

Fiscal Year 2022-23

ANNUAL REPORT

River Deep Foundation

Healing Lives
One Adventure at a Time



- Letter from the Executive Director, Page 2
- How We Serve, Pages 3-5
- Program Highlights & Report, Pages 6-8
- Financial Highlights, Page 9
- Fundraising & Community Support, Pages 10-12



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear River Deep Foundation Supporter,

As we look forward to a new year of helping veterans and other individuals with disabilities, we also give thanks for all that happened in our 2022-23 fiscal year to advance our mission of healing lives, one adventure at a time.

With help from our reliable and generous alliance of like-minded nonprofits and companies, the River Deep Foundation served more than 1,000 people with a full schedule of outings and activities that kept them connected to a supportive community and to an array of resources for everyday living. Our relationships also remain strong with our chief referral sources, which provide vital outreach to veterans and others in need: **Fort Carson’s Soldier Recovery Unit (SRU)**, **Craig Hospital** and its **Operation TBI Freedom program (OTF)**, and the **Veterans Administration Hospital (VA)**.

In 2023, the Foundation also focused on improving administrative and digital infrastructure that will help us extend our reach to those who need us, attract and retain donors, win grants, and generally raise awareness about what we do.

Expect more exciting advancements, especially in the realms of public outreach and fundraising, in 2024.

Thank you for the tireless efforts of everyone who helps make our programs -- and the entire River Deep Foundation -- a success. We celebrate you with this annual report and look forward to all we’ll accomplish together this year.

Bob Adwar

Executive Director
The River Deep Foundation



Special Thanks

The River Deep Foundation salutes Jesus Guerra of Operation TBI Freedom for his longstanding contributions to the veteran community and our mission, and we wish him well in retirement.

We’re social!

When you engage with us, you’re spreading word about us!



@RiverDeepFoundation

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How We Serve

Formation of the River Deep Foundation started more than 20 years ago, when small business owner and outdoorsman Bob Adwar, in his role as Humanitarian Outreach Chairman for the Denver chapter of Safari Club International, organized hunting and fishing outings for patients of Craig Hospital, the nation's premier medical center for spinal cord injury rehabilitation. The goal was to provide a relaxing day in the outdoors to help patients understand what they could accomplish, despite their new limitations.

The program quickly expanded to include veterans' groups as injured and traumatized American soldiers returned from war zones in need of physical, psychological and emotional healing. With their participation, the number of outings and events also increased -- and so did support from generous nonprofits and companies. It became vital to solidify a shared mission and to create a new organization for easier communication and public outreach. The River Deep Foundation launched in 2017.

Our Mission

The River Deep Foundation is dedicated to helping military veterans and other individuals who have experienced physical, emotional or psychological trauma -- and those who assist them -- to heal and re-engage in life through adventure, recreation and a network of support.

Guiding Principles

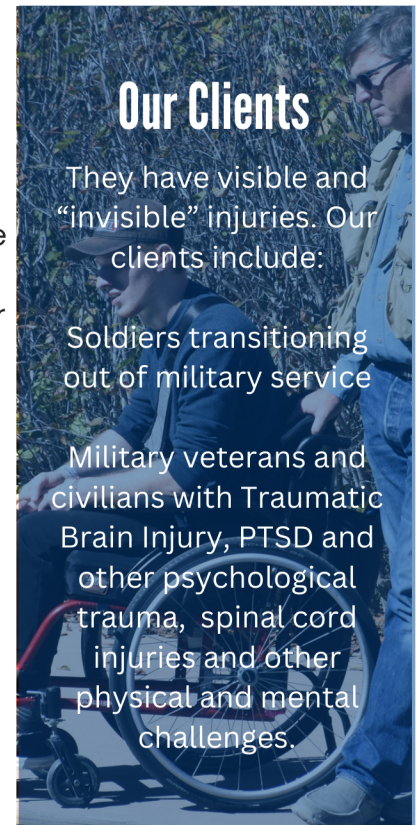
We understand that if an individual is in crisis, the family is in crisis. We incorporate participation of families in our programs wherever possible.

We believe in consistency. We provide diverse, year-round opportunities for participation to help our clients avoid returning to a state of crisis and despair.

We believe in providing an instructional foundation. Our goal is to enable clients to explore new interests, start a new hobby and have the confidence to build on their experiences.

We believe in the power of cooperation. The collaboration within our alliance allows us to offer more resources to our mutual client base and provide a sense of community.

We believe in positive and inclusive experiences. Each individual is treated with dignity and encouraged to enjoy each experience without pressure.



Our Clients

They have visible and "invisible" injuries. Our clients include:

Soldiers transitioning out of military service

Military veterans and civilians with Traumatic Brain Injury, PTSD and other psychological trauma, spinal cord injuries and other physical and mental challenges.

How We Serve: The River Deep Alliance

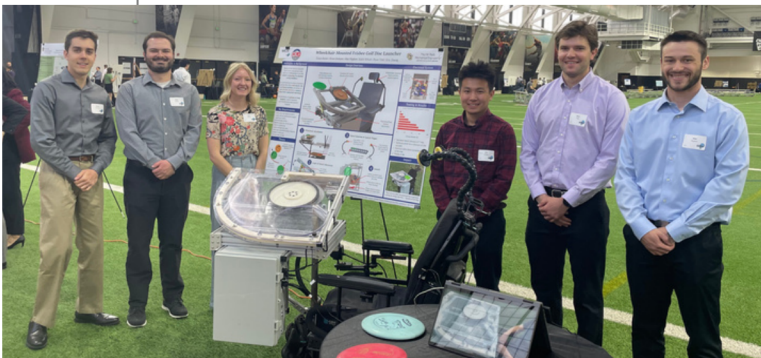
The River Deep Alliance is an important aspect of our organization. It is an innovative and exciting collaboration among complementary nonprofits that work in their own ways to re-acclimate, re-enable and re-engage people with disabilities. While these groups provide distinct programs, their client bases often overlap. The Alliance provides an easy referral channel that connects clients to Foundation outings and other services. Throughout the year, the Foundation facilitates communication among Alliance members to share knowledge, ideas and resources that help all of the organizations be more effective and efficient.

Alliance Member	Support for River Deep Participants
Anglers of Honor	Shares world-class, therapeutic fly fishing experiences
Bellevue Spine and Wellness	Offers free chiropractic adjustments for veterans without medical benefits to cover the cost.
Comeback Yoga	Provides free and accessible yoga classes for veteran and active-duty service members and their caregivers
Craig Hospital & Operation TBI Freedom	Craig Hospital and its military program, OTF, support people with traumatic brain injuries and are primary referral sources to River Deep.
Denver Adaptive Divers	Works with people with various disabilities to help them discover freedom of movement under the water, achieve diving certification, and/or enjoy dive travel
Quality of Life Plus	Works with students at top universities on specific adaptive challenges, and delivers solutions for use by River Deep participants
SCI Humanitarian Outreach Program	Provides support and greater public visibility through its outreach to members of Safari Club International
Victory Service Dogs	Helps people with PTSD and other disabilities have improved quality of life through partnership with a service or support dog

Alliance Member Spotlight: QL+

The River Deep Foundation’s longstanding work with Quality of Life Plus (QL+) firmly underscores the fantastic things that can be accomplished on many levels when people support our nonprofit organization. RDF identifies ways to help people who have physical challenges enjoy recreational pursuits. We share our big ideas with QL+, which brings together America’s brightest students to create life-transforming, assistive technology that helps military veterans and first responders injured in the line of duty achieve a higher quality of life.

Here’s look at some of the projects we’ve tackled together since 2022. We will have even more to celebrate in our 2024 Annual Report.



Frisbee Golf Project: CU-Boulder, 2023-24

This device was created to help non-ambulatory individuals participate in frisbee golf! Users can control the speed and distance of launching a frisbee from their wheelchair.

Recumbent Bike Lift: CU-Boulder, 2022-23

With this device, wheelchair bound users easily load and unload their recumbent bicycle without needing help from another person. This makes transporting a bicycle easier and helps the user to be more independent.



**HELP DELIVER MORE
LIFE-GIVING SUPPORT.
DONATE TO THE
RIVER DEEP FOUNDATION
TODAY.**



Bass Guitar: Tensentric, Boulder, CO

With this device developed by Tensentric, a privately held company, people with limited arm, wrist, and hand mobility can play the bass guitar. Through a series of guide rails and paddles, the user is able to produce notes with very little pressure on their upper body. This project was successful, and we will be expanding to other instruments in the future.

Program Highlights: Regular Events

The River Deep Foundation takes tremendous pride in the robust schedule of diverse activities we lead and/or coordinate every year -- and 2023 was certainly no exception. Our staff, Alliance members, referral sources, corporate and nonprofit partners, and volunteers teamed to provide almost 70 events attended by more than 1,000 people! Our regular offerings include:

FLY FISHING OUTINGS

Anglers of Honor and Lincoln Hills Fly Fishing Club provide access to premier waters for instruction and fishing.

BLACKSMITHING & WELDING

Kilroy's Workshop in Colorado Springs hosts introductions to these trades for pursuit of personal enjoyment -- or professional certification.

COOKING CLASSES

We cook wild game with cookbook author Leslie Fangman at Speciality Appliance in Greenwood Village.

SCUBA

Denver Adaptive Divers help everyone enjoy a relaxed and peaceful dive in a swimming pool environment.

ARCHERY INSTRUCTION

RMS Gear in Lakewood provides expert guidance and helps everyone have a great time on the range.

FENCING INSTRUCTION

Denver Fencing Center helps all of our participants learn the basics.

HUNTING & TRAP SHOOTING

An array of generous outfitters host us for hunts and shooting events.

FAMILY FISHING & FUN DAYS!

The Swift Ponds facility at Colorado Youth Outdoors is the perfect setting for family time.

EQUINE-ASSISTED LEARNING

The U.S. Air Force Academy Equestrian Center's Remount Foundation hosts these centering exercises and relaxing trail rides to help veterans learn and practice coping skills for symptoms of anxiety, depression and PTSD.

ART CLASSES

The Art Students League of Denver and Cottonwood Art Center in Colorado Springs help participants express themselves through drawing, painting, sculpting, sewing and so much more.

Program Highlights: Special Trips

Floating and fishing along the mighty Colorado and Madison rivers amid the most majestic landscapes in the United States is high adventure River Deep participants look forward to every year. The levels of time, energy and safety preparations put into producing these trips are second to none. Spending time on the water, while soaking up the sun and stunning views, allows participants to form connections that we hope deepen into friendships and inspire more gatherings in community.

2023 Colorado River Float and Fishing Trip, Aug. 10-11, Kremmling, Colorado: This was a wonderful outing for our participants from Craig Hospital and Operation TBI Freedom. Special thanks to **Muddy Creek Cabins** for housing this group for a night; to **The Blue Quill Angler**, an Evergreen-based fly fishing guide service that donated guides, boats and gear; and to our expert Blue Quill Angler guide **Bob Dye**.

2023 Montana Float and Fly Fishing Trip, Sept. 3-7, Ennis, Montana: Five veterans from Operation TBI Freedom, escorted by River Deep Foundation Board Member Chris Dundas, attended this outing based on the beautiful grounds of our nonprofit partner **Camp Bullwheel**. Special thanks to **Camp Bullwheel Founder and Executive Director Frank Bell**, who donated the accommodating homestead, and to **Camp Manager Peter Pauwels**, who has supported River Deep for decades and ensures every detail of a successful trip.



FY 2022-23 Program Report Oct. 1, 2022-Sept. 30, 2023

Programming

Total Programs: 69
(up from 56 outings in 2022)

Archery Instruction: 5
Art Classes: 21
Blacksmithing: 12
Cooking Class: 2
Equine-Assisted Learning: 7
Family Fishing & Fun Days: 1
Fencing: 3
Fly Fishing: 5
Hunting: 6
Try SCUBA: 5
River Float & Fishing Trips: 2

Total Program Hours: 456
(up from 400 in 2022)

Participants

Total Client Participants & Family Members: 755
(up from 696 in 2022)

Military Veterans: 248
Military Active-Duty: 75
Craig Hospital Patients: 87
Craig Alumni & Others with Disabilities : 27
Family Members: 289
Support Staff: 329

Total Client & Family Member Participant Hours:
4,196.5

Total Overall Participants: 1,058

Total Overall Participant Hours: 5,856
(includes time spent by staff, volunteers, guides, instructors and other non-client attendees)

Program Evaluation: 148 Surveys Received

River Deep is dedicated to providing the highest quality experiences possible, and we work diligently to tailor and design events specifically targeting our participants' physical, emotional and social needs. We continually evaluate and measure our impact through informal check-ins with participants and their family members/caregivers and through a more formal survey distributed at the end of each outing. On a scale of 1 ("Strongly Disagree") to 3 ("Strongly Agree"), participants reported the following average scores after attending our FY 2022-23 events.

As a result of today's outing ...

I had positive interactions with my peers: 2.98

I had positive interactions with my family and/or caregivers: 2.91

After today's outing, I feel encouraged about trying other activities: 2.96

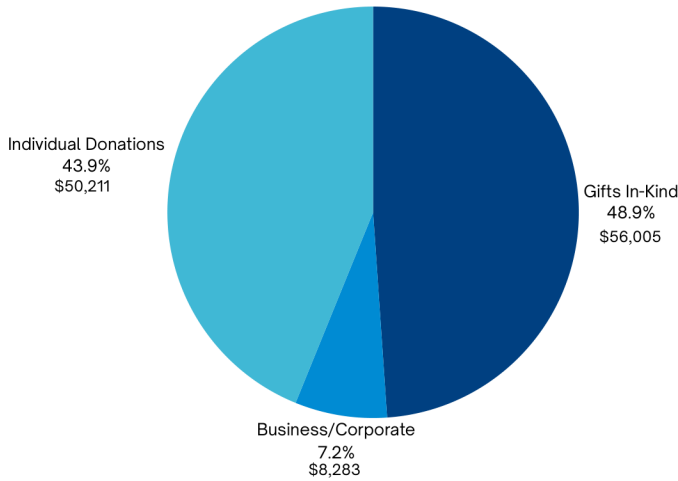
Today's event was enjoyable for me: 3.0

FY 2022-23 Financial Highlights

Oct. 1, 2022-Sept. 30, 2023

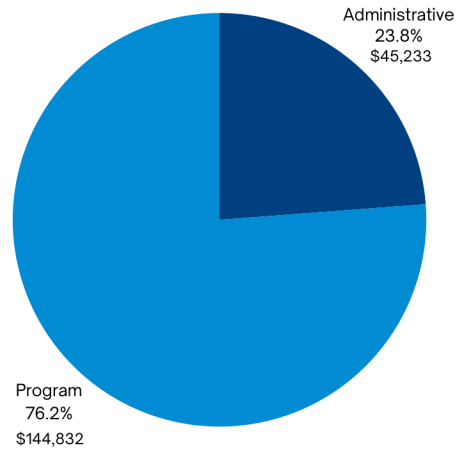
Revenue

Total Revenue:
\$114,449



Expenses

Total Operating Expenses:
\$167,500



The Foundation takes pride in its careful stewardship of every charitable donation received. We are pleased to report that in the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Foundation collected more individual and in-kind donations and held its administrative and programming costs steady despite national rates of inflation.

3 Goals met in '23!

- Hired a new marketing and communications team
- Raised the funds to hire a part-time staff member to assist with operations, outing logistics and more
- Substantially cleaned up our donor database and email distribution lists





Fundraising & Community Support

We always enjoy connecting with our supporters at our two big, annual fundraisers. Our Sporting Clays Fundraiser at **Colorado Clays Shooting Park** raised \$15,500, and our Golf Tournament & Fundraising Auction at beautiful **Meridian Golf Club** raised \$17,250.

In 2023, we also were the beneficiaries of grants and an array of in-kind gifts in the forms of all-expenses-paid events, equipment, food -- you name it. Here are just three examples:

- **Kroenke Sports Charities (KSC)** awarded us \$7,500 and introduced us to “Nuggets Nation” during a game. Board member **Neil Mayday** represented us well.
- **Chris Dorsey**, host of "Sporting Classics with Chris Dorsey," the world's most widely distributed outdoor program, donated more than 100 pounds of elk meat in celebration of Safari Club International’s first Wild Game Meat Donation Month. In turn, we distributed the meat to families we serve.
- **Buehler Companies** donated 10,000 rounds of 12-gauge ammunition that helped make our clays shoot even more successful.



Special Thanks to Robert F. Smith River Deep Foundation Donor & Founder of Anglers of Honor

Mr. Smith is the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Vista Equity Partners, a leading global investment firm investing exclusively in enterprise software, data and technology-enabled businesses. Many of our events are in Lincoln Hills watershed. As a co-founder of Lincoln Hills Cares Foundation, Mr. Smith makes those pristine waters and facilities available to us.



Event Partners, Outfitters & Donors In-Kind

The Foundation organizes and coordinates many details of the events hosted each year -- but none of these experiences would happen if it weren't for our network of partners and outfitters. These people, companies and nonprofit organizations have our profound thanks:

- All American Beef Battalion
- Alta Vista Dermatology
- The Art of Cooking Wild Game & Leslie Fangman
- Art Students League of Denver
- Bass Pro Shops
- Blue Quill Angler
- The Bluffs
- Bob & Debbie Dye
- Buehler Companies
- Camp Bullwheel
- Capital Peak Outfitter
- Chris Dorsey
- Colorado Clays Shooting Park
- Colorado Youth Outdoors
- Cottonwood Center for the Arts
- Denver Adaptive Divers
- Denver Fencing Center
- Denver Safari Club International
- Eleven Mile State Park
- Front Range Anglers
- Gary Verrazono
- Gondolier Italian Eatery
- Greenwood Cabinets
- Lincoln Hills Fly Fishing Club
- Kastking
- Kilroy's Workshop
- MarbleTec Systems
- Meridian Golf Club
- Remount Foundation
- RMS Gear
- Specialty Appliance
- Sportsmen Against Hunger
- Tom Kolkacz
- Valhalla-Bijou Hunt Club

Our Amazing Volunteers

- Steve Allen
- Mark Bassagani
- Shannon Boyles
- Jason Cretti
- Patrick Duane
- Alan Dunlap
- Bob Dye
- Conner Flansburg
- Joe Hubbard
- Scott Huyvaert
- Natasha Jugl
- Ragan Knowles
- Rob Krisner
- Dave MacLennan
- Stephanie MacLennan
- Russell MacLennan
- Connor McGahey
- Shaun Mulligan
- Al Noraker
- Scott Polak
- Lori Raymond
- Alan Robinson
- Tyler Trouillot
- Gary Verrazono
- Mark Yvoli

Our Generous Donors




- Aaron Hughes
- Aaron Sexton
- Al Duran
- Amy Dorsey
- Andrea Mikulec
- Andy Calerich
- ARC Flash Gear
- Audrey Will
- Bavaria Inn
- BBC Custom Hardwood, Inc.
- Bob Russel
- Bonanno Family
- Brekhuis Tile and Stone
- Brent Taylor
- Brenton Scott
- Brian Pleumer
- Brian Rolfson
- Building Operators of Colorado
- Carl Barna
- Chad Habegger
- Charlie Putnam
- Chris Eddy
- Chris Wood
- Christian Anschutz
- Clamen Family Fund
- Cody Brooks
- Corinna Peters
- Craig Hospital
- Dave Platzer
- David Barnard
- David Loucks
- Debra Hicks
- Daren Williams
- Devron Coday
- Diane Demoss
- Dreyden Family Giving Foundation
- Equipment Locators
- Gary Hegstad
- Glen Cooper
- Harold Fahrenbrook
- Henry Snape
- Infinite Outdoors
- J.R. Lapierre
- Jan Mueller
- Jason Bowman
- Jason Miller
- Jason Pastuch
- Jeanette Sudan
- Jeff Koepke
- Jeff Ruckman
- Jesus Guerra
- Jesus Valerio
- Joe Goetting
- John Jugl
- John Pirkopf
- John Sherman
- John Sullivan
- Joshua Murphy
- Kast King
- Keal Vigil
- Ken Lopata
- Kevin Turecek
- Kroger (King Soopers)
- Larry Beck
- Lynn Shelton
- Mac Plymale, Jr.
- Marcie Rhodes
- Marian Robinson
- Mark Alan Eldridge
- Glen Cooper
- Harold Fahrenbrook
- Henry Snape
- Infinite Outdoors
- Jan Mueller
- Jared Caruso
- Jason Bowman
- Jason Miller
- Jason Mundy
- Jason Pastuch
- Jeanette Sudan
- Mark Kividera
- Mark Yevoli
- Martin Concannon
- Martin Marietta
- Mary Predovich
- Matt Barna
- Matthew Wenstrom
- Michael Landry
- Mike Larkin
- Nate Howard
- Neil Mayday
- Pat E. McKune
- Patrick Gorham
- Peggy Claar
- Peter J. Taylor
- Predovich & Co.
- Richard Duran
- Richard Huey
- Richard Steiner
- Roadside Supplies
- Ron Drey
- Ryan Falliaux
- Santiago Garcia, III
- Scott Miller
- Serge Hansen
- Sherry McGann
- Stephen Oertle
- Steve Houy
- Steve Smith
- Terry Reinke
- The Ranch at West 40
- Tim Schield
- Tolkacz Family Giving Fund
- Tyler Mintz
- Valhalla Bijou Hunt Club
- Warner Andrews



Thank You

We invite everyone to contact us for more information about how we could work together, one adventure at time.

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