

Making a DIFFERENCE



MOLLY SERVINE'S WORK AT WINTERGREEN ADAPTIVE SPORTS

*Name: Molly Servine
Family Names: Dirk, Robin, Sarah, Jane
and Brady the dog!
Street Address: Tanglewood Road in Flatiron*



Molly with other volunteers at WAS

Molly Servine has truly been making a difference this year, volunteering her time at Wintergreen's Adaptive Sports program. The program is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through outdoor sports and recreation. Over the past 20 years, the program has provided instruction in skiing, snowboarding, canoeing and kayaking to over 2,500 students

with amputations, autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, visual impairments, multiple sclerosis, spina bifida and disabilities related to spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries.

Molly was drawn to the organization because she is quite a prolific skier—she used to ski competitively—but she wanted to find another way to use her abilities. A friend of Molly's had volunteered with WAS and had a great experience, so volunteering was a natural fit!

Molly's main responsibility is to assist with the lessons. She helps the lead instructor teach the students. Students follow her down the slope, copying her turns or wedge. She also helps to tether the student, which is a process where she is able to help a student who struggles with balance, turns or speed control; she holds ropes that are attached to the student's feet, and then she is able to slow them down and facilitate turning. Molly also helps load students onto the chair lift, particularly if they are in sit-down equipment such as a bi-ski.

Admittedly, sometimes the teaching and a student's progress are slow coming, but with baby steps, Molly is convinced that everyone is capable of loving the sport. Molly benefits from her volunteer work in many ways, but most importantly she is able to enjoy, "the happiness that comes with helping others. It feels amazing to help a child learn new things or feel the wind on their faces, maybe for the first time."

If you're interested in learning more about Wintergreen Adaptive Sports, please e-mail skivolunteers@skiwass.org or visit <http://wintergreenadaptivesports.org/>.

Do you affect the lives of others through volunteer work, or are you involved with a non-profit that you're passionate about? If so, please share your story and heighten awareness of the causes that you hold close to your heart. E-mail us at krystle.myer@cpub.com.

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