



KIDS MOUNTAIN FUND 2023 Final Report

Rota-Rippers/ Rota-Ravens Lease Package

Grant Amount: \$14,000

Grant Program in Review:

Rota-Rippers and Rota-Ravens are Learn to Ski/Snowboard Elementary and Middle School Programs at Rotarun Ski Hill in Hailey, ID. These programs are community supported and tuition free designed to inspire diversity and inclusivity in winter sports. Many of the kids enrolled are first-generation skiers or snowboarders. Many families would not have the means to enroll their children without the financial support and knowledge needed to lease technical gear. Kids develop grit, courage, joy, resilience, and technical skills from a sport that identifies us as a community. I spent focused time with one girl who was very shy and timid. I knew she had the athleticism to excel so I worked with her and after week two, I paired her with an outgoing girl who pushed hard to learn and go higher on the palmer lift. By week 3 both girls and a third child challenged themselves, it happened organically, they got on the palmer by themselves and didn't want help anymore. They easily went to the third tower, racing down the slope turning and laughing with joy. They were so animated counting how many times they raced down and got back on the lift, I could barely keep up with them. The quiet girl came out of her shell and accomplished so much, her Mom was incredibly grateful. There are numerous stories like this where kids improve self-esteem, learn new skills, make and strengthen friendships, and they feel good about themselves through skill development. Courage has a beautiful way of improving mental health. When so many young people struggle with mental illness this program helps to keep depression and anxiety in check.

Objectives and Outcomes:

KMF provided 108 kids with lease packages from two 4-week sessions of the Rota-Rippers and one 8-week session of Rota-Ravens. Many of the kids we serve receive reduced or free lunches and these programs provide an opportunity that would not otherwise be available

to them. Inclusivity and accessibility are priority values for KMF to meet our mission. The kids thrive and the parents appreciate their ability to participate. Developing skills is beneficial to improving self-esteem, new skills enriches lives, which in turn reduces mental health challenges that many kids face today. With anxiety and depression on the rise skiing at Rotarun gives them a positive outlet to let go and have fun, exercise, and try new outdoor skills. Physical activity helps reduce obesity, which some kids struggle with and increases levels of dopamine and cortisol in the brain, which in turn lowers anxiety. We are making a difference in kid's lives with long lasting positive impacts. We are building resilience and making our community stronger and more vibrant celebrating diversity and making this program more accessible. Skiing is an expensive sport, its why many of us choose to live here and KMF is helping many families feel more a part of our greater community. Teaching skiing to first generation kids is incredibly rewarding. The equipment lease packages are getting more expensive like everything, so this year I spent an additional \$6,569 and served 58 kids, 4 more kids from last year. Sturtevant's is very generous and provides KMF leases at half price.





Budget:

Expenses	Amount requested from WRWF	Actual Expenses for Rota-Rippers Leases
Leases: 51 kids session #1 57 kids session #2	\$14,000 total requested and received from WRWF	\$8,003.73 Session 1 \$8,865.71 Session 2
Total kids received leases 108		\$16,869.44 total lease package cost

KMF was able to cover costs for all the Rota-Ripper and Rota Raven lease packages because we received some additional small grants from other sources in 2023/2024. Each year costs go up and they really seemed to jump up from the previous year as costs for everything have increased significantly. Sturtevant's provides KMF with a discount on each lease. This is truly a community-supported program.