

ZACK'S PLACE ADAPTIVE SKI PROGRAM

Quechee 2024 Uphill Challenge

January 2024

Ski Program at Saskadena 6 with Vermont Adaptive

The adaptive sports program at Zack's Place offers a variety of sports including skiing, cycling, pickleball, golf, bowling, snowshoeing, kayaking, and canoeing. Our ski season starts each year in January at Saskadena 6 and we partner with Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sport (VASS).

VASS has well-trained volunteers in each sport they assist with. This popular Zack's Place program has grown in participant numbers with over 20 participants skiing each week. VASS volunteers bring equipment so that non-mobile participants can ski in a Bi-ski with several volunteers, and they can also teach visually impaired participants to ski. Many participants are learning from the very beginning, and the success and accomplishments we experience are genuinely emotional. It's amazing to see a participant go from simply walking in boots at the beginning of the season to zipping down the main chairlift trail at the end of the season, all while sharing the experience with whoever happens to be skiing that day.

The other sports are equally inspiring, with participants cycling on various equipment or canoeing in the lake with friends. All sports are free to our participants, but they cost Zack's Place at a per-person rate. For skiing, the per-person charge is \$40.00, and this usually adds up to more than \$800 per week. We usually ski for eight weeks throughout the season, totaling costs of the program north of \$6,000. The Annual Quechee Uphill Challenge is an exciting fundraising event that offers Zack's Place as the beneficiary, and it is much needed. We invite retirees and Quechee members to come observe this exciting program.



The Norton Family



Our family loves to ski every Wednesday at Saskadena 6. It's a special day for our daughter Erin as she gets to ski with her friends. We also enjoy meeting with the volunteers at VASS and our friends at Zack's Place who have become like family to us.

Helen, Emmett ad Erin

