



#

Running Blind Annual Report 2020

June 30, 2021

Hello friends, Running Blind members and supporters! 2020 was a tough year for everyone with Covid running rampant, and that included Running Blind. We suspended most of our activities for the year, as pairing new runners was not really feasible, and with a minimum of support in general, I've been kinda running on fumes lately on this and some other things in my life. How to regenerate some energy and enthusiasm for the pairing work that we did for some years will be a challenge. One pair of runners is still going strong however – that being **Sile O'Modhrain and her guide Mikel Rubio**. They have been paired up for about 4 years and have set a record by far for the longest lasting pair of any we have helped set up. (Most pairing seem to last about 6 months it seems, for various reasons.)

2020 Boating Adventure Day a big success in spite of all challenges!

We did host one wonderful event in 2020 – a smaller version of our always popular Adventure Camp boating day up at Lake Charlevoix. Since all of OUB (Adventures Unlimited for the Blind – the group we partner with for the Adventure Camps) held all of their camps virtually – even the adventure camp. But the staff members were onsite and Gwen (Botting) wanted to reward them with one real activity, so the staff all headed up to the lake for one day, and we all got into the big pontoon boat I rented and headed out on the lake for a day of boating and tubing just like with the kids. (Most of the staff members aren't that far removed from being kids themselves!) I was happy to be able to provide this exciting event for the staff to have as a culmination to the summer, and they enjoyed it as always.



Images from the 2020 OUB Charlevoix Adventure Day

2021 OUB Adventure Camp & Running Blind's Boating Adventure Day is on the way very soon!!!

We are again planning on hosting a one day Boating Adventure again in 2021. The boating day on Lake Charlevoix has become a favorite with the group, and I am proud to sponsor that activity as the final event of the final 2021 camp. The adventure camp is really popular with the kids (and the staff members) and the boating day is a fantastic way to end the camp and the OUB summer season for the kids and the staffers. The special connection between Running Blind and OUB allows this event to thrive when it would probably not be possible for OUB to provide something like this otherwise – my connection to Lake Charlevoix, boating experience and ability to fund the event makes all of the difference in keeping this event going strong.

Running Blind 2021 Fundraising Campaign *(See our donations link)*

I am kicking off another annual fundraising campaign to support the financial commitment needed to meet our commitment for the upcoming Adventure Camp. Last year's efforts netted just enough to cover the expenses for the boating day, so that was great. **With additional support, we could offer more than we do now, and also create a more stable ability to plan and budget for staff support and activities.** If you can consider supporting our 2021 campaign with even \$30, that would be fantastic and if so I can promise you two things: 1) all the money you donate will be spent wisely helping people that benefit greatly from our support, 2) your name will be listed on our website as a supporter and 3) you feel better about yourself and the world you live in! (The third one is a bonus!) How can you beat all that?! I hope you consider supporting us and I hope we all continue to regain a more normal life in 2021.

Thanks to our guides & our donors! *(All donors listed on the website.)*

Our efforts won't work without both financial support and the committed support of our volunteer guides. Thanks to all of you, and keep on runnin'!

Hal Wolfe - Running Blind Director & Founder

e-mail: runlikehal@yahoo.com

website: www.runningblind.org