



Dear Friends,

The Year 2022 certainly qualified as an Adventure here at Waypoint!

Due to your generous support, Waypoint is thrilled to report that over the course of the last year, we led more than 200 adventures – and that doesn't include private lessons and gear rentals! The result is a record breaking number as more than 1,800 people were able to engage in a Waypoint adventure throughout 2022. Thank YOU for making this milestone possible!

It is with extreme gratitude that I share with you the profound and impactful highlights (and many accomplishments), that your investment has enabled us to achieve in 2022, including:

- Resuming the Leaders-In-Training program and launching our Waypoint Adventure Club series – bringing together people with and without disabilities for hikes, bike rides, and kayaking programs.
- As schools and social service agencies re-engaged in activities close to pre-pandemic levels, Waypoint created new relationships and expanded many current partnerships as well. We are thrilled to call organizations such as: Outward Bound, Appalachian Mountain Club, Trustees of Reservations, Boston Public Schools, and many suburban school districts our partners in adventure!

I continue to be incredibly appreciative of, and humbled by, what Waypoint has accomplished since our inception in 2010. Together we have positively impacted the lives of thousands of individuals with disabilities. As we move forward to partnering even more individuals with their adventures, I can't help but reflect on how the surge in diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives doesn't include more of a focus on the topic of disability.

In the fall of 2022, Waypoint attended the Outdoors for All conference in North Carolina. While at the event, I had the opportunity to sit alongside a former Waypoint participant as he contributed his perspective to a panel discussion on access for individuals with disabilities. As a community, country, and world, we're making progress – just not fast enough and I continue to hold onto the vision of a future where people with disabilities are welcomed and included in every aspect of life. With your continued support, we are moving closer to having the topic of disability become a permanent part of the conversation of which the ripple effect from this can influence positive change for the disabilities community throughout the nation.

As you read through these pages, please know that all of these accomplishments were the direct result of YOUR support. Without your investment, the connection between our clients and adventure would never have come to fruition and we wouldn't be poised to enter 2023, with the solid framework required to make many, many more adventures accessible.

I hope you enjoy reading what we accomplished together in 2022 – and feel the energy that I do recognizing there are currently so many people waiting for access to adventure, and join me in the purpose of making it a reality. There is an entire section in this report dedicated to post-adventure client responses. As you read their feedback, please recognize your voice in harmony with theirs, as your generosity made it all possible.

Sincerely,

Dan Minnich
Executive Director
Co-Founder

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Breaking Down Barriers to Adventure

IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

Year	Programs Run	Participants
2018	117	1,038
2019	144	1,643
2020	148	549 (Covid)
2021	269*	1,606
2022	213	1,809

* 130 pandemic related private lessons

Meet Antonio

Seven-year-old Antonio has a whole new world of opportunities ahead of him thanks to two recent Waypoint trips he participated in with his class. His class has been working on "teamwork." They were about to put it to the test on a hike in the Middlesex Fells, but Antonio and his mother had some concerns... How would his wheelchair manage the terrain? How would he be taken care of in the woods for two hours? But the day came, worries were appeased, and Antonio hopped into Waypoint's "Hippocampe" off-road wheelchair to set off on a hike with his classmates.

As the group started walking, a look of pure joy spread over Antonio's face and remained there throughout the adventure. He kept exclaiming, "I can't believe I'm doing this!" "I can't believe this chair can do this!" At the end of the day Eileen Waypoint's Education Director, told Antonio, "I look forward to seeing you go rock climbing on our next adventure." He responded, "You mean I can do other things too!"

Fast forward to rock climbing and his class is planning to practice "teamwork" again. Antonio was looking forward to it immensely. His class arrived at the gym, participated in opening activities, and then watched the climbing demonstration. After the demonstration however, Antonio grew frightened. Through tears, he told his teachers he was nervous as he didn't think he could climb high like that! Think point staff told him, "No one is going to make you do anything you don't want to do." They showed Antonio a few options one step at a time and, before you knew it, Antonio had found his courage and started ascending the wall!

Not once, but twice, Antonio learned what he was capable of and that a world of new possibilities was available to him. He now knows he can try new things, he has courage and resilience, he can be part of a team, and he now likes rock climbing and hiking!

Thank you for making stories like these possible. Because of your support, Antonio gets to participate in the fullness of life, have fun with his friends, and has a new perspective on what he's capable of.

Volunteer of the Year

Throughout 2021-2022, Catie volunteered on over 20 programs, which was the most out of any other volunteer in our community. While the number of programs she volunteered on is impressive, her quality involvement and care on each program is what led her to be given the title as Waypoint's Volunteer of the Year for 2022. Thank you Catie for all your efforts and we wish you all the best in your journey ahead!

WAYPOINT'S MISSION

The mission of Waypoint Adventure is to challenge youth and adults with disabilities to discover their purpose, talents and strengths through the transforming power of adventure.



Antonio holding the trail map on a hike with his class



Antonio starting the ascension system on his indoor rock-climbing field trip. He made it to the top!

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



26% of adults in the United States have a disability, and anyone of any identity such as race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, or life experience—can become disabled at any time. Despite this prevalence, disability remains underrepresented.

Community

Helping everyone feel welcome, building connections

Access

Providing adaptive instructional materials and adventure equipment

Preparation

Communicating with participants before the program to understand their interests, goals, needs, and concerns

CAP Sauce

The special sauce that makes Waypoint programs so successful

www.waypointadventure.org

Community & Population Served

More than 20% of Americans have a disability.

Research indicates that people with disabilities engage in physical activities less frequently and with less variety than the general population.

Barriers include cost, access to transportation, the need for specialized equipment, a lack of accessible facilities, and a lack of opportunities and support. However, participation promotes improved health and well-being and is correlated with increased psychological wellness, social functioning, self-efficacy, and opportunities for physical fitness.

Waypoint is a leader in disability education programming and its programs are custom-tailored to be fully accessible.



WAYPOINT OVERCOMES OBSTACLES

Waypoint headed into 2022 fully booked for programming well into the year.

With a wait list of almost forty people, we realized the need to pivot to meet the ever-growing demand for our much-needed services.

The dedicated Waypoint staff, never afraid of a challenge, went to work to craft a formula that would uphold the quality of programming, while increasing the number of programs offered.

We accomplished this by increasing trainings, professional development, staff bonding and meetings for quality assurance checks.

The result: we were able to meet the demand by increasing programming; we finalized a strategic plan with a focus on the anticipated additional organizational and participant / adventure growth; and we hired new staff members! We ended the year having facilitated more than 200 programs!



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What will you remember most about this Waypoint adventure?

"Teamwork!"

"Wonderful staff and volunteers!"

"New friends!"

"Everyone supporting each other!"

"Having fun!"

"I will remember the joy that the participants displayed throughout our afternoon together!"

"I will remember that I did something with Waypoint for Halloween!"

"The whole experience & the memories I made!"

"All the smiling faces!"

"Really fun to try something new!"

"Community & support!"

"The staff was really nice & accommodating!"

"I kayaked through vegetation and lily pads, first time evening kayaking & kayaking on the Charles, really peaceful, saw swans & ducks!"

"People of all abilities enjoying the adventure one would think was not possible and the mentoring & coaching from the wonderful volunteers."

"The awesome volunteers give 100% to make as needed accommodations to ensure people with all abilities have the best adventure!"

"I learned something new & I like learning new things!"

"That everyone was kind, we were in nature & I saw turtles!"

"First time my child went for a kayak!"

"I got to do a single kayak!"

"How much fun I have every time I attend Waypoint!"

"Having fun in a group!"

"Having challenges, offers of support & meeting the challenges!"

"the peace of the forest, the wind on my skin, the singing birds & kindness!"

"I never knew these programs existed & I am sure glad they do!"

"The feeling of having assistance to achieve a goal!"

"Being able to be with a friend who wouldn't be able to kayak without Waypoint!"

"Working as a team for the first time!"

"Accessing a kayak for the first time in my life!"

"I was proud of myself for overcoming apprehension of skiing downhill!"

"First time snow shoeing since my stroke!"

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