



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2016





# A LETTER FROM KELLY

What a year! It has been so exciting to continue to watch the Kelly Brush Foundation grow and 2016 saw our biggest growth ever!

Since we committed in 2014 to an ambitious vision of growing the Kelly Brush Foundation from one event (the Kelly Brush Ride) into a dynamic organization with meaningful impact, we have been blown away by the support, enthusiasm, and reach we have achieved. Each event draws more excitement, momentum, and fundraising than we ever expected.

My favorite stat: 46% of all individuals with paralysis that we have ever helped, we helped in 2016. All while creating partnerships to leverage that impact, continuing our ski racing safety advocacy and grant programs, and running awesome, fun events.

At the same time, we simply can't keep up with the increase in grant applicants around the country. It's why we work hard every day.

Looking forward to 2017 is even more exciting. We have events on the calendar in Denver, Boston, and San Francisco. We're doing more than ever locally here in Vermont, hosting Inspire!Vermont and coordinating group ski days and bike rides, not to mention our 12th Annual Kelly Brush Ride!

Every time I sit down to write, give an interview, or reflect about the KBF, I am humbled by what my story has inspired. While my goal has always been to just live life, it is you that has gone out of your way to help other people do the same. I speak for everyone benefited by the KBF: **THANK YOU!**

*Kelly*



# OUR TEAM

## STAFF

Zeke Davisson - Executive Director  
Elizabeth Langfeldt - Development Director  
Stephanie Carrell - Administrative Manager  
Jenn Rand - Event Coordinator


## BOARD OF DIRECTORS


Kelly Brush - President  
Scott Willard - Treasurer  
Tom Getz - Secretary  
Ellen Adams  
Charlie Brush  
Mary Brush  
Lindsay Brush Getz  
RB Klinkenberg  
Rick Makin  
Marilyn Reap  
Don Rendall

## CONTACT

kellybrushfoundation.org  
802.846.5298

Kelly Brush Foundation  
Three Main Street, Suite 104  
Burlington, VT 05401

 /KellyBrushFoundation

 @kellybrushfdn

Organized in the State of Vermont as  
*The Kelly S. Brush Foundation, Inc.*  
Tax ID #20-4560423

# OUR 2016

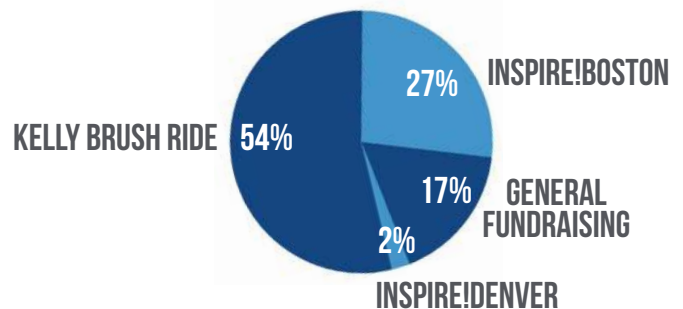
## REVENUE

2016 \$805,000

2015 \$583,000

2014 \$470,000

## SOURCES OF REVENUE



# ABOUT THE KBF

The Kelly Brush Foundation was formed on the idea that sports and recreation:

*bring people together, enrich lives, and empower people to be better.*

Kelly sustained a spinal cord injury in 2006 while competing in an NCAA alpine ski race for the Middlebury College Ski Team. But her injury has not slowed her down. She graduated college on time, went back to school for a Master's in Nursing, and practices as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She is also a mother of her daughter born in 2016



Kelly is also still an athlete. She skis, handcycles, plays golf and tennis, and skates around her family's pond on a hockey sled.

Since 2006, the Kelly Brush Foundation has raised over \$3.5 million, helped over 500 individuals in 46 states purchase adaptive sports equipment, and helped protect thousands of alpine ski racers around the country. Today, we are embarking on partnerships with programs to leverage our impact and create more amazing stories!





# OUR MISSION

**To empower** those with paralysis to live engaged and fulfilling lives through sports and recreation.

---

**To prevent** ski racing injuries through a shared commitment to proper safety practices.





# ADAPTIVE SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Our Adaptive Sports Equipment Grant Program helps people with paralysis purchase the adaptive sports equipment they need to lead an independent active lifestyle.

## 2016 GRANT STATISTICS

196

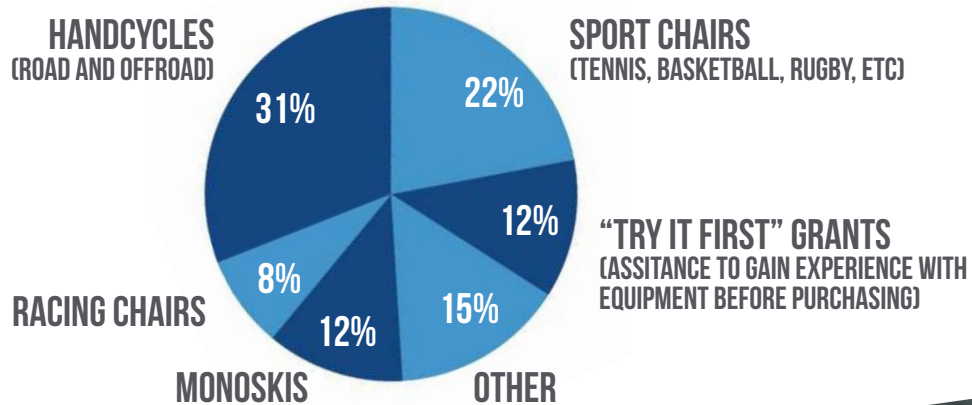
Grant Recipients

\$308,000

Granted

32

States



# ADAPTIVE SPORTS EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

We believe in the power of sport and recreation to foster inclusion and develop confidence, independence, and emotional strength.

## ALL-TIME STATISTICS

426\*

Grant Recipients

\$1,002,000

Granted

47

States

\*While we have been providing adaptive sports equipment grants since 2007, more than 60% of all grants awarded by the Kelly Brush Foundation have been awarded in the last 2 years.





# SKI RACING SAFETY

Our Ski Racing Safety Grant Program helps alpine ski race programs improve safety on their race and training hills by purchasing safety netting and contributing to trail widening projects.

## 2016 GRANT STATISTICS

**17**  
Grant Recipients

**\$62,000**  
Granted  
**10**  
States

All 2016 Ski Racing Safety Grant awards were for the purchase of b-netting, the safety fence that lines race trails and surrounds man made obstacles such as ski lift towers. While this is typical, we have made grants to assist in trail widening projects in the past.





# Y GRANT PROGRAM

We believe in the safety of every alpine ski racer through proper safety equipment and a commitment to safety shared by coaches, staff, and parents.

## ALL-TIME STATISTICS

**164**

Grants Awarded

**\$412,000**

Granted

**16**

States



# MEET 2016 GR

## SADIE ABSHER

BELMONT, NC



When Sadie was paralyzed at age 3, she was already playing soccer, basketball, and cheerleading.

Today at age 11, she is still a normal kid: she plays wheelchair basketball with the Charlotte (NC) Junior Rollin' Hornets, swims, and participates in track and field. She is able to walk with the assistance of leg braces, but needs adaptive equipment to participate in sports.

***"I really love playing wheelchair basketball. Having my very own basketball chair makes me feel like a 'real' athlete!"***

She learned about the Kelly Brush Foundation Adaptive Sports Grant Program from a teammate on the Rollin' Hornets that had received a grant from the Kelly Brush Foundation in 2015.

## KIRK WILLIAMS

BOULDER, CO



Kirk suffered a spinal cord injury in 2009 in a mountain biking accident. A former semi professional mountain biker, Kirk has worked for the last several years to get back out on the trails, not a small task because of his high level of injury (lower neck).

Kirk also plays on a Denver-based quad rugby team and runs his own videography business.

***"I like to think of myself as an outdoor sports advocate and adventurer. I feel that life is far from over after going through such an injury, and I try to push others to get out and explore!"***

Kirk is a great ambassador for the Kelly Brush Foundation, speaking at the inaugural Inspire!-Denver in January 2017.

# W E L C O M E T O T



# ANT RECIPIENTS

## EMILY CIOFFI

NORTH EASTON, MA



Emily is a determined athlete and her enthusiasm is infectious! A life-long athlete, especially a skier, Emily experienced a tough 4 years after becoming paralyzed at age 20.

Now she's back on the slopes--thanks in large part to Vermont Adaptive--and regaining the sense of freedom and exhilaration she's experienced skiing since childhood.

***"I can participate in a sport at the same level as my friends and family and that is so liberating."***

Emily ran an extremely successful crowdfunding campaign through our partnership with online sports fundraising site RallyMe. Starting with her grant from the Kelly Brush Foundation she raised the remaining amount of the \$7,500 price tag from friends and family!

## KING PINE RACE TEAM

MADISON, NH



King Pine is a community-centered program in New Hampshire's famed Mount Washington Valley. They are committed to providing a safe, accessible venue for youth ski racers, a cause fully supported by the Kelly Brush Foundation!

More than 1,200 youth ski racers visit the trails of King Pine each season, many of whom have gone on to be elite racers.

***"We are grateful to the Kelly Brush Foundation. This grant helps us net a full trail and provide a safe race/training venue."***

This season and for seasons to come the thousands of racers that enjoy the slopes of King Pine will be skiing a safe venue!

# THE #KBFAMILY!

# PARTNERSHIPS

## ADAPTIVE SPORTS

We partner with some of the best adaptive sports programs and rehabilitation facilities in the country to develop an easier path for people to become independent in adaptive sports.

### SPAULDING ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTERS | BOSTON, MA



Our first adaptive sports program partners, Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers is based out of the famous Spaulding Rehabilitation Network in Boston, MA. We began our partnership with them in the winter of 2014/2015, helping their adaptive ski club provide access to alpine skiing across Northern New England.

### CRAIG HOSPITAL | DENVER, CO



As the place where Kelly herself did her rehabilitation, Craig Hospital holds a special place in the heart of everyone at the Kelly Brush Foundation. Modeled after our Adaptive Sports Equipment Grant Program, we have teamed up with them for the last 2 years on a joint grant program for their graduates, already helping more than 10 people purchase adaptive sports equipment.

### NATIONAL ABILITY CENTER | PARK CITY, UT (2017)



We are looking forward to partnering with the National Ability Center, a world-class adaptive sports program based in Park City, UT, as one of our first “Path 2 Active” partnerships. These partnerships with adaptive sports programs will create an effective path for people to learn, access, and become independent in adaptive sports.

### VERMONT ADAPTIVE SKI & SPORTS | VERMONT (2017)



One of our first “Path 2 Active” partners and Vermont neighbors, we have many opportunities to work with Vermont Adaptive. We partnered up for the “Ride with Kelly” each of the last 2 years and are scheduling a “Ski With Kelly” at Sugarbush Resort in 2017. The frequent interaction will make for the perfect trial grounds for our “Path 2 Active” program!



# ADVOCACY

## SKI RACING SAFETY

Each year we partner with USSA and industry leaders to produce and distribute the Kelly Brush Foundation “Ski Racing Safety Poster” to every USSA-member alpine ski club.



SKI RACING  
**SAFETY**  
IS NO ACCIDENT

INSPECT **PLAN** EXECUTE

 Kelly Brush  
FOUNDATION

USSA  HEAD   Barry  
 BLIZZARD 

kellybrushfoundation.org @kellybrushfdn #KBsafe

## INSPIRE!BOSTON

MARCH 31, 2016

Inspire!Boston in 2016 was by far our most successful “Inspire!” series event ever. Over 210 people came together to raise \$200,000.

Kelly joined us on the projector through FaceTime because she had been recently admitted to the hospital in her 8th month of pregnancy. She gave a great talk but we’ll have her in person in 2017.

We featured grant recipients, our partners at Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers, as well as Paralympian Dr. Cheri Blauwet. We also had silent auction item donations from Mikaela Shiffrin, Parlor Skis, and more!

The inaugural Inspire!Boston back in 2014 was what kickstarted our growth. What we originally envisioned would be a casual “thank you” event turned into one of our crucial fundraisers. With the fundraising from Inspire!Boston, we even opened up a second annual grant cycle!

## KELLY BRUSH RIDE

SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

Our 11th Annual Kelly Brush Ride was our best yet! 700 riders and over 100 volunteers raised over \$450,000!

We tweaked the route a bit to overcome some last-minute road construction, but it didn’t affect the beautiful scenery, roads, and comraiderie.

The Kelly Brush Ride was started by Kelly’s teammates on the Middlebury College Alpine Ski Team in the Fall of 2006 to support her in the months after her injury. The team raised over \$60,000 for her to purchase adaptive sports equipment.

Today, the Kelly Brush Ride is one of Vermont’s most respected and anticipated charity rides. While we always strive to improve the rider experience, the Kelly Brush Ride still retains its family-friendly and intimate feel.



Team “Midd ‘84”, Kelly Brush Ride



# EVENTS

## RIDE WITH KELLY

AUGUST 16, 2016

We hosted our 2nd “Ride With Kelly” on the Burlington Waterfront together with Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports and the Skirack, a casual meetup of cyclists and handcyclists alike as we prepare for the Kelly Brush Ride 3 weeks later.

There were more than 10 handcycles in a group of over 40 people that came together to celebrate cycling, adaptive and not, on the beautiful Island Line Trail starting from Burlington’s Waterfront Park.

The ride caught the attention of local media and passerbys alike who came out to learn about handcycling.

## ANNUAL CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 13, 2016

This was the first year we held an Annual Celebration, an gathering honoring the generous contributions of our best supporters.

The Annual Celebration immediately followed our Board Meeting approving the Fall 2016 grant cycle class, awarding over \$275,000 in adaptive sports and ski racing safety grants as well as adaptive sports partnerships!

This event is part of our continued effort to express our genuine appreciation for everyone that supports the Kelly Brush Foundation.





# 2016 SP

## KELLY BRUSH RIDE



SAATCHI & SAATCHI



Redstone



The Essex Agency, Inc.



2016 Kelly Brush Ride



# SPONSORS

## INSPIRE!BOSTON



**DAVID & ALEXIS SABOW**

**THE REYNOLDS-MCKEE FAMILY**

**GEORGE MACOMBER FAMILY FUND**

**IAN SANDERSON**

**GAY MACOMBER & JERRY BIRD**

**DEXTER & SUSAN PAINE**

**BRYAN & MELISSA JADOT**

**DAVID & MIA FITZGERALD**

**ANTHONY & SARA LIBERTI**



# 2017 EVENT

**INSPIRE!DENVER**

**JANUARY 26, 2017**

**INSPIRE!BOSTON**

**MARCH 30, 2017**

**INSPIRE!VERMONT**

**MAY 4, 2017**

**KELLY BRUSH RIDE**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**

POWERED BY VBT BICYCLING AND WALKING VACATIONS





# T CALENDAR

## **SKI WITH KELLY**

@ SUGARBUSH RESORT

**FEBRUARY 26, 2017**

## **KBF IN SAN FRANCISCO**

**JUNE 1, 2017**

## **RIDE WITH KELLY**

@ BURLINGTON WATERFRONT, VT

**AUGUST 2017**

## **ANNUAL CELEBRATION**

BY INVITATION ONLY

**OCTOBER 2017**



# A LETTER FROM RICK MAKIN

CHAIR, DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As you can see in the prior 19 pages, the KBF has come a long way in a relatively short period. Many of you remember the early Kelly Brush Rides - with such tremendous support, both spiritually and financially, coming primarily from the New England ski racing community. Amazingly, Kelly and the Brush family fueled those early KBF rides with unlimited energy and passion. It's given all of us that touch the KBF a sense of honor and privilege to keep pushing the mission.

Today we face a huge challenge keeping up with the national demand. You see the phenomenal growth in grants – what you don't see is the number of qualifying grant requests we turn down. They come from individuals in almost every state, each with an inspiring story to validate their need for financial assistance. KBF is only meeting 30% of grant dollars requests.

## ***OUR GOAL IS TO AWARD FUNDS TO EVERY SINGLE QUALIFYING GRANT APPLICANT!***

To match this demand, we are getting the word out in new places and exploring new partnerships. For those of you unable to join us in Vermont, we now have events in Boston, Denver, and have a huge following on the west coast anxious to put a San Francisco event on the calendar in 2018. We are overwhelmed with enthusiastic supporters willing to hold virtual rides from Park City to Houston.

We need your help. Grant requests for sports equipment and safety netting are up a staggering 300% over the past three years. We constantly seek new sponsors, both individual and corporate, that will embrace the spirit of the KBF. As an existing supporter, we need YOU to spread the word about your support and enthusiasm. Make the introduction – odds are Kelly and Zeke will close the deal!

One last thought - just think about the reaction of a grant applicant upon hearing they are receiving funds from KBF to purchase a mono-ski or handcycle they previously could not afford!

Yes, KBF is changing people's lives...

