



Kelly Brush  
Foundation



# 2023 KBF IMPACT REPORT

# Life is Better Active



## OUR MISSION

The Kelly Brush Foundation works to inspire and empower people with spinal cord injuries to lead active and engaged lives.



Kelly Brush  
Founder

## Letter from Kelly

Another year, another set of incredible milestones for the KBF! It has been 18 years since we founded the KBF and 10 years since we decided to strategically grow, and I couldn't be prouder of all we have accomplished. Every year, but particularly this year, we are reaching more and more people in different ways and bringing them into the KBF community. But I also know we have so much more to do. I want to reach everyone with a new spinal cord injury and help them on their journey to a fun and fulfilling life. After working for a decade as a pediatric nurse practitioner, I made the change this year to focus my time and energy on the KBF. I'm energized by the impact we are making and I'm excited to dedicate even more time to support our growth and our talented team.

One of the things that makes me most excited is how many people we are reaching with our mission. Not only have we been attending events and hosting camps and meetups around the country, but we've also been featured in SKI, GearJunkie, Bicycling Magazine, SELF, and more! On top of that, I've had the time to do more speaking engagements to companies, schools and organizations to further share the mission of the KBF all across the country.

Through all of this, I have loved being able to spend more time engaging with our fantastic community. It was a special year for so many reasons, but it was extra special thanks to all the time I was able to spend engaging with all of you. And it makes me so excited to dedicate my time to those opportunities, both for myself and the whole KBF team.

Thank you for being what makes us so special.

*Kelly*

## INJURY TO INDEPENDENCE

A spinal cord injury can be life-altering, restricting, and isolating. For people adjusting to a new life post-injury, the journey to a new normal can be exhausting and confusing. The KBF uses sports and recreation as a catalyst to build confidence, connect with peers, and discover new passions that bring joy and fulfillment to life.

Each of the KBF's signature programs seeks to offer assistance at one of the critical junctions in that journey from injury to independence.

From the instant engagement through connections with peers and access to resources through the KBF's digital platform, the **Active Project**, to the in-depth opportunities provided by **Scholarships**, **Camps**, and clinics, the KBF is shortening the time from injury to first opportunities in adaptive recreation. And once someone has found the sport they love, and the equipment necessary, the **Active Fund** provides life-changing equipment grants to help them find independence in recreation.

INJURY

**Scholarships**

Empowering Sports Experiences

**Camps**

Building Community

INDEPENDENCE

**ACTIVE PROJECT**

Discover • Learn • Connect

**The Active Fund**

Grants for Adaptive Sports Equipment



**Edie Perkins**  
Executive Director

## Letter from Edie

I could not be more proud of what our team accomplished in 2023. We broke records on every front -- we raised over \$4 million, we grew our Endowment by over \$1 million, and we raised \$1.2 million at the Kelly Brush Ride. All of these accomplishments enable us to reach more people, and to reach them sooner after their injuries. We are well on our way to making every journey from injury to independence easier than the last.

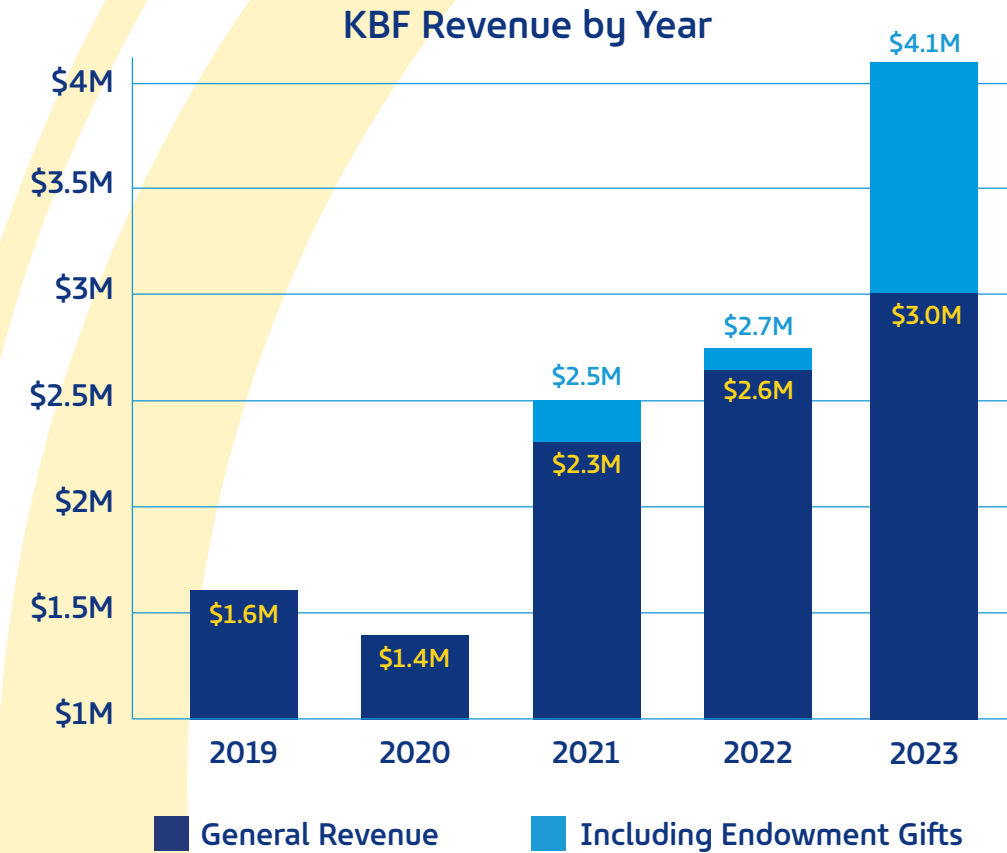
With those funds, we made significant strides in bringing the Active Project to a national audience, through increased conference attendance, community events, and partnerships with world-class organizations. Furthermore, we reached two major milestones: granting over \$5 million all-time through the Active Fund and providing over \$1 million all-time in ski racing safety support. And most importantly, we have worked as a team through all these endeavors, prioritizing efficiency, scalability, and impact.

Our progress would not have been possible without the efforts of our donors and supporters. Your contributions enable us to expand our reach and impact every day. And due to the incredible generosity of a small group of donors, we have also grown our nascent endowment to over \$1.4 million. With this base, we aim to grow our endowment to \$5 million over the next five years, ensuring the sustainability of our mission and our ability to support the SCI community, even in challenging economic times. The future is bright for the KBF, and I cannot wait to work with all of you to make it happen.

Thank you, from all of us at the KBF, for supporting our work and empowering active lives for all.

## DOUBLING DOWN ON OUR GROWTH

Total Revenue: \$4.1 million in 2023



## THE KBF ENDOWMENT: SECURING A LEGACY

In 2021, the KBF began to consider the prospect of an endowment to empower our work for generations to come. Thanks to several landmark gifts, including a phenomenal gift at the end of 2023, we are proud to share that the KBF endowment has over \$1.4 million in dedicated assets.

**We are embarking** on a legacy & endowment campaign over the next five years to reach \$5 million in endowment funds before we begin using those funds towards our programming. This will ensure hundreds of thousands of dollars per year added to our mission, in perpetuity.

**Please consider the KBF in your legacy planning** to help us meet this goal. Your contribution could help support an additional 100 equipment grants per year through this fund.

**Contact Todd Munn**, our Chief Development Officer, to learn more about how you can support our endowment through monetary gifts, estate planning, appreciated stocks, donor-advised funds, and other forms of support.

## 2023 Highlights

**265 people with SCI** received a total of **\$939,890** in equipment grants in 2023

**1,900 registered users** of the Active Project

**Over 10,000 individuals with disabilities** engaged through events, outreach, and programming in 2023

**54 individuals** awarded equipment scholarships

**41 participants** empowered at **4 incredible camps**

**\$100,000** granted to help **26 ski racing clubs** keep over **10,000 racers safer** on course through the purchase of critical safety equipment.

# FREEDOM, CONFIDENCE & COMMUNITY



**"This equipment will allow me freedom.** Freedom from my chair, freedom to explore new areas, freedom to get exercise and endorphins, freedom to hang with my friends and keep up with them on cycling adventures."

**Danielle Watson**  
Active Fund



"Turns & Berms was [...] one of the most significant experiences I have had in the last year [...] I felt so supported by everyone there, and I was able to ask any and all questions to my SCI peers. **As soon as I got home, I signed up for as many adaptive mountain biking sessions as I could find.** I can't wait to make sports the main focus of my life again!"

**Ryan Barbee**  
Turns & Berms

"I have done many sports, however **nothing beats being able to go out on hikes and interact with nature.** Having a chair that can take the terrain will be an absolute joy."

**Garrison Redd**  
Active Fund



"Coming to this **allowed me to do things that probably would have taken me years to get** [...] Now I can go out in the woods, and there's more confidence [...] It's brought me leaps and bounds ahead of where I could have been."

**Caroline Adams**  
Vermont aMTB Camp



"I am grateful for the grant as it will help me purchase a sports chair that is tailored to my stature and level of injury. **I will most certainly be a more competitive athlete as I grow in the sport of wheelchair basketball.**"

**Daronte Rollins**  
Active Fund



"Sometimes in the disabled community it is easy to focus on the bad in your life, and focus on all that you can't do – well **this is a great way to focus on the future and all that is possible.**"

**Scott Eidsvoog**  
Active Fund

"**I'm so excited to finally get my own rugby chair that actually fits me!** Not only that but also excited to be able to pass on my loaner chair to another new player to keep growing our team!"

**Leduar Rivera**  
Active Fund



# THE ACTIVE PROJECT: STARTING JOURNEYS

# ACTIVE PROJECT

Discover • Learn • Connect

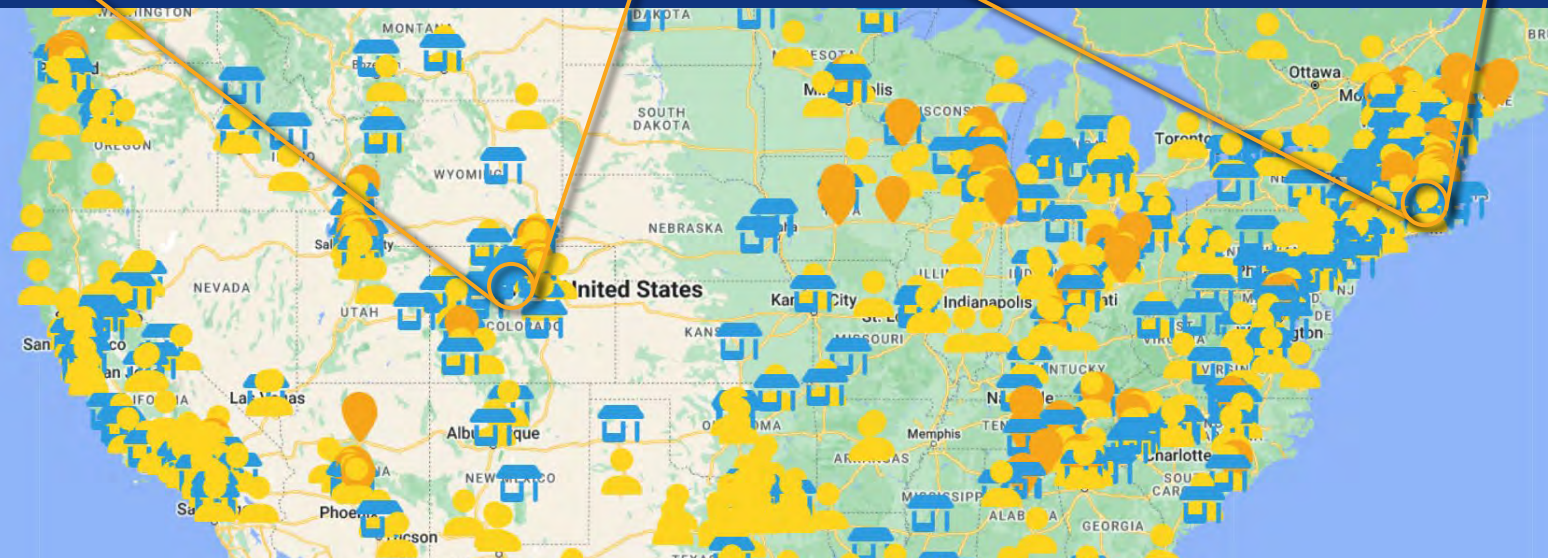
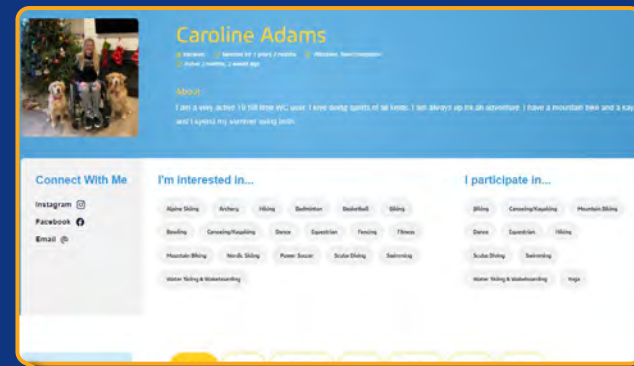
Most people who suffer spinal cord injuries leave rehab without any introduction to adaptive sports or what's life can look like after an injury. The KBF aims to change that with a digital platform called the Active Project. Launched in December 2022, the Active Project is the "digital home of adaptive recreation," offering a comprehensive toolkit for leading an active life with a disability.

In 2023, we registered almost 2,000 users, added new features and resources, and shared the platform across the country through support groups, expos, and other initiatives. These efforts were recognized and bolstered by a grant awarded from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation to develop a landmark program implementing the Active Project in hospitals and other early engagement opportunities.

One of the only places to find in-depth information about equipment options.



User profiles offer athletes a way to learn and network with peers in recreation.



The Active Project hosts the largest database of adaptive sports organizations and adaptive athletes.

# SCHOLARSHIPS & EVENTS: EMPOWERING EXPERIENCES

Total Scholarships: 68

Active Fund: 54

Ski Spectacular: 5

Other: 9

## SKI SPECTACULAR

The KBF provided scholarships for 5 athletes to attend the Hartford Ski Spectacular in Breckenridge, CO for a week of snowsport instruction and apres community activities to build ski skills and confidence with athletes and snowsport organizations from around the world.



## COMMUNITY SPORTS EVENTS

### TRIUMPH WHEELCHAIR SPORTS FEST

The KBF sponsored the Triumph Foundation's largest annual event, which orients over 200 Southern Californians with disabilities into the world of adaptive sports.

### STOWE MONOSKI DAY

22 skiers gathered at Stowe Mountain Resort in Vermont for an annual ski day hosted by Green Mountain Adaptive and sponsored by the KBF for the past several years.

### UTAH MONOSKI DAY

21 athletes gathered at Park City Mountain in Utah for a ski day organized by the Kelly Brush Foundation and the National Abilities Center.

### SHEPHERD ADAPTIVE SPORT DAYS

20 participants gathered in Tennessee and North Carolina for all-day orientations on rock climbing and mountain biking in partnership with Shepherd Hospital.

### ABILITIES EXPOS

The KBF exhibited at five Abilities Expos in 2023. These traveling expos provided the opportunity to have direct conversations with over 5,000 individuals in the disability community, sharing information about KBF resources, sports opportunities, and more.



### AOEC WHEEL TOGETHER RETREAT

The KBF sponsored a retreat at the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center in Carrabassett Valley, ME. This retreat supported 15 people with SCI to focus on recreation, empowerment, community, and fun in the beautiful nature of Maine.

## CAMPS: FOSTERING GROWTH



### KBF/VERMONT ADAPTIVE SKI CAMP

The KBF's first-ever ski camp offered fantastic energy, lots of laughs, and a world-class group of participants and instructors. Through a partnership with Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports, ten lucky participants left tracks all over Sugarbush's Mt. Ellen, meet new friends and reconnect with old ones, and even test out their ski racing skills.

### KBF/OAS TURNS & BERMS

Through a partnership between Oregon Adaptive Sports (OAS) and the Kelly Brush Foundation, participants got to lay down fresh turns all over Mt Bachelor in the morning and then schralp some berms in the afternoon on Bend's mountain bike trails.



### KBF/CRAIG/TAS TRAC CAMP

The KBF teamed up with Craig Hospital and Teton Adaptive Sports for the 3rd annual TRAC (Teen Rehabilitation At Craig) Camp. The event offered a week of adaptive sports and community building to seven teens learning to live with spinal cord injuries. By encouraging each camper to bring a friend or a sibling, the program helps build friendships, foster independence, and provide mentorship at a pivotal point in each kid's life.

### KBF MTB Camp

10 participants joined the KBF in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom for three days of mountain bike skill development and camaraderie. The first two days took place at Kingdom Trails, where riders learned the basics of mountain biking and worked on skill progression. On day three, everyone headed to Burke Mountain's Bike Park for a private downhill aMTB session as culmination of the amazing progression by all participants.



## ACTIVE FUND: GRANTING INDEPENDENCE

In 2023, the KBF provided more equipment grants and scholarships than ever before, with over 300 awards. We also worked to diversify the sources of our applications and the sports we empowered through grants. This work resulted in new partnerships with vendors to support grantees through the application process, more resources available to hospitals and rehabs, and the most basketball chairs we have ever awarded (48).

### REACHING NEW COMMUNITIES

As part of our ongoing efforts to reach people underrepresented in our previous grant classes, we ran a targeted social media advertising campaign in Texas, a state receiving fewer grants per capita than expected. As a result, grants awarded in Texas grew 106% in 2023. These insights will help us reach more communities with all KBF programs.

### AWARDS STATS

Equipment grants:  
264 grants | \$912,790  
Equipment scholarships:  
54 scholarships | \$27,100

### EQUIPMENT GRANTS BY CYCLE

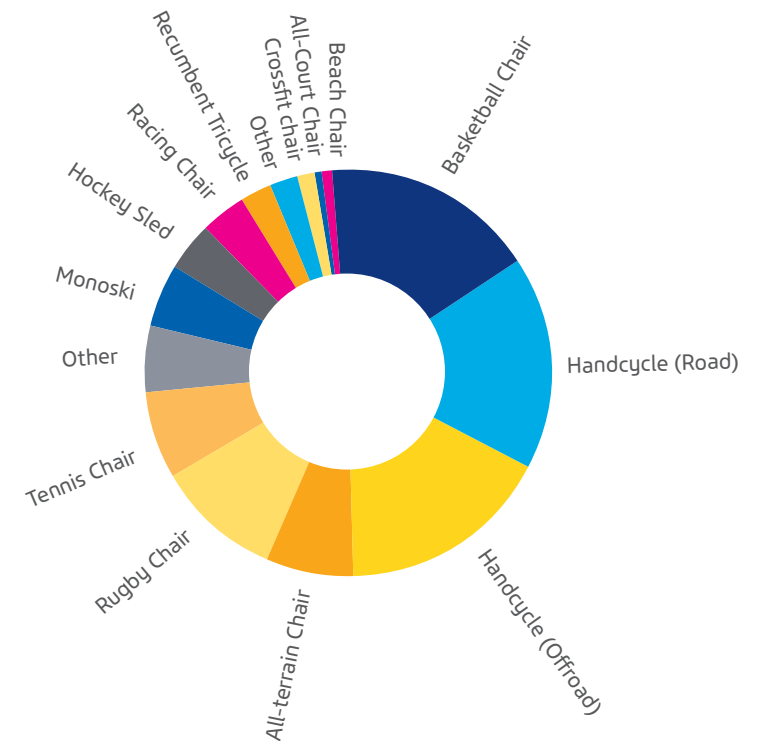
Spring - \$488,935.83  
Fall - \$428,854.98

### GRANTS IN 47 STATES



## BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS

Road handcycles remain extremely popular (47 granted this year, a new record), but lost their place as most requested for the first time ever. Basketball chairs took the 1st place crown with 49 awards, and offroad handcycles tied for 2nd at 47. Grants also went to support unique equipment like adaptive surfboards and a fishing rod designed for anglers with limited hand function.



# MEETING THE GROWING NEED IN SKI RACING SAFETY

In 2023, the KBF provided \$100,000 to help 26 ski racing clubs keep over 10,000 racers safer on course through the purchase of safety equipment.

- A big congratulations to the 26 clubs that were selected to receive funding for safety equipment as part of the 2023 KBF Ski Racing Safety Equipment Grant program. This year we had requests to help support over \$800,000 in safety initiatives from b-net to trail widening.
- Thanks to our volunteer Grant Review Committee for the hours of time they each spent reviewing every application and their careful and caring discussion. Their commitment to keeping ski racers safe makes it possible (and fun!!).



Come say hello to our team every year at World Cup weekend in Killington.

# KBF OUT IN THE WORLD

## GEARJUNKIE

Build It and They Will Ride: New Adaptive MTB Trails Open Up the Sport



## SKI

Are You a Skier with a Spinal Cord Injury? There's A New Online Community For You.



## SELF

I Was Hit by a Car and Paralyzed —But Now I'm Ready to Take On the NYC Marathon



## SOUTH FLORIDA SunSentinel

Delray woman gets adaptive sports equipment grant for tennis chair



# SEE THESE ARTICLES & VIDEOS AT [IMPACT.KBF.ORG](https://www.impact.kbf.org)

## Anna Heliskis Alaska



## Turns & Berms Recap



# 18TH ANNUAL KELLY BRUSH RIDE

Another incredible ride in the books, and an incredible \$1,201,255 raised from our 920 riders and 5,300+ supporters. Thanks to every rider, donor, volunteer, and sponsor for helping us reach a new fundraising record at the Kelly Brush Ride!

**Team Allie B & Ryan's Team of Stand Up Individuals** both returned again this year as two of the fastest-growing teams at the Kelly Brush Ride. Allie & Ryan each sustained injuries in 2022, and have rallied their friends and family around the KBF mission. Allie & Ryan were both able to ride with their teams for the first time, and their teams raised \$50,502 and \$34,776 respectively!



**STATS**  
 74 teams  
 920 participants  
 219 remote riders  
 5,394 donations  
 51 handcyclists

# NIGHT TO INSPIRE EVENTS

This year's **Night to Inspire** events were fabulous evenings filled with supporters, grant recipients, speakers, live music, cocktails, and more! Thank you to all attendees, sponsors, and donors for making these nights so incredible.

**Boston: March | Artists for Humanity**  
 \$300,000 raised

**Bay Area: October | Olympic Club**  
 \$148,000 raised

# LOCAL ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

**Park City**  
 74 supporters gathered at the home of Aaron Gershenberg to learn about the KBF and meet our team.

**Vail**  
 Thanks to Ann and Tom McGonagle for hosting the KBF at their home in Colorado. It was fantastic to see so many new faces and old friends.



### Top Teams:

Team Midd '80s	\$116,671
Team KBF	\$115,090
Green Mountain Valley School	\$56,707
Team Allie B	\$50,587
Team Brush	\$46,128
Ryan's Team of Stand Up Individuals	\$34,802
Craig Hospital Northeast	\$25,374
Ride For Mo	\$18,613
Power Cycling Ann Arbor	\$17,865
Rolling Pants	\$17,199

### Top Individuals:

Edie Perkins	\$78,395
Charlie Brush	\$31,581
Kelly Brush	\$22,242
Allie Bianchi	\$16,002
Ryan Manning	\$14,204
Mason Wells	\$13,276
Jim Speltz	\$12,502
Mary Brush	\$11,866
Ham Hackney	\$10,806
Zeke Davisson	\$9,997

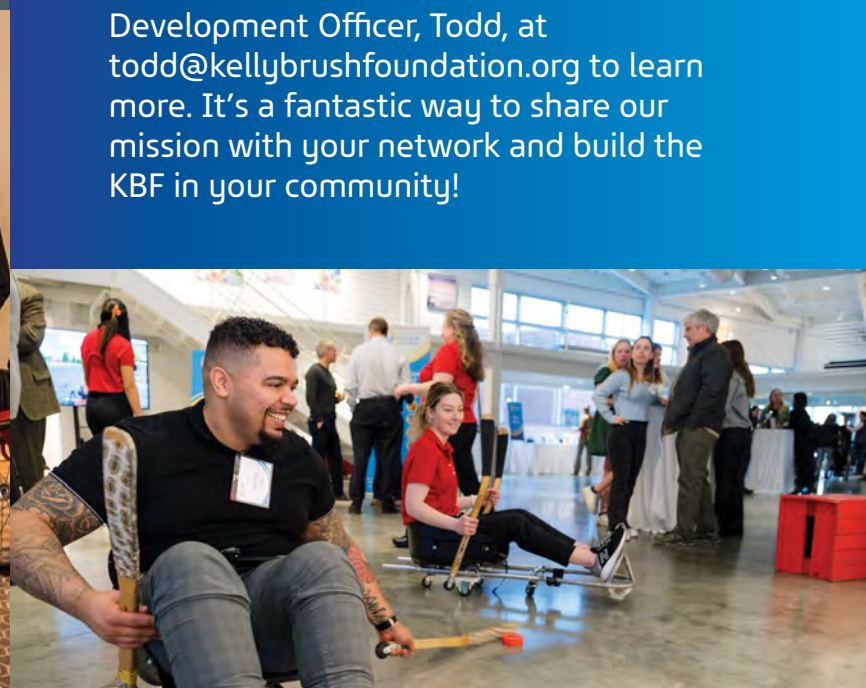
**kbf** Kelly Brush Foundation  
 A Night to Inspire

**Interested in hosting an engagement event at your home, social club, or other venue?** Reach out to our Chief Development Officer, Todd, at [todd@kellybrushfoundation.org](mailto:todd@kellybrushfoundation.org) to learn more. It's a fantastic way to share our mission with your network and build the KBF in your community!

# 2ND ANNUAL BAY AREA RIDE

**Our newest event**, the Kelly Brush Ride: Bay Area had 74 riders in its second year and continues to rapidly grow! We will be working to expand this Ride in the coming years and look forward to what the future holds.

**STATS**  
 8 Teams | 74 Cyclists | 12 Handcyclists  
 Total Raised \$27,879  
 Top Team: Creemees for Mo - \$5,700





# KBF DONOR HONOR ROLL

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

## \$100,000+

Mary & Charlie Brush  
Phill & Liz Gross  
Anne C. Kubik Charitable Gift Fund  
Margaret Reynolds & Skip McKee

## \$50,000-\$99,999

L'Hommedieu-Sanderson Family Trust  
Montgomery & Kristy Kersten  
Michael A. Krupka Charitable Gift Fund

## \$25,000-\$49,999

Eileen & Jack Connors  
Kelson Foundation  
New Balance Foundation  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

## \$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous  
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund  
Biria & Elaina St. John Charitable Fund  
Kelly Brush & Zeke Davisson  
Burton  
David & Moni Butze  
Richard Davisson & Mary Gale  
Anonymous  
The Glavin Family Charitable Fund  
Gleason Family Foundation Fund  
Jerry & Grace Bird  
Ron Kermisch  
Killington World Cup Foundation  
M&T Bank  
MassMutual Life Insurance Company  
Lauren & Brendan O'Brien  
Nan & Chuck Procknow  
Alexis & David Sabow  
Heather Summers  
Union Mutual Fire Insurance Company  
Beth Anne Willett

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Antonio & Rita Pomerleau Foundation  
Boyle Family Giving Fund  
Buchanan Family Foundation  
Capretta Family Foundation  
Boyd Charitable Fund  
Charles Foundation, Inc.  
Dani & Ted Virtue Family Charitable Trust  
Tony DeChellis  
Ernst & Elfriede Frank Foundation, Inc.  
Fairfield County's Community Foundation  
Speltz Family  
Foundation Source, Administrator  
Graham Goldsmith  
Hamilton & Eden Hart Hackney  
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Heron Family Foundation  
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National Life Group Charitable Foundation Inc.  
National Philanthropic Trust  
PHGB Charitable Fund  
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The Burns Family Fund  
The Ebbott Gift Fund  
The Franklin Family Fund  
The Keith & Nancy Johnson Family Foundation  
Steve Van der Zwan  
Ryan Williams  
The Winthrop H Smith, Jr Charitable Foundation, Inc.

## \$2,500-\$4,999

1830 Family Foundation  
Juliette & Aaron Adams  
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The Bindon Foundation  
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Pamela Clayson  
Crestwood Advisors  
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Four Seasons International Realty  
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Scott Willard & Marilyn Reap  
Margery & Ted Mayer  
Pamela Michaelcheck  
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation  
National Bank of Middlebury  
NBT Bank  
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Edie Perkins  
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Louisa Porter  
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Rowe Family Charitable Trust  
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Edward Stikeleather  
Summit Properties  
Courtney Swann  
Polly & John Timken  
Tom & Patty Doar Foundation, Inc  
Tom Wilson Foundation  
Steve Tomlinson  
Ursa Major Natural Care LLC  
Vincent Family Charitable Foundation  
David & Ashley Wagstaff  
Elizabeth Ward

## \$1,000-\$2,499

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Alcyon Foundation  
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The Andersons, Inc.  
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Jon Biotti  
Barry Blakely  
Daniel Boardman  
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Anne Boylan  
Molly & Ernest Braxton

Tony Briney  
Marcia Bristow  
Debbie Brown  
Stuart Brown  
Mike & Betsy Brown  
David & Candida Brush  
Cabot Hosiery Mills, Inc. Darn Tough Vermont  
Kevin Callaghan  
Cheri Campbell  
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Craig Crowe  
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Robert & Leslie Dahl  
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John Dannies  
Donald Darby  
John De Csepel  
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Fritz & Susan Zimmer  
George Zimmer  
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## \$500-\$999

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Sam Ayling  
Rob Baber  
Rachael Bachleda  
John Ballard  
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Selena & Scott Berman  
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 Nate Chang  
 Chatam Bars Inn  
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 Meg Cullings  
 Michael Curran  
 Keith Cyzen  
 Kimmie D`Acquisto  
 Nathan Dagesse  
 Holly Darov  
 Maryellen Darretta  
 Heather Daves  
 Alwyn Dawkins  
 Christopher Dayton  
 Hendy Dayton  
 Mark & Denise Dean  
 Neil DeFeo  
 Karina Dehayes  
 Cliff Demmer  
 Liz Deslauriers  
 Deb deVries  
 Christy Dipietro  
 James Dixon  
 Tracy Do  
 Magna & David Dodge  
 Marie Dolan  
 Katie Dolbec  
 Maggie Downes-Angus  
 Christopher Doyle  
 Joseph Durso  
 David Dzenutis  
 Kelli Eckroth  
 Tom Eddy  
 Mark Eisen  
 Jay Eisenstadt  
 Elizabeth Endicott  
 Sarah Evans  
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 Truex Family  
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**Thank you for empowering our work.**

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