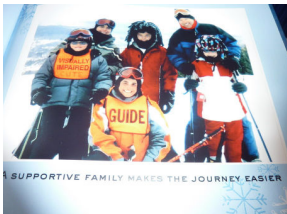




## Annie’s House at Bottineau Winter Park

*Miracles Happen Here*



### SUMMARY

The New York Says Thank You Foundation, one the Nation’s leading volunteer organizations focused on the 9/11 Anniversary, is partnering with The Bottineau Winter Park in Bottineau, ND to help build **Annie’s House at Bottineau Winter Park – North Dakota’s first adaptive ski facility to teach disabled children, young adults, and wounded warriors how to ski.** The facility is being built in honor of Ann Nelson, a resident of Stanley, North Dakota who was the only North Dakota resident to perish in the World Trade Center attacks in New York City on 9/11.

### THE FACILITY

Annie’s House will be a two and one-half story, 12,000 square foot ski lodge that will replace the existing lodge at Bottineau Winter Park with a new facility designed to accommodate the needs of skiers with both physical and cognitive disabilities from across North Dakota and neighboring Manitoba. Approximately 50% the public space in the new facility will support the adaptive ski program and needs of disabled skiers and their families. This will be the first facility in North Dakota focused on empowering disabled skiers and their families to enjoy outdoor sports during winter while also providing a year-round facility to accommodate other adaptive sports like fishing, canoeing, waterskiing, and horseback riding.

### THE PROGRAM

Annie’s House will provide an integrated, adaptive ski facility and program to accommodate the special needs of **disabled children and young adults with both cognitive disabilities such as autism, mental retardation, and Down’s Syndrome, and physical disabilities such as blindness, cerebral palsy, and spinal cord injuries.** In addition, Annie’s House will be designed to provide adaptive ski equipment and programs for **wounded warriors** who returned from Iraq and Afghanistan challenged with physical disabilities resulting from amputation and traumatic brain injury.

### THE NEED

In the ten counties in North Dakota currently served by Bottineau Winter Park there are an estimated 2,800 children receiving special education services. The above numbers do not include the population of children and young adults with cognitive and physical disabilities on the Canadian side of the border in Manitoba. Nor do these numbers include wounded warriors going through warrior transition programs.

### PARTNERSHIPS

Annie’s House will be modeled after The Adaptive Sports Foundation in Windham, NY, the country’s only stand alone ski lodge dedicated to serving the needs of disabled children, young adults, and wounded warriors. In addition, over the past four months, we have received very positive feedback on the need for and viability of Annie’s House from leading social service organizations across North Dakota and with whom we hope to partner with in order to plan, operate, and sustain the adaptive ski program. These organizations include North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, Family Voices of North Dakota, North Dakota Association of Community Providers, Anne Carlson Center, Special Olympics of North Dakota, Easter Seals, and Minot State University Special Education Department.

### ECONOMIC IMPACT

Based on ski industry research and the experience of The Adaptive Sports Foundation, it is estimated that for every \$1 spent on empowering a disabled skier the opportunity to ski, \$7 is generated for the local resort community. This multiplier is a result of the family joining the disabled skier on the slopes and at the resort (usually both parents and one sibling), as well as the incremental revenue generated from rentals, lessons, tickets, food, and lodging generated by the entire family. Also, as Bottineau Winter Park is currently used primarily by day trippers, Annie’s House has the significant potential to transform Bottineau Winter Park into a destination resort for skiers faced with cognitive and physical disabilities and their families from a much wider radius than the resort currently serves.

### FINANCIAL NEEDS & TIMING

New York Says Thank You Foundation and Bottineau Winter Park are seeking to raise \$1,500,000 to help finance the building materials and related construction costs to build Annie’s House. This grant will leverage an estimated \$300,000 in volunteer labor and donated materials. Construction will begin August 2011 with the goal of having Annie’s House operational for the 2011-2012 winter ski season. Donations to support this effort are tax deductible via the 501c3 of New York Says Thank You Foundation. **\$200,000 has already been pledged in a matching grant through The New York Says Thank You Foundation to initiate the capital campaign to build Annie’s House.**

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