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## **Running Blind Annual Report 2021**

**February 18, 2022**

**Hello friends, Running Blind members and supporters!** 2021 was another difficult year with Covid again playing a major role in everyone's lives. Despite the difficulties, the OUB Adventure Camp partnership continued, and we worked together with them for a beautiful boating adventure day on Lake Charlevoix. I added a special opportunity and brought for two visually impaired friends along who volunteered to help with the boating day. (My sister also joined in.) The three of them all joined in and helped out with the boating day, which was fun for them good help for OUB and their campers.

### **2021 OUB / RB Boating Adventure Day a big success!**

OUB returned to in person camps this year, so we partnered with them for a wonderful boating adventure day on Lake Charlevoix. The group was a bit smaller than some, but it worked out well as the size allowed everyone to fit on the big 14-person boat I rented for the event. In most years, we'd have to divide the group in two and split time on the boat vs time on shore, but this year everyone who wanted to go all fit on the boat together, so they all got plenty of time in the water being dragged behind the boat, which is the treasured activity that the campers and staffers all love to do. (Check out the trip report under the "About Us / Adventure Camp" website link.) It was a wonderful day with great weather and a whole lot of fun. I also sprang for a Subway lunch for everyone which made things a lot easier for the OUB staff, who were short-staffed and were a bit ragged at this point, as this was the last day of a longer U.P. trip they made. The addition of the 3 adult volunteers I brought (Geri Feigelson, Cheryl Wade and my sister Anne Wolfe) worked out well. They helped on shore and took care of the lunch and snacks for everyone. The 3 of them stayed for the rest of the weekend and we had more time to explore the Charlevoix area together, including a nice boat ride in the pontoon boat after the campers all had to leave. All in all, it was a wonderful event and a great weekend. (I have been considering organizing small scall up-North adventure weekends for blind adults, so this weekend was a first shot at doing that.)

### **2022 adventures are still taking shape!**

At this early date (in February) it is not clear if OUB will be hosting an adventure camp that we can support again in 2022. Their group had a number of difficulties in 2021, and like many small organizations, they work on a shoe-string budget so funding and in particular finding suitable staff members is always a difficult issue for them. I hope it works out as the Adventure Camps and boating adventure days have been the best thing Running Blind has been offering for the past few years. We'll see soon enough.

## Our entire group at the 2021 Boating Adventure Day on Lake Charlevoix



**Back Row:** Angela Smith (staff), Erica (Camper), Hal, Wolff (Running Blind founder), Kaitlin (staff), Halen Rice (staff), Emerson (camper), Avery (camper), Isaac (camper), Isaaah (counselor,staff), Gwen Botting (OUB Exec Director), Rosanna Scott (counselor, staff), Cheryl Wade and Saline (volunteer).

**Front Row:** Anne Wolfe (volunteer), Justine (staff), Geri Feigelson and Sullie (volunteer), Victoria (camper), Jenna Scott (Hidden - counselor, staff), and Aric Wallace (OUB Camp Director). Photo by Angie Campoli (staff nurse)

## Running Blind 2022 Fundraising Campaign *(See our donations link)*

I will be kicking off an annual fundraising campaign to support the financial commitment needed to meet our commitments for 2022. Donations in 2021 fell short of meeting our commitments but we were able to cover the small loss with savings. Not to sound like a broken record, but ***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 2022 campaign with as little as \$30, that would be fantastic. As always, **I 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 really hope we are all able to return to a normal life in 2022.

**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 Wolff** - Running Blind Director & Founder

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