Region 1 Collaboration Grant
2016 Final Report

2016-2017 Snow Sports Scholarship Award Recipients The Nichols Family

2/28/2017

Yellowstone Recreations Foundation
Because of the generosity and graciousness of the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, and our local area Episcopal churches the Sleeping Giant 2016-2017 Snow Sports Scholarship Program was wildly successful. We were fortunate enough to be able to award a total of 208 individual scholarships to local citizens experiencing economic barriers to winter family athletics. Of the 208 scholarships, 151 awards were given to children under the age of 18. The rest of the 57 awards were given to adults within the family and guardian roles. The 208 awards were distributed between the towns of Cody, Powell, Lovell, Meeteetse, Greybull, Emblem, Worland, and one deserving family splitting their time between Cody and Bridger, Montana.

We have been very cognizant to follow the guidelines set forth by the grant by including the name of The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, as well as each contributing local Episcopal Church in all our communications with applicants, award recipients, and the media including our website with links back to each church website. As with last year, we make an effort to respect the environment and have continued to utilize electronic communication wherever possible.

We would like to share with you a few grant applications essay’s as well as some of the feedback we have received. The entire grant and scholarship process has been such a blessing to be a part of and witness the impact in our community!

Attachments:

Statement of Grant Accounting

Grant Application Examples

Thank You Letters
Dear Sleeping Giant Board,

My name is Cheri Kreitzmann and I have been working with Kiya for several years as her mental health therapist and case-manager. I am in private practice at Soar Counseling Services. I have a practice where I specialize in providing community based counseling services for individuals with severe emotional inbalances otherwise known as mental illness.

Kiya's parents abandoned her after severe child abuse at age two. She was hospitalized for several months at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital for severe emotional instability. Kiya's grandmother known as Nana has cared for her since age two. Nana was working full time in the ER despite struggling with bi-polar disorder, heart disease and COPD up to 2 years ago when she was accepted for disability along with kiya.

Kiya is an amazing artist. She wants to be a fashion designer when she grows up. She is very creative, intelligent, and loving. She has an incredible voice and loves to sing and listen to music. She loves to read and has the most RA points in her class this year so far.

Nana and Kiya live on a limited income. Nana is a great financial budgeter. She makes good choices, saves money and always puts Kiya first. Nana owns her own home and does the best she can to maintain this home.

Nana is limited in her physical activity but does amazing creative activities at home. Last year I took Kiya skating at the Riley Arena and she had a great time. She also went snow shoeing with her class last year and loved it. Clearly showing an interest in the outdoors despite a severe phobia of bugs.

Being a skier myself I would love to introduce Kiya to the sport of down hill skiing. I believe this outdoor activity would bring great balance to Kiya's life. Do to medications Kiya had put on weight for the past several years. However, this year we were able to go down on medications and she has lost weight and grown like a bean. She is able to be much more active. Skiing would be a great opportunity to use the abundance of energy. Without this scholarship she could never afford skiing.

I am humbly requesting consideration for a season pass with rentals for Kiya. I will assist her in skiing and socially due to difficulty with friendships. We will have quality time driving up and back along with the amazing experience of skiing. I believe the greatest counseling happens in motion with children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cheri Kreitzmann, MS, LPC
11/28/2016

Nana would like to share the following.
Cheri Kreitzmann is an incredible therapist and has done an awesome job helping Ki. I'm on a fixed income with a disability and don't have a lot for recreational activities. In addition due my health I'm unable to do outside activities with her. She needs a lot of physical activity and not only would that be good for her physically but it would also help her fragile self-esteem.

Chel Bleckler (Nana)
11/28/2016
Please tell us why you should be considered for the 2016-2017 Sleeping Giant Snow Sports Scholarship Program based on financial need and economic barriers to winter sports.

(Feel free to attach photos, extra pages, and other supporting documents)

I am a single mom to two kids. We live at the low-income apartments in Newland and I receive disability in the amount of $733.80 a month.

We cannot afford to go skiing but we would really love to go. My son is really interested in learning to snowboard. We would spend a lot of days going skiing if we get a scholarship. It would be so much fun for my family.

We have been through a lot in the last 3 years. My husband (soon to be ex-husband) is in prison which has been really hard on my children. And my health issues has made life very tough for awhile. I am doing better and would like to spend time as a family doing fun activities, such as skiing.

Thanks for considering us for a scholarship!

The Laster family

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Thank you! We look forward to another great season at Sleeping Giant!
Please tell us why you should be considered for the 2016-2017 Sleeping Giant Snow Sports Scholarship Program based on financial need and economic barriers to winter sports.

(Feel free to attach photos, extra pages, and other supporting documents)

I am her grandfather and on social security with funds being very tight. She needs sleeping giant to further her education with physical activities and most importantly interaction with peers. We are willing to help on the mountain and or lodge as we are there watching her anyway. I got on skis for the first time in 40 years last season and it was not as easy as I remember, skis and snow conditions have changed a lot, but it was a lot of fun.

With the scholarship, it would allow me to ski with my granddaughter as we cannot afford for us both to ski.

Thank you, Tim Dawe

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Thank You! We look forward to another great season at Sleeping Giant!
February 23, 2017

To: Yellowstone Recreations Foundation,

To the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming,

Christ's Episcopal Church of Cody,

St. John's Episcopal Church of Powell, (we are part of this church too)

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Meeteetse,

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Basin,

We would like to send a huge THANK YOU for your generosity in supporting the Sleeping Giant Snow Sports Scholarship! We have enjoyed the beauty of God's creation surrounding Sleeping Giant often this winter because of your scholarship gift, have enjoyed the sheer fun of skiing, and quality time together. We would not have been able to afford season passes this year. Even paying for lift tickets and rentals for our family to go once would have been a stretch for us. Thank you for giving us the ski scholarship opportunity this season as well as last year. My kids love to ski and are getting much better than I! They love to ski. It is one of the things they enjoy most about winter in Wyoming! Thank you also for providing ski scholarships for our friends Kami, Logan, and Hayden who loved skiing this season with us. This provided them great enjoyment, exercise, and a safe fun place to be with friends while their single mom worked. Hayden learned to ski for the 1st time! Your generosity has been amazing!

Kami-Thank you!

Logan-Thank you!

From the Tillotsons

Sadies-Thank you!

Jensens

Henry

Jill

Angela

Dan Tillotson
Once you
Dear Friends at Sleeping Giant,

Thanks so much for the lift tickets this year. Every Monday evening we try to have what we call Family Home Evening where we sing a little song, say a little prayer, have a little lesson and hopefully a little dessert. Well, tonight’s lesson was on gratitude, so we thought we’d write our Thank You letters for our special gifts from you.

Isn’t it wonderful to be able to live where we do? Especially when raising a family with 6 children. There’s so much to enjoy in this wonderful part of the world. Getting to go skiing is just one more special way to experience what Cody Wyo has to offer.

I wonder how many of my children will end up living around here when they grow up. But, if they do have to move far away, I hope that they’ll be able to take with them many precious memories of being raised in Cody and I’m thankful for Sleeping Giant being one of them.

God Bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
To my friends at Sleeping Giant,

Thank you so much for all you've given us. It was an awesome experience to be able to come on the trip and see slopes.

I wish I could go up more often and slow my legs down. I'd do it again. Always look forward to me for seeing you. Just keep on of course. I like going up and looking for done and having fun with my family. Thank you so much. Have a great summer! Hope to see you on the zip line.

Yours Friend,

Joe Middleton
Dear Sleeping Giant,

I'm very thankful that you were so gracious to give our entire family a season pass. Now I can learn to ski when snowboarding just like my dad and brothers.

From,
Katie McKelton
Feb. 20th 2017

Dear Sleeping Giant,

Thank you so much for the season passes we received. It has brought so much love and bonding to our family. This has been such a great learning experience. My younger brother is getting better at snowboarding and I learned how to carve for the very first time. I wish I can come every day but they make me come to school.

I hope you will all have fun as much as we did with these season passes. Thank you for this very generous offer.

Love,
Jones Mickelson
Sleeping Giant,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to enjoy time with my precious daughter, making memories and getting physically fit.

We love the closeness you feel there and getting to take pictures of all the amazing wildlife we see on the way.

Thanks

James

Thank you, I appreciate it much

Tessa
February 16, 2017

Dear St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church-Basis, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church-Meeteetse, St. John’s Episcopal Church-Powell, Christ’s Episcopal Church-Cody, The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming:

It is with sincere gratitude that I write to you to thank you for the opportunity that you provided my family this year as a recipient of the 2017 Sleeping Giant Snow Sports Scholarship. As a 5th grader, my son was given a free ski pass this year through a school program. However, I did not think he would be able to use this pass except during his class field trip. Being awarded this scholarship allowed my daughter and I to both go skiing with my son. I was taught to ski by my aunt growing up in New York. I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to continue this tradition in my family by being the one to teach my own children how to ski. We had so much fun being together in nature and spending time together.

Your scholarship afforded my family an opportunity that would not have otherwise been possible due to financial constraints. We are grateful to have been a recipient of your scholarship and cherish the memories made this year as a family.

Sincerely,

Kurt Reitz
The Foundation for the Episcopal Dio
Christ’s Episcopal Church - Cody
St John’s Episcopal Church - Powell
St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church - W
St Andrew’s Episcopal Church - H

Thank you so much for the ski scholarship. I love skiing and
I wouldn’t be able to go if I didn’t
have this scholarship.

Thank you,

Delaney
Farmer

Thank you so much for the ski scholarship for sleeping Giant. I really
enjoy it. I love skiing. !!

Cheyanne
Farmer
Dear,
The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming
Christ's Episcopal Church- Cody
St. John's Episcopal Church- Fowell
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church-Meeteetse
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church-Basin
Amy, Yellowstone Recreations Foundation,

On behalf of our son Oscar, we would like to thank you for kindly sponsoring him to ski at Sleeping Giant this winter with a full season pass. We truly appreciate your support and generosity. Your sponsorship has dramatically helped us to continue to give Oscar an experience that helps him grow physically and socially. Oscar has been able to overcome some of the obstacles generated by autism through skiing. Every year, he comes out stronger and more confident in himself.
Without your involvement and generosity, we would be restricted in our involvement to assist him. Thank you again for your generous and continuous support.

Respectfully,

The Henrys
Tyler, Bobbie, Oscar and Everleigh
The Nichols family was a recipients of the 2017 Sleeping Giant Snow Sports Scholarship, we want to say thank you to The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, Christ’s Episcopal Church, St. John’s Episcopal Church, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, and St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church. Because of your generosity our family has had an inscrutable winter full of skiing memories at Sleeping Giant. Without the Scholarship, our family would have only been able to ski once this year. With the Scholarship, we were able to ski almost every weekend of the season so far! We come so often were able to bring some friends of the kids along with us and now they love Sleeping Giant too! Our children love skiing and snowboarding! Our four-year-old is doing so well it is hard for all of us to keep up with him! The snow was great this year too! We love the family friendly atmosphere of Sleeping Giant. Skiing is a forever sport that our family will enjoy the rest of our lives. Thank you again for this amazing experience! Here are some photo from this season!

Thanks,

Travis and CaMee Nichols

The Twins Benjamin and Preston

Our four year old Thomas
Porter loving the views! It's beautiful there

CaMee and Becca Lynn riding the chair lift

The Whole Family together.
(We’re missing our oldest who is away at college!)

Benjamin (12), CaMee, Becca (9), Preston (12), Porter (17), Travis,
Thomas (4) and Tyler (14)!
Dear all the Churches that Donate to the Sleeping Giant Snow Sports Scholarship,

Thank you for giving us the scholarship this year so we could learn how to ski. The scholarship also let our dad be able to ski alongside us, and be our teacher and show us how to ski. We moved here from Colorado two years ago. In Colorado we didn’t have the opportunity to ever ski because it was so expensive. So this is truly an awesome chance to have. We love skiing so much now. And it is all thanks to you!

Thank you so very much,

Nolan and Katarina Reitz
Lee Thurmond  
1120 19th St.  
Cody, WY. 82414

- The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming,  
- Christ's Episcopal Church-Cody  
- St. John's Episcopal Church-Powell  
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church-Meeteetse  
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church-Basin

Dear Scholarship Donors,

We are honored to be one of the recipients of the Sleeping Giant Snow Sports Scholarship, thanks to your generous support to our nine year old son, Roan Thurmond by providing a season pass and rentals.

This past year our family as many families, had it’s struggles, unemployment, surgeries and other life ups and downs that would have prevent us from providing our son the opportunity to ski at Sleeping Giant. Your big-hearted support made for one joyous nine year old on the slopes.

Thank you for enabling this opportunity!

Sincerely,

Lee Thurmond
Amy Woods

From: William Vallecio [williamvallecio@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 2:49 AM
To: Amy Woods
Subject: Re: Sleeping Giant Scholarship Program

I just want to say thank you for offering such an awesome program I wouldn't have been able to make it up there without the help of all you guys. Thanks for such a great season, I hope to be able to make it back up next year! Thanks for making it possible for me to try out a new sport for the first time! I honestly loved it and I believe snowboarding is now my new favorite sport! Thanks to The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, Christ's Episcopal Church-Cody, St. John's Episcopal Church-Powell, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church-Meeteetse, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church-Basin.

Sincerely
William Vallecio

On Feb 13, 2017, at 1:38 PM, Amy Woods <amy@skisp.com> wrote:

     letter):

   - The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming,
   - Christ's Episcopal Church-Cody
   - St. John's Episcopal Church-Powell
   - St. Andrew's Episcopal Church-Meeteetse
   - St. Andrew's Episcopal Church-Basin

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2016.0.7998 / Virus Database: 4756/13957 - Release Date: 02/15/17
To the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, church members, and the volunteers at St John’s Thrift shop,

Our family thanks you for the adventures and lasting happy memories you have provided by offering our children scholarships both to summer camp and skiing this winter at Sleeping Giant! They were so happy to hear the good news of being granted the ski scholarship this winter. We went skiing for the first time this season last weekend and they were delighted! We have already started to purchase used equipment to allow them to continue skiing next winter. We appreciate the generosity of the Episcopal Diocese in providing grants to Sleeping Giant which help provide ski scholarships to families like us. Skiing has become one of their favorite things to do in Wyoming. They enjoy this special time with family and friends and enjoy the surrounding beauty of God’s creation while at Sleeping Giant.

During summer camp, they enjoyed being with each other, friends from church, and with their cousins from Colorado who were also very thankful to receive a scholarship to camp. They went rock climbing, swimming, horseback riding, hiking, camping, enjoyed campfires, rafting, and devotional time to sing, hear God’s Word, and pray. For many of the kids, this was their first time doing some of these activities. This was also the first time for my kids and their cousins to go to a camp. These activities provided great memories, fun, new experiences, and opportunities for growth.

We appreciate your generosity and kindness!

Sincerely,