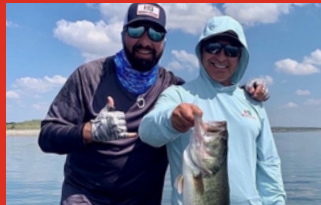




# Annual Report FY 2021-2022



# HIGHER GROUND

ADVENTURE. SUPPORT. BELONGING.

# Table of Contents

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- 4 Values & Mission**
- 5 HG Veteran & First Responder Programs**
- 7 HG Adaptive Programs**
- 9 HG is Grateful**
- 10 In Kinds**
- 11-25 Donors**



For over 20 years, Higher Ground has been helping give people of all abilities a better life. With recreation, therapy and continued support, we bridge the gap between disability and belonging. All could not be done without the enduring support of supporters like you.

With headquarters in Sun Valley, Idaho, and programs taking place nationally, we help transform lives across the country. Our programs over the last fiscal year grew in depth and breadth, serving new populations using new and better equipment with more reach than ever before. We thank you for the support and look forward to another year of change and growth.

With gratitude,



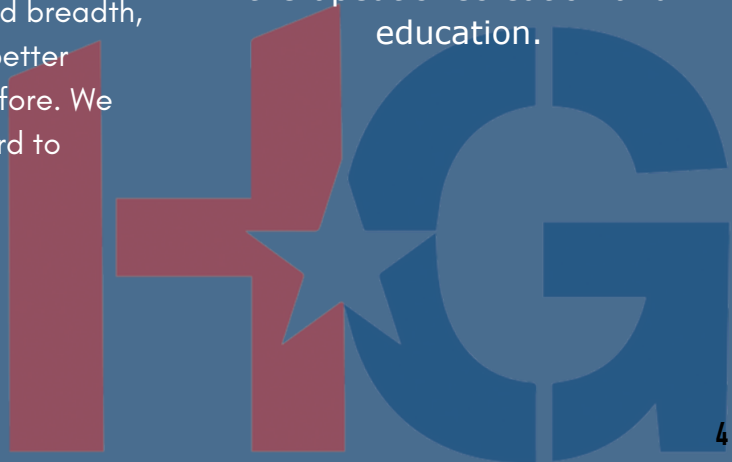
Kate Dobbie  
Executive Director

## VALUES

Innovation | Integrity | Passion  
| Service | Teamwork

## MISSION

Enhancing quality of life through  
therapeutic recreation and  
education.



# Higher Ground Veteran and First Responder Programs



## Program Highlights

- ★ HG Veteran/FR programs are 100% free to participants and their supporters
- ★ Our 3-year continuum of care includes following up with participants to check-in on the goals they made while at HG
- ★ HG Veteran/FR program participants each receive funds to purchase recreation equipment to use at home

It is our goal to provide the most effective adaptive sports and therapeutic recreation services to veterans and first responders confronted with traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress (PTS), military sexual trauma (MST), and polytrauma through the use of evidence-based practices and the sustained continuum of care necessary for a successful reintegration into families and home communities. It is our organizational mission to enhance quality of life through therapeutic recreation and education for people of all abilities.

HG provides week-long and day programs throughout the year for our veteran and first responder community nationwide. A fundamental component of the program model is the healing, restorative power of being in the outdoors in order to unveil a vigor for life through natural settings and challenges.

## Community Resiliency Units (CRU)

Newer to HG's programming lineup are CRU events serving veterans and first responders nationwide. CRUs will meet for day or multi-day events in their local area and are intended to expand Higher Ground's nationwide reach and impact by championing connection, well-being, and community among veterans and first responders.



# Higher Ground Adaptive Programs



## Program Highlights

- ★ The Adaptive program continues to serve new populations each year
- ★ In thanks to the Craig H. Neilsen grant we were able to serve more people with spinal cord injuries
- ★ The Adaptive program partnered with 8 organizations including Challenged Athletes Foundation and Trout Unlimited

THE ADAPTIVE PROGRAM in winter primarily focuses on alpine skiing, snowboarding, sled hockey, snowshoeing, and Nordic skiing for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. The overall goal of the program is to provide individual instruction that increases the participant's ability to a level where they can enjoy sports at the highest level of independence. Sport goals are set for individuals in order to track progress. Those individuals who are ready to push themselves to the next level have opportunities for more participation and group activities. The adaptive program continues to grow and serve more through strategic partnerships.

Whether we are working with our local population of participants with physical and cognitive disabilities, the students at The Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind, or our many visitors from around the world, Higher Ground continues to provide the most up-to-date technologies and professional services to all who we serve.

EXPANDED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES were added in the past fiscal year which included adaptive sailing and the use of the new Tetra ski which can be used by joystick or mouth control.

MEMBERS ONLY CLUB (MOC) is designed for local adults (post high school) with cognitive disabilities to get together for a weekly fitness and socialization opportunities. This program promotes healthy living, social skills and independence.







# Higher Ground is Grateful for:

## Our Donors

You, our donors, are the heart of Higher Ground and your generosity enables us to provide each of our programs with the professionals, equipment, and resources we need to effectively serve our diverse participants. Our collective vision and mission are grand in scope and efficacious in practice, but would be impossible without you. As Higher Ground continues to move forward and serve more participants than ever before, we are increasingly thankful for the ongoing support and commitment from each of you.



## Our Volunteers

Higher Ground's pulse comes from our dynamic volunteers and the dedication and love that you put into our programs. Our volunteers dedicate thousands of program hours to make sure our participants are out being active. There are not enough words to say "Thank You" for all the cold mornings that you have spent teaching lessons on Dollar, the countless hours of office work, the full days at veteran week-long programs, and your continuous support with events!



# In Kinds

Last year, Higher Ground received over \$1,169,998 in gifts including products, trips, lodging, rentals and airline miles from our retail partners, corporations and individuals. These gifts are integral to our bottom line, and the success of our programs would not be possible without the generosity of our "In Kind" partners. Thank you to all these supporters; your generosity enables our participants to experience unrivaled opportunities. A special thanks to the following partners who each donate above \$5,000/yr.

SVCO  
Three Rivers Ranch  
Spike Booth  
MacKay Wilderness River Trips  
Barry & Connie Waggener  
Sturtevant's  
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Lauren Terschluse  
KPMG LLP  
Sun Valley Resort

# Our Donors

Without you we couldn't continue to serve those who need it most. We thank you from the bottom of all of our hearts, your generosity astounds us every year. Here are the donors that helped keep Higher Ground running last fiscal year.

## \$100,000 and above

The Otis Booth Foundation  
The Kendeda Fund  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Anonymous

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Wilbur May Foundation  
Confidence Foundation  
In-Kind-SVCO

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

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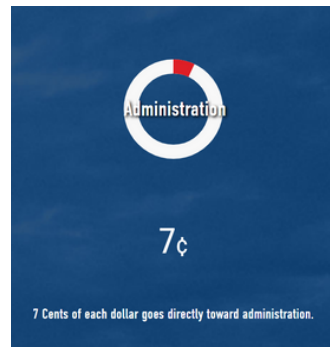
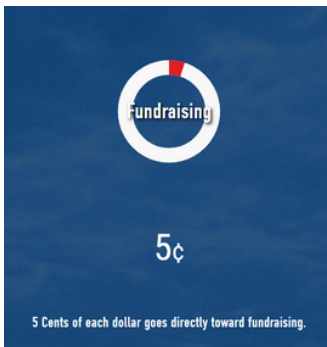
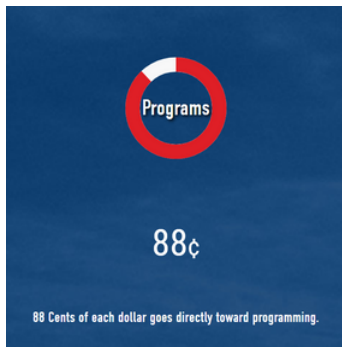


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# Together we bridge the gap between disability and belonging.





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ADVENTURE. SUPPORT. BELONGING.

**EMPOWERING PEOPLE NATIONWIDE**

**HigherGroundUSA.org**

**Our 501(c)3 id number is 82-0512146**



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