

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

River
Deep
Foundation

Healing Lives
One Adventure at a Time



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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 2024 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 2024, the Foundation focused on improving fundraising -- and even in the midst of a challenging economy, we did! You’ll see among our financial highlights on page 9 of this report that we saw significant increases of individual and corporate donors. We also received grants and gifts from **new** mission-aligned, charitable foundations -- and the extra promotional efforts we put into Colorado Gives Day paid off with generous giving to us and to Anglers of Honor, our nonprofit partner providing significant support for our fly-fishing outings.

So, here’s to another great year. Thank you to everyone who makes the River Deep Foundation’s work genuinely helpful to so many people. Let’s encourage more hope, healing and happiness in 2025.

Bob Adwar
Executive Director
The River Deep Foundation



SPECIAL THANKS

We salute **Ron Moser**, who is retiring from nearly 15 years of volunteer to **All-American Beef Batalion**, which has donated delicious steak meals that have made many of our fundraisers and outings successful -- and memorable.

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

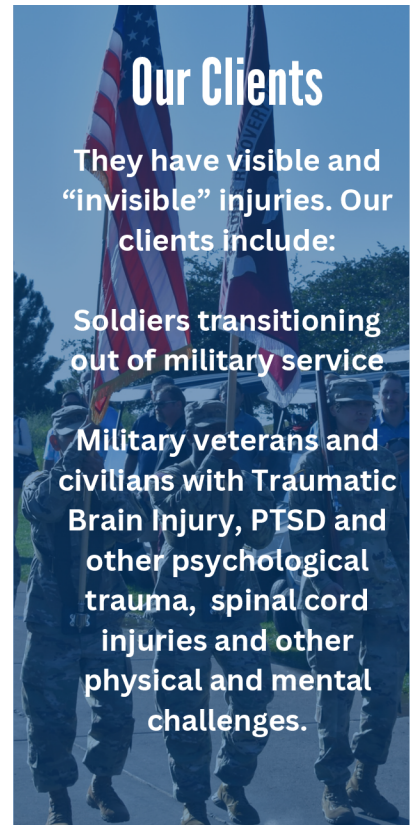
We understand that if an individual is in crisis, the family is in crisis. We incorporate participation of families in our programs wherever possible.

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.



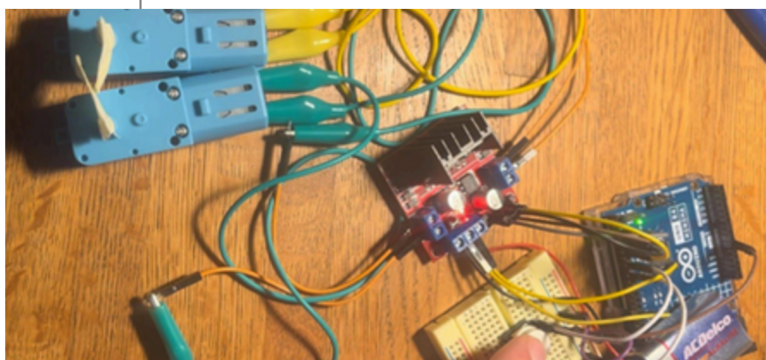
How We Serve: The River Deep Alliance

The River Deep Alliance is an important aspect of our organization. It is an innovative and exciting collaboration among complementary entities 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.

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
Ft. Carson Soldier Recovery Unit	A primary referral source to River Deep
Quality of Life Plus	Works with students at top universities on specific adaptive challenges, and delivers solutions for use by River Deep participants
Victory Service Dogs	Helps people with PTSD and other disabilities have improved quality of life through partnership with a service or support dog
Veterans Administration Hospital	A primary referral source to River Deep

2024 QL+ PROJECT UPDATE

Our longstanding work with Quality of Life Plus (QL+) firmly underscores the fantastic things we can accomplish with donor support. We identify ways to help people with physical challenges enjoy recreational pursuits, and we share our big ideas with QL+, a nonprofit that 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. Last year, we sponsored development of seven projects -- a River Deep record! Several are expected for delivery in 2025. Here are highlights about the wonderful, new inventions we’re helping to make possible:



Dice Roller: San Diego State University

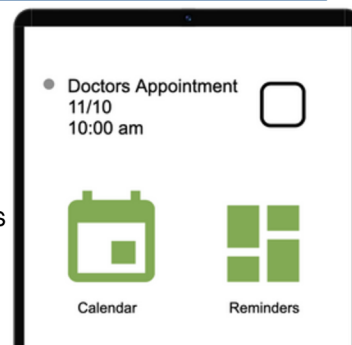
Myriad games require the rolling of dice or dice-like objects. To help players with limited upper mobility -- especially paraplegics and quadriplegics -- have fun, a five-student team developed a device controlled by a head switch push button that allows dice to be shaken, spilled, and rolled.

Pool Cue: CU-Boulder

This device aims to help people with little to no upper body dexterity play billiards! Craig Hospital has several pool tables and hopes to expand the number of patients who are interested in learning or playing as part of their physical therapy.

Memory App: Virginia Military Institute

This app aims to help patients with traumatic brain injuries manage appointments, medications and therapies.



Handheld Frisbee Launcher: University of Texas San Antonio

This popular sport is played by throwing a frisbee at a designated target -- and just as traditional golfers reach for different clubs or putters to meet the objective, frisbee golfers use a variety of discs. The handheld device students at UT San Antonio are developing will launch discs of various sizes from a standing or seated position -- making it perfect for people who use wheelchairs.

6-String Guitar: Colorado School of Mines

We’re rockin’ on! CSM is continuing to make improvements to the already awesome adaptive bass guitar delivered by Tensentric and CU-Boulder in 2024. And it is taking working to create a platform for an electric guitar.

One-Handed Belay Device: CSM

This fully operating climbing belay is being designed for someone with limited grip strength and little to no upper arm dexterity.

Handheld Fishing Launcher: San Diego State University

This device will help people with limited use of their upper arms cast and retrieve fishing lures.



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 2024 was certainly no exception. Our staff, Alliance members, referral sources, corporate and nonprofit partners, and volunteers teamed to provide 65 events attended by more than 1,100 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.

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 Events

In addition to our regular offerings, every year includes unique opportunities for our participants to make connections that we hope deepen into friendships. Here are three standouts from 2024:

Sports Nights with the Denver Nuggets and Colorado Avalanche, March 2024, Denver: Thanks to the generosity of **Kroenke Sports**, veterans and their family members cheered for their beloved Nuggets and Avs from VIP suites in Ball Arena stocked with complimentary food and drinks.

2024 Colorado River Float and Fishing Trip, Aug. 15-16, 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**.

2024 Christmas Party, Dec. 20, Colorado Springs: A joyful crowd of about 110 people that included dozens of military veterans and 40 children headed to **Peak Bowl** to enjoy bowling, lunch featuring an array of desserts -- and a visit from Santa Claus. Thanks to our generous donors and some elves over at **Operation TBI Freedom**, every child received gifts.



2024 Program Report

Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024

Programming

Total Programs: 65
Archery Instruction: 5
Art Classes: 20
Blacksmithing: 12
Colorado Avalanche Game: 1
Denver Nuggets Game: 1
Equine-Assisted Learning: 7
Family Fishing & Fun Days: 2
Fencing: 4
Fly Fishing: 6
Holiday Party: 1
Hunter's Safety Course: 1
Hunting: 2
Try SCUBA: 2
River Float & Fishing Trips: 1
Total Program Hours: 234

Participants

Total Client Participants & Family Members: 779
(up from 755 in fy 22-23)
Military Veterans: 548 (up by 300 over fy 22-23)
Military Active-Duty: 32
Craig Hospital Patients: 57
Craig Alumni & Others with Disabilities : 33
Family Members: 278
Support Staff: 330
Total Client & Family Member Participant Hours:
 3,224
Total Overall Participants: 1,109
(up from 1,058 in fy 22-23)
Total Overall Participant Hours: 4,659
(includes time spent by staff, volunteers, guides, instructors and other non-client attendees)

Program Evaluation: 143 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 2024 events.

As a result of today's outing ...

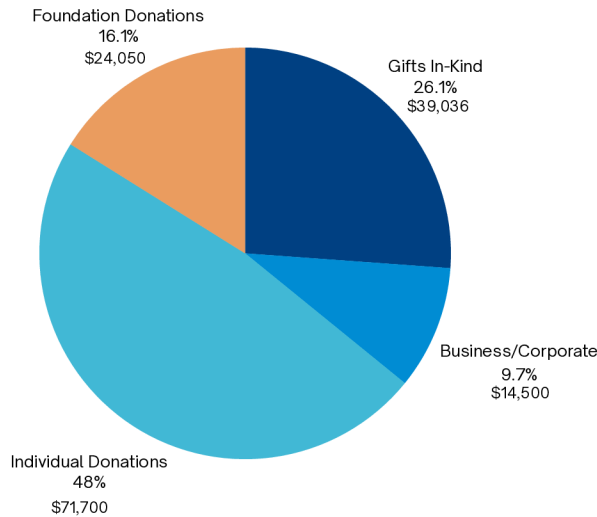
I had positive interactions with my peers: 2.98
 I had positive interactions with my family and/or caregivers: 2.99
 After today's outing, I feel encouraged about trying other activities: 2.96
 Today's event was enjoyable for me: 3.0

2024 Financial Highlights

Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2024

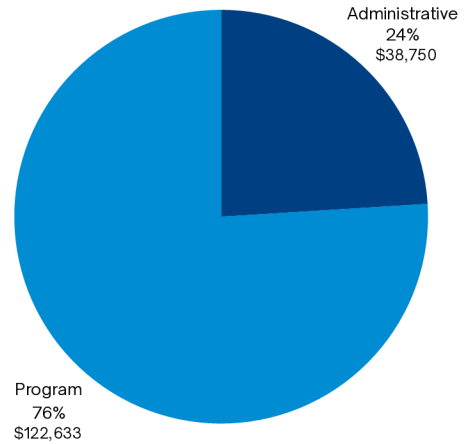
Revenue

Total Revenue:
\$149,300



Expenses

Total Operating Expenses:
\$161,083



The Foundation takes pride in its careful stewardship of every charitable donation received. We are pleased to report that in 2024, the Foundation **increased overall revenue nearly 31%**. More specifically, **individual donations grew 41%**, and **donations from corporate entities were up 75%**. Further, we received more than \$24,000 in **new grant funding** from other charitable foundations. And despite climbing national rates of inflation, we also provided another robust year of quality of events while cutting total administrative and programming costs **almost 4%**.

3 Goals met in '24!

- We diversified our base of donors -- and received more donations.
- We tried a new approach to fundraising at our golf tournament -- and we plan to expand on our success at other events in '25.
- We promoted Colorado Gives Day more aggressively, resulting in more gifts for us and Anglers of Honor.





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 2024, we also received gifts from four new sources:

- **The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation** awarded us a \$12,200 2024 Direct Effect 1st Cycle Quality of Life Grant.
- **The Genesee Mountain Foundation** awarded us \$5,000 -- and we're grateful for Trustee Brian McDonald's volunteer support of some of our events.
- **The Hanger Foundation.** We received \$5,000 from this nonprofit offshoot from the world's leading provider of orthotic and prosthetic patient care services and products for more than 160 years.
- **Opportune.** We received \$1,000 from this Houston-based global business advisory firm to public and private equity companies.



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
- 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

MEET RAGAN KNOWLES Administrative & Events Coordinator

After attending a fundraiser, Ragan simply wanted to get more involved. His help is greatly appreciated, and we brought him aboard part time this year.

Our Amazing Volunteers

- Steve Allen
- Mark Bassagani
- Jason Cretti
- Patrick Duane
- Bob Dye
- Conner Flansburg
- Joe Hubbard
- Scott Huyvaert
- John Jugl
- Ragan Knowles
- Rob Krisner
- Dave MacLennan
- Stephanie MacLennan
- Russell MacLennan
- Connor McGahey
- Shaun Mulligan
- Al Noraker
- Lori Raymond
- Tyler Trouillot
- Gary Verrazono
- Mark Yevoli

Our Generous Donors





- Aaron Hughes
- Aaron Sexton
- Al Duran
- Amy Dorsey
- Andrea Mikulec
- Andy Calerich
- ARC Flash Gear
- Audrey Will
- BBC Custom Hardwood, Inc.
- Bob Russel
- Bonnie Knowles
- 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
- Diane Demoss
- Dreyden Family Giving Foundation
- Equipment Locators
- Gary Hegstad
- Harold Fahrenbrook
- Henry Snape
- Infinite Outdoors
- 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
- 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
- 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.

 303-881-0400

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