter Sports

**Bronze (DC Games) - \$3,000**  
Hanger Charitable Foundation  
Ottobock

**Gold (Ability Ball) - \$2,000**  
JFK Electrical Enterprises, Inc.  
Delta Diversified Enterprises  
Ben Scanlan  
Simpson Strong-Tie  
Tru Team

**Silver (Ability Ball) - \$1,100**  
Andrew Gates Construction  
Arizona Lighting Sales  
Cawood & Gibson, PLLC  
CopperPoint  
Firetrol Protection Systems  
Gabe Trujillo  
Gregg Baumgarten  
Jimmy John's  
John & Linda Hughes  
Kitchell Companies  
Kohler  
Mark Grant  
Morrison, Clark & Company CPAs  
NFP Insurance  
R.C. Lurie Company  
Schuff Steel Management Co.

**Goodwill (DC Games) - \$1,000**  
Paragon Vision Sciences  
Visit Mesa

## PARTNERS

Adaptive Sports USA  
Arizona Coyotes  
Arizona Dragon Boat Association  
Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association  
AT Stills University  
Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center  
City of Chandler Parks & Recreation  
City of Mesa Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities  
City of Tempe Parks & Recreation  
Disabled Sports USA  
Foundation for Blind Children  
Kohl's Department Stores  
Mesa Community College  
Mesa Public Schools  
National Wheelchair Basketball Association  
Phoenix VA Hospital  
Snowbowl Ski Instructors  
St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center  
US Power Soccer Association  
USA Archery  
US Paralympics  
Visit Mesa  
We're Moving Forward  
World Para Athletics

## IN-KIND DONORS

30th Century Graphic Design  
AMF Mesa Lanes  
Arizona Dragon Boat Association  
Arizona Snowbowl  
Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association  
Avalon School of Cosmetology  
City of Chandler Parks & Recreation  
City of Mesa Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities  
East Mesa Bowl  
Greenfield Lakes Golf Course  
Herriman Photography  
Hohokam Stadium  
JFK Electrical Enterprises, Inc.  
Kohl's Department Stores  
Leeden Wheelchair Lift & Sport  
Mesa Public Schools  
Modern Age Printing  
Northern Arizona Adaptive Sports Association  
Papago Park Archery Range  
Tempe Tourism Office  
Tempe Town Lake Marina  
The Eye Center in Chandler  
Tower Point Resort  
United Access

## FACILITIES

AMF Mesa Lanes  
Arizona Snowbowl  
Arizona State University - Joe Sellen Track  
Brimhall Aquatic Center  
Broadway Recreation Center  
Chandler Center for the Arts  
Disney CA Adventure Parks  
Disneyland  
Eagles Community Center  
East Mesa Bowl  
El Dorado Park  
Greenfield Lakes Golf Course  
Hohokam Stadium  
Jefferson Recreation Center  
Kino Aquatics Center  
Mesa Convention Center  
Mesa High School  
Mesa Tennis Center  
Papago Park Archery Range  
Quail Run Sports Complex  
Red Mountain Center  
Red Mountain High School  
Skyline Aquatic Center  
Skyline High School  
Stapley Junior High  
Tempe Town Lake Marina  
Tower Point Resort  
Webster Recreation Center

*"Let no one sit on the sidelines."*



59 East Broadway Road, Mesa, AZ 85210

480.835.6273

[www.arizonadisabledsports.com](http://www.arizonadisabledsports.com)