



**Florida  
Disabled  
Outdoors  
Association**

## **Annual Report**

**2014-15**

***Active Leisure for Life!***  
***#Active4Life***



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### **Mission**

To enrich lives through accessible inclusive recreation for all

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### **Benefits of Physical Activity**

■ Developmental ■ Healing ■ Physical and Mental Wellness ■  
■ Vocational and Economic ■ Societal ■

## Executive Director's Message

Dear Members,

Each company has a mission for which they strive. At Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA), we are different from a for-profit company. Our mission instead of increasing returns to the investors is to enrich the lives of our members and people of all abilities through accessible inclusive recreation. We measure success in lives affected in a positive way.

We are pleased to provide this review on the progress that the FDOA has made in the 2014-15 fiscal year. The services to the members have grown despite facing economic challenges. That is due to the numerous volunteer hours (valued at over \$154,000) and in-kind donations (valued at over \$151,000). We are humbled by the support and outreach in working toward enriching lives of people of all abilities through accessible inclusive recreation.

We have strived to be excellent stewards of our financial resources. For each dollar received, FDOA has secured \$1.64 (or 164%) in matching support. We have maintained a 3% administrative expense, which is extremely low. FDOA has remained unique in our ability to partner with numerous organizations, state agencies, businesses and individuals to create a powerful avenue to elicit change.

In this fiscal year, we have served 16,000 members through outreach, programs, education, and training. The statistics do not tell the story of the individual family that has been changed because of Miracle Sports, SportsAbility or one of the other programs. The statistics do not show the smiles on the faces. We measure success by Frances Perez telling me that for her family, SportsAbility is better than Disney World because it is a time when her children can feel totally accepted and relaxed and can feel empowered to accomplish anything they want to do. We measure success by the Schumacher family saying that their son carries around the SportsAbility postcard for months before the program starts because he is so excited. We measure success by the Sprague family that cheers because all of their children with or without a disability can play together.

Thank you for all you have done!

Laurie

Laurie LoRe-Gussak, MBA, IOM, CAE





## President's Message

We are celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association. FDOA's silver anniversary also shares the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our organization and this very important civil rights law have made the world a much better place for everyone. With better access and more inclusive programs come the needed opportunities for people to be more active.

I never dreamed that my desire and efforts to help others get back to living through outdoor recreation would kick-start a group of people that carry a torch that touches so many lives. I want to give thanks to my wonderful family and my great old and new friends that have helped me start and sustain the FDOA for all these years. There are so many of you that have been instrumental in our 25 successful years.

Thank you again for your past and future support to help us to help others to be healthier, happier and more productive.

#Active4Life

David C. Jones



# Programs:



- More than 650 participants attended the Leon / Wakulla program
- Over 600 participants attended the Marion County program
- Over 8,925 attendees at the SportsAbility Sampler at the Family Café in Orlando
- More than \$154,000 of volunteer help and training donated
- Over 35 Community Partners or Sponsors helped



- Over 1,000 volunteer hours were logged.
- Over 550 hours of team sports for people with disabilities were played.
- Miracle Sports partnered with Florida State University (FSU) Seminole Athletics Program to offer two Seminole Showdowns.
- A Service Learning Program was developed with the FSU Sports Management Program.
- Year-round programs are offered and available to the public.

## Community-based Therapeutic Recreation Program for People with Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries

This program, funded by the Florida Department of Health Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, provides an education and resource referral to assist people with brain and spinal cord injuries in pursuing current recreation and leisure providers and available associate assistive services and technologies.

- FDOA provided 1500 informational pieces specifically dealing with physical activity for people with a brain injury that were delivered in kits throughout Florida.
- FDOA provided 500 informational pieces in English and 50 informational pieces in Spanish specifically dealing with physical activity for people with a spinal cord injury that were delivered in kits through Florida.
- Educational programs were provided to healthcare professional at Shands Rehab Hospital and Orlando Regional Healthcare.
- Over 90 outreach events/programs were provided to over 20,000 attendees.



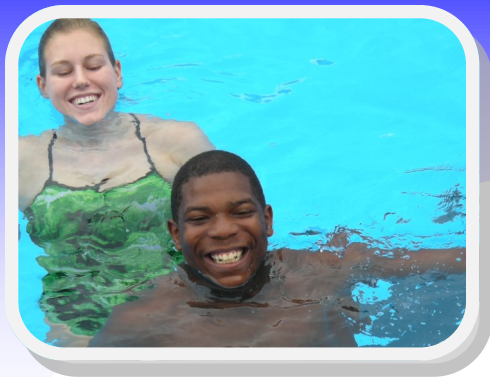
## ALLOUT

An outdoor adventure program for people with disabilities. This program includes the mobility impaired hunting program, which is the benchmark for mobility-impaired hunts throughout the United States. The program also includes a variety of other outdoor adventure trips.

- Over 50 anglers with disabilities participated in the Hands Helping Anglers Program.
- Over 100 people of all abilities participated in the PotashCorp hunting and fishing trips.







## Recreational Activity Program for Adults with Disabilities (RAPAD)

- More than 8 different group recreational opportunities were offered.
- Over 350 Adults with Disabilities were served and 35 new Adult Individual Assessment Programs or Recreation Plans (AIEPs) were completed.
- Some of the activities offered included Kayaking Down the Wakulla River, Paint a Pot, Tennis Clinic, and Springtime Tallahassee Parade.
- As of June 30, 2015, there is no longer funding for this program

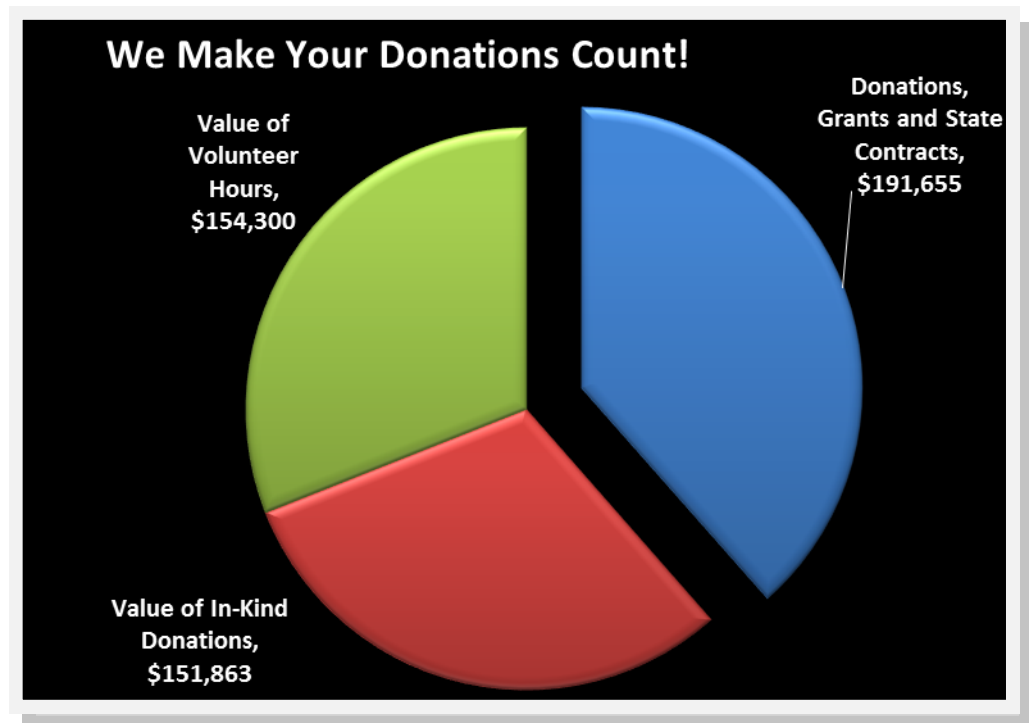
## Resource Referral Network

- Over 160 Destinations that provide areas of interest that are accessible and accommodating to persons with disabilities.
- Over 30 Events archived for reference, contacts, and activity resource template guides.
- 431 Programs that meet on a regular and continuous basis that allows people with disabilities to get involved in their community.
- 171 Products and Services geared toward people with disabilities.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA) Recreation Resource Database. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the FDOA logo and four small images representing different recreational activities: a person in a wheelchair, a person in a kayak, a person in a canoe, and a person in a wheelchair. Below the navigation bar, the text "Florida Disabled Outdoors Association" is displayed, followed by "Welcome to the FDOA Recreation Resource Database." A section titled "Select criteria for recreation resources" contains three dropdown menus: "Type:" with "All" selected, "County:" with "All" selected, and "Activities:" with "All" selected. A "Get Resources" button is located below these menus. At the bottom, a disclaimer states: "The Florida Disabled Outdoor Association's listing of recreation services does not constitute an endorsement of any program, service, product, event or destination. This database is for information and referral purposes only. By using this resource, the user agrees not to hold the FDOA liable for problems that may occur." Below the disclaimer, it says "Funded in part by:" followed by the logo for the "Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Program".

## Return on Your Investment

- We leverage revenues to fulfill our mission.
- We provide cost saving to society through our programs.
- We deliver meaningful education and advocacy to the community.
- We strengthen the community through partnerships and collaborations.
- We supplement our funding sources with donated goods and services and utilizing the power of volunteers and student involvement.







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**Florida Disabled Outdoors Association gratefully thanks  
these partners and all of our other important contributors.**



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**Florida Disabled Outdoors Association**  
2475 Apalachee Parkway, Suite 205  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
(850) 201-2944  
[info@fdoa.org](mailto:info@fdoa.org) ❖ [www.fdoa.org](http://www.fdoa.org)