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# BORP E-News

**Fall 2012**

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## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

After seven months in the Executive Director's seat at BORP I am beginning to get a good feel for the organization. On October 6th, along with many of you, I had a tremendous time at the 2012 Revolution. As I said at the Rev, it was one of the best events I have ever been involved with—just an incredible day. And thanks to a very supportive BORP community we raised over \$168,000, which will provide core funding for the entire spectrum of our 2012-13 programming.

As you all know, BORP is a special organization with a very important mission. After 36 years,

BORP has emerged as a leader in the adaptive sports & recreation field and is a model for other organizations that do similar work in communities across the United States. We have a strong foundation with which to move into the future. One of our challenges is to develop a long range plan aimed at extending our reach and impact. I firmly believe that we have something to offer every person in the region that has a physical disability. To read the testimonials of individuals and families who have participated in one or more of BORP's programs reminds me that we are in the business of changing lives for the better in a very big way!



Toward that end we have decided to engage in a strategic planning process over the next several months. As I have learned, the most important part of strategic planning is getting information and feedback from various stakeholders on key strategic issues. For example, one such issue revolves around our need for our own gym/recreational facility. Right now we primarily use two facilities in Berkeley for our Youth and Adult Sports Programs, but we are at the mercy of other organizations and under the constant threat that these facilities will not be available over the long term. It's time we develop a lasting, permanent solution, one that will assure us that many of our core programs can grow and develop to meet a larger need.

We have created a [short survey](#) to allow you to weigh in on BORP's future. Please take a few minutes to provide us with your thoughts. I look forward to hearing from you, and in the meantime, I wish everyone a very peaceful Thanksgiving holiday.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Smith".

Rick Smith  
Executive Director

[Take the BORP Strategic Planning Survey](#)

## 10th Annual Revolution - It's a Wrap!

The 2012 Revolution Ride and Festival marked the 10th Annual 'Rev' in BORP's history and was a smashing success by any measure. Thanks to the efforts of 240 riders (including 56 adaptive riders), 120 volunteers, and over 1700 individual donors, the Rev raised over \$168,000 for BORP's core adaptive sports and recreation programs. Thanks to all who participated and worked so hard to make the day so memorable.



Special recognition is in order to the four teams that raised over \$10,000:

Special Need for Speed: \$18,425

Velaraptors: \$14,000

Downey's Cycle Vision: \$11,550

DFL's: \$10,488

And cheers to Robert Doty who was our top individual fund raiser with over \$7,500 raised for BORP programs!

**Save the Date: The 2013 Revolution will be held on September 28, 2013.**

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## Upcoming Events

**November 18 - Goalball Tournament** at James Kenney Recreation Center



**December 1 - Power Soccer Tournament** at James Kenney Recreation Center

**December 8 & 9 - Youth Wheelchair Basketball Tournament** at James Kenney Recreation Center

**December 16 - BORP Holiday Party** at Ed Roberts Campus. All members of the BORP community are invited!

**December 29 - Jordan Kocian Youth Sled Hockey Tournament** at the Oakland Ice Center

**February 23 - Poker Slam at ERC** benefitting the Power Soccer program

Check out the [BORP Events Calendar](#) for more upcoming events and activities.

## Jr. Adventures



This summer, BORP's Jr. Adventures Program went on a few action-packed outings. Twice, Jr. Adventurers went waterskiing. The kids also accepted the "Ultimate Adventure Challenge" for 2012 on a trip to Yosemite National Park!



### Waterskiing

Once again our Jr. Adventures Program partnered with DSUSA to offer waterskiing for our youth participants. Because of the popularity of the activity, we offered two separate days to include as many kids as possible. Eleven kids took part and both days were full of sun, excitement, wipe-outs, and plenty of smiles. Bella's ear-to-ear smile (above, left) stole the show the first day, and later in the summer it was Zach (right) who showed off his wakeboarding skills.



### Yosemite

This trip was billed as our "Ultimate Adventure Challenge" for 2012. The challenge was a hike to Vernal Falls in Yosemite Valley, CA. The path itself is paved for the majority of the way, but because of the steep elevation gains throughout the trail, it is definitely not easy. The rules for the challenge were simple: the kids had to do as much as they could on their own. The hike is just under one mile each way and took nearly four hours for the kids to complete. The five kids that accepted the challenge were able to get to one of the most beautiful and recognizable places in the valley. Despite being paved, very few people in wheelchairs use the trail and never get to see that part of the valley. The trip definitely lived up to expectations. The day concluded with a swim in the Merced River before heading home.



Waterskiing and a return to Yosemite will be on our 2013 Jr. Adventures calendar. Be ready!

## BORP-AmeriCorps Partnership

BORP has partnered with AmeriCorps to provide two AmeriCorps members the opportunity to work part-time at BORP through June 2013.

### Meet our AmeriCorps members:



Born and raised in Oakland, Ola developed his passion for working with the community at a young age. A graduate of Cal State University of the Eastbay where he studied Sociology, he comes to BORP to continue his career in social services, specifically in the nonprofit arena. He enjoys playing all types sports and loves music.

**Ola Akintunde**



Ben, a Bay Area native, grew up in Oakland enjoying sports and the outdoor opportunities Northern California provides. After studying Kinesiology at Chico State, Ben returned to Oakland and began working with youth as an Outdoor Activity Coordinator for K-5 and as a high school baseball coach.

**Ben Burg**

### About AmeriCorps:

Each year, [AmeriCorps](#) offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups across the USA.



## Youth in Action

Christie Levine, a member of the BORP Varsity basketball team was presented with the City of Oakland's Commission on Disabilities annual "Youth in Action" award at City Hall on October 24.

Christie plays on the BORP Varsity wheelchair basketball team, helps out with the Prep team, and has participated in almost every Jr. Adventure activity BORP has offered. She rode in the Rev this year and pushes her chair three miles every Saturday to basketball practice.

Congratulations Christie on this well deserved award!!



## NEW DOOR Program

BORP is partnering with the World Institute on Disability (WID) on a new program called NEW DOOR: Nutrition, Exercise, Weight-Management & Disability Obesity Options and Resources. The community-based program will educate, engage, and inspire people with disabilities and their families to learn about and integrate nutrition and physical fitness activities into their daily lives.

BORP & WID are seeking individuals who are interested in becoming Peer Fitness Leaders for the program. Peer Fitness Leaders will receive training to become peer mentors for individuals with physical disabilities. Mentor will help participants to discover fun, active ways to get fit and healthy and to make healthy food choices around weight management, energy and long-range health.



Major components of the training program will include:

1. Effective outreach and screening of applicants to assess readiness for the program.
2. A simple, workable counseling approach, easily acquired by beginners, with expansion of skills for experienced peer counselors.
3. A cross-disability, fully inclusive training curriculum with a focus on both personal growth and community contribution.
4. Fun, built-in incentives, including certificates, peer recognition at events, donated gift cards, and acquisition of marketable skills.

For more information on the NEW DOOR Program visit [WID's website](#).

For information on being considered as Peer Fitness Leader, contact Reba Knickbocker, BORP Fitness Coordinator at [reba@borp.org](mailto:reba@borp.org) or call (510) 849-4663 x1319.

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## USA U23 Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team



On October 21 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO the nation's top male wheelchair basketball players (under age 23) were invited to try out for the USA U23 National Team that will compete in the Jr. World Championships next September in Adana, Turkey.

Of the 32 athletes that were invited, two have a connection to BORP. Jorge Sanchez, a graduate from BORP's basketball program and a current University of Texas-Arlington student-athlete, had a great tryout. His ability to run the court with control and composure sealed him a spot on the 18 man roster that will be cut down to the final 12 next Spring.

James Bohnett, the current Captain of the BORP Varsity team had a really good tryout and barely missed the cut. James worked incredibly hard and made a great impression on the selection committee, and will most likely be invited back in four years for the next games.

Additionally, BORP's Youth Sports Programs Coordinator, Trooper Johnson, was selected as an Assistant Coach of the U23 team. Congrats to Jorge, James, and Trooper for their outstanding efforts!

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## 'Jonathalon' Interest Survey

In 2013, BORP will celebrate several significant milestones. Click the survey link below to find out what they are!

In honor of these impressive achievements, we are considering hosting a first-of-its-kind fundraiser called the "Jonathalon" in late April. The Jonathalon (as we are imagining it) would be a day long event in which teams of 3-6 people would compete in a unique triathlon of BORP sports (consecutively, not simultaneously): Goalball, Power Soccer and Wheelchair Basketball.

We want your input! Please take a moment to fill out a brief survey gauging your interest in the Jonathalon.

[\*\*Take the Jonathalon Survey!\*\*](#)

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