

Celebrating 35 years!

SPORTSABILITY

1990-2025 ALLIANCE

formerly Florida Disabled Outdoors Association

Annual Report

2024



Contents

About SportsAbility Alliance	3
To Our Members	4
Message from Our Founder	5
Programs	6
Social Media	11
ROI	12
Board of Directors	13
Partners	14



To Our Members



Dear Members and Partners,

Well, 2024 just flew by! Despite the challenges of a busy hurricane season, it was a great year!

Miracle Sports athletes enjoyed baseball, kickball, and tennis. SportsAbility Expo was bigger than ever with nearly 1,000 people participating in the 2-day event filled with accessible and inclusive activities, information, food and fun. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces at the Family Café this year, where our activity partners provided information and lots of opportunities to participate in recreational activities. We added a virtual workout in the Expo Hall, and of course we held the duck race which is always a crowd favorite.

In 2024, we continued our outreach programs that help us highlight all our programs and resources to a wide audience. From the ADA Expo in Jacksonville and the ESE Expo in Tallahassee, to presentations with local organizations such as the Gulf Wind Track Club, to area festivals and service clubs, we enjoyed making connections, educating, and sharing information.

We are only able to offer these and other programs because of the hard work of our board members, staff, interns, and volunteers, and the generosity of our partners and sponsors. Everyone's contribution is essential to the success of SportsAbility Alliance and our programs.

This 2024 Annual Report details some of what we have achieved this year as we continue to strive to achieve our message of Active Leisure for Life!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fran Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fran Gilbert, CAE

Executive Director

Message from Our Founder



SportsAbility Alliance has sustained our strong program successes for thirty-four years now. We continue to reach and engage new people, in new places, and with new opportunities, across the state and beyond.

Our mission is to enhance the lives of people of all ages and all abilities using recreation and active lifestyles as the means to do so. This also includes the need and benefits that come with time spent in nature for well-being and happiness or contentment. Our strategy and efforts simply put is for our organization to direct our efforts to advocacy, education, motivation, and support for consumers, and for providers of accessible and inclusive recreation and active leisure opportunities.

The needs and benefits are great and our leadership team consisting of Fran, Kasara and myself have continued to grow and expand our reach. Our staff is small but without the valuable contributions of the rest of our team that include interns, coaches, our board members, volunteers, partners and sponsors, we wouldn't have been able to enjoy the successes in providing quality programs that touches and affects the quality of life for hundreds of families, entire communities and really, our whole society.

I am so proud of what we have done this past year and how we continue to grow, reaching more people in more places with more opportunities to participate. I am a firm believer that we can, and will do even better every year into the future. We invite you to join us for this exciting and rewarding journey. You too can make a difference!

Active Leisure for Life!

David Jones
Founder

Programs

SPORTSABILITY EXPO

SportsAbility Alliance enriches lives of people with disabilities through accessible, inclusive recreation and active leisure. We provide hands-on access to resources and activities designed to encourage participation for individuals of all ages and all abilities.



In 2024, SportsAbility programs were once again offered as in-person events and activities, and more than 14,000 people attended the following programs:

- **SportsAbility Expo 2024:** More than 800 people attended the 2-day SportsAbility Expo event which included a resource expo and indoor activities at Tallahassee Community College, and a day of outdoor fun at Maclay Gardens State Park.
- **SportsAbility Samper at the Family Café:** More than 14,000 attendees, vendors, and service providers took part in the 2024 Family Café in Orlando, FL. Our partners provided numerous hands-on activities, including tennis, SCUBA, archery and target games. Resource providers offered information on adaptive water-skiing, EcoRovers, accessible boating and more! In addition to the samplers and resources, GatorLand hosted live animal demonstrations.
- **Fitness Fridays:** We continued these weekly live workouts on the SportsAbility Alliance Facebook Page.



- **ALLOUT Adventures:** Through grants from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida and MoveUnited we increased our EcoRover ALLOUT Beach and Trail Adventure offering. We provided numerous opportunities for individuals to get out on trails and beaches, enjoy nature and participate in hunting through FWC’s mobility-impaired hunts.
- **Hands Helping Anglers:** In September SportsAbility Alliance partnered with Rotary to hold the Hands Helping Anglers event. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather conditions this year’s event had to be cancelled, but we had more than 34 anglers and more than 21 captains registered for boating and fishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Through SportsAbility Alliance programs, participants of all ages and abilities learn about the benefits of recreation and active leisure. People learn about the latest in equipment, trends and resources. In 2024 we completed more than 125 outreach events during the year.



Volunteers and community and activity partners are integral to the success of our programs. In 2024:

- More than \$150,000 of volunteer help and training was donated.
- More than 30 community organizations partnered with SportsAbility Alliance on programs.

MIRACLE SPORTS

Let's Play!

Miracle Sports in partnership with the City of Tallahassee provides Access to Athletics for people of all abilities. Games are adapted so that anyone can participate and be successful. The majority of our seasons are played on the Miracle Field, in Messer Park; this field provides a barrier free arena. Our game days are rich, inclusive environments where people of all abilities play together and encourage one another.



- We offered more than 50 opportunities for individuals to participate in Miracle Sports events (Kickball, Baseball and Tennis).
- Volunteer hours valued at more \$25,000.
- Miracle Sports partnered with Florida State University (FSU) Sport Management Service Learning Program with over 150 students.
- Miracle Sports has a valuable, long standing partnership with the Kiwanis Clubs of Big Bend and they volunteered each week and provided snacks for our athletes.





This program, funded by the Florida Department of Health Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, provides an education and resource referral to assist people with brain and spinal cord injuries in pursuing recreation and leisure and related assistive services and technologies.

- SportsAbility Alliance provided over 25 outreach programs on the needs and benefits of physical activity and resources and recreation activities for individuals with a brain injury or spinal cord injury.
- Training sessions and in-service programs were provided to healthcare and recreation professionals across Florida throughout the year educating on to assist people with a brain or spinal cord injury in accessing recreation and leisure to improve physical and mental well-being.
- A quarterly e-newsletter provided information and resources on accessible inclusive recreation opportunities to over 10,000 people quarterly.

MyNeedsNetwork Partnership for New Resource Database

In 2024, we formed a partnership with MyNeedsNetwork to create a new, more in depth Resource Database. With this partnership, our members will have access to not only all of the recreation resources we have compiled, but also the additional resources on their site.

The database is still a work in progress but it will be found on:



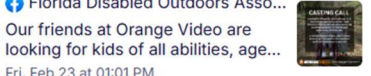
<https://www.myneedsnetwork.org/community-resources-4/recreation-2> and it will be a virtual liaison between providers and participants helping people of all abilities find the providers that meet their area of interest.

The screenshot displays the MyNeedsNetwork website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MyNeedsNetwork logo, a search bar, and links for 'Select Language', 'Contact Us', and 'Member Login'. Below the navigation bar is a secondary menu with options like 'About Us', 'Join', 'Get Involved', 'Search Directory', 'Support / FAQ', 'Contact Us', and 'Resources'. The main content area shows search results for 'Recreation Results - Community Resources'. On the left, there are search filters for 'What do you need?' (Community Resources), 'Specializing in:' (Recreation), and 'Search by location:'. The search results list three featured items: 'Sports Ability' (Tallahassee FL), 'Florida Fish and Wildlife - Website' (Tallahassee FL), and 'Bethesda Park' (Jacksonville FL). Each item includes a brief description, a 'Visit Website' button, and contact information.

Social Media and Website

SportsAbility Alliance has social media accounts across multiple platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

- We have continued posting on an almost daily basis for 2024, highlighting Motivational Mondays, Fitness Fridays with SPIRIT Club, all our upcoming events as well as events being offered by our partners.
- Facebook continues to be our most popular platform with 4.1K followers, which is an additional 253 followers since last year (6% increase).
- Over the past year, we have also seen an increase in our post reach (2% increase) which is important because it means our content is getting in front of more unique viewers.
- Our top 3 performing posts for the year were our announcement about Hands Helping Anglers, our “SportsAbility is one month away post” and our shared post for Orange Video about needing kids of all abilities for their upcoming video. This shows people are excited about our events, but also that posts that tag other organizations perform well.

RECENT POSTS	TYPE	REACH	REACH RATE	ENG. RATE	REACTIONS	COMMENTS	SHARES
	Photo	7.3K	179.97% ↗	2.99% ↗	18	3	55
	Photo	5.3K	133.26% ↗	2.32% ↗	19	1	6
	Photo	3.2K	81.83% ↗	4.56% ↗	13	3	26

- We also saw excellent performance on many of our ALLOUT Adventure posts.

	Photo	1.4K	34.85% ↗	3.43% ↗	10	0	19
	Photo	1.3K	32.09% ↗	8.04% ↗	44	2	9

Return on Investment

We leverage revenues to fulfill our mission. With an annual budget of \$240,000 from grants, state contracts, business sponsorships and donations; we are able to accomplish significant outcomes.

- We fostered a healthier, happier, more productive and inclusive society that produced cost savings for everyone.
- We deliver meaningful education and advocacy to the community.
- We strengthen the community through partnerships and collaborations.
- We supplement our funding sources with donated goods and services and utilize the power of volunteers and student involvement.
- 2024 Grants: ARPA, REI Foundation Grant, Autism Services Grant, City of Tallahassee, Adults with Disabilities, Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, Move United, Visit Tallahassee, Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida.



Board of Directors / Advisory Board

2024 Board of Directors

David C. Jones, Founder & Past President

Gordon Palmer, President

Kristy Carter, Vice President

Bliss Wilson, Secretary

George Coaker, Director at Large

Jeff Douglas, Director at Large

Advisory Board

Jackie Lambert

Christina Martin

Ray Pringle

Bill Redmon

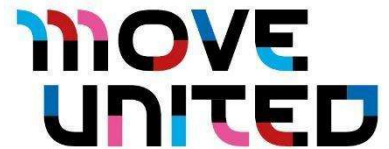
Curtis Richardson

Melissa Sims



Partners

SportsAbility Alliance gratefully thanks these partners and all of our other important contributors.



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