Dear Friends and Partners,

2018 was a year of building capacity here at Waypoint. Support from individuals like you grew by nearly 30%! This enabled us to hire 2 additional full-time program staff and purchase a second fleet of kayaks and a second truck. These purchases allowed us to begin facilitating introductory kayaking programs on the famous and beautiful Walden Pond, only 15 minutes from our headquarters, and lead kayaking programs at a variety of other rivers, harbors and ponds at the same time. We also purchased an assortment of new climbing harnesses and adaptive equipment to continue introducing more people to the challenge of rock climbing.

The Leaders In Training program continues to be a huge success. Nine young adults from 8 communities participated in this year’s cohort and have reported incredible results. New friendships, confidence and determination are a few of the changes they and their families have noticed.

This year two new program initiatives were started. The Inclusive Adventure Club intentionally brought together people with and without disabilities to participate in adventures. And, we tested a tandem cycling program in the fall. Both of these programs are back on the calendar for 2019.

Waypoint added four new members to the Board of Directors and four members to the Board of Advisors. We had 146 unique individuals volunteer on programs in 2018. Some came out for only a day while others gave more than 10 days!

Support from donors and volunteers make programs possible. Without these two forms of investment, programs could not happen. Thank you for playing a crucial role in making adventure education accessible! We couldn’t do this without you!!

Sincerely,

Dan Minnich  
Co-Founder

Adam Combs  
Co-Founder

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Transforming Lives Through Adventure
Here are a few highlights from 2018. Your investments made these opportunities possible! Thank you for helping to make adventure education and our world more fully accessible!

**2018 BY THE NUMBERS**
- Programs = 119
- Participants = 1020
- Cotting School vocational opportunities = 45
- Cotting School student work participants = 156

**NEW PROGRAM MODELS**
- Cycling
- Inclusive Adventure Club (IAC)

**SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN**
- Over $23,000
- 352 participants received scholarships

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018**
- 28 returning groups (87% return rate) and 6 new groups:
  - East Boston Neighborhood Health Care
  - Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters
  - Prader Willi Association New England
  - Epilepsy Foundation New England (EFNE’s contract brought us into Rhode Island and Maine)
  - Dover Sherborn High School
  - Avery School
- 7 corporate volunteer days—66 corporate volunteers
- Used Walden Pond for introductory kayaking programs
- Developed a 3–5 year Research and Evaluation Plan
- Hired 2 new program staff
- Hired a graduated LIT to be our part time Equipment Specialist 2x/month
- Purchased another fleet of kayaks, a new truck, updated climbing equipment
- Continued strong partnership with leading organizations such as:
  - Department of Conservation and Recreation
  - Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital
  - Perkins School for the Blind
  - Boston Public Schools
  - Somerville Public Schools
- Participated on local and national advisory boards to improve access for people with disabilities

**GOALS FOR 2019**
- Move towards our 2020 goal of 200 yearly programs by facilitating 130 adventure education programs in 2019.
- Implement year 1 of the research plan. A doctoral student from Boston University will be working with us from May through August to help make this possible.
- Provide new professional development opportunities for Waypoint staff and volunteers.
- Attract new members to the Waypoint community.
  - Gather a team of cyclists to enter the Rodman Ride for Kids
  - Facilitate house parties to tell more people about the Waypoint mission
  - Host our 3rd annual Climb-A-Thon
  - Host 1–2 new and creative events to engage corporations

**EVIDENCE OF IMPACT**
In 2018 Waypoint partnered with 2nd Nature TREC, a North Carolina based research firm, to create a plan to guide our research and evaluation efforts for the next 3-5 years. Our hope is to better understand the short and long-term outcomes of Waypoint Adventure programming.

In the diagram to the left are the expected outcomes that were derived from themes that emerged in focus group interviews with various stakeholders (participants, parents, teachers, program contacts, board members and staff).

Of major interest was that the impact of these adventure programs was not just on participants, but also on families, communities and, eventually, society as a whole!

We look forward to continuing to update you on the results of our research and evaluation efforts going forward.
**Foundation Support**
Adobe Foundation
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Island Foundation, Inc.
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392 Individual donors, 40 of which are monthly donors

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7 Corporations provided matching donations for their employee contributions

** Gifts In Kind:**
Appalachian Mountain Club
Central Rock Gym
Charles River Canoe & Kayak
Cottage School
Newfangled Studios
Patagonia - Boston
Peter Fuller Rentals

**Where Our Donors Are From**
Waypoint has donors in 27 states, and England!