

**For Immediate Release**  
**Media Contact: Allison Johnson**  
**Town of Snowmass Village**  
**(970) 704-9988**  
**aj@snowmasspress.com**



## **SNOWMASS CONTINUES WINTER SPORTS CLINIC FUNDRAISING FOR NEWLY INJURED VETERANS**

**Snowmass Village, Colorado. February 7, 2005.** Snowmass is known for more than its fantastic slopes and year-round adventure. To profoundly disabled veterans, it is also a place of hope. The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (WSC), now in its 18th year, is the largest rehabilitation event of its kind for disabled veterans in the world today. Jointly sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Disabled American Veterans, this program has been held in Snowmass for the past 5 winters and hosts approximately 400 disabled veterans a year, ranging from World War II and Korean veterans up through Vietnam and the current war in Iraq.

“Many people feel helpless about what is going on in Iraq,” says longtime instructor Neil Camas, “but we here in Snowmass feel that we can do something for our seriously wounded by providing them with this week of hope and healing.”

Last year the Snowmass community showed an unprecedented outpouring of support for disabled veterans by donating enough money to sponsor 23 newly disabled veterans from the War in Iraq (plus a family member) at the 2004 Winter Sports Clinic. While a veteran must cover airfare and room for himself/herself and a supporting family member (approximately \$1,800), all other program expenses are covered. The majority of newly injured veterans cannot afford this cost, however.

Over the past year, the war has intensified and there are now hundreds of disabled men and women. The veterans are currently recuperating from severe injuries at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C., and several are multiple amputees. These young people are going



through a very difficult period and trying to decide just what they can do with the rest of their lives. The Winters Sports Clinic offers a unique and much-needed opportunity to help veterans realize that a physical or visual disability need not be a deterrent to an active, rewarding life. Key to rehabilitation is reaching out to these young people as soon as possible after their return.

This year Snowmass hopes to match and surpass last year's goal and bring at least 75 of these newly disabled men and women to Snowmass April 3-8, 2005, to experience what has been called "Miracles on the Mountainside." To this end, the Town of Snowmass will be sending out a fundraising letter and running public service announcements asking the Aspen/Snowmass community to help sponsor these newly disabled veterans. Any level of contribution makes a difference. Please send checks made out to the Winter Sports Clinic General Fund 379 to: Alpine Bank, C/O Claire Fuller, PO Box 5490, Snowmass Village, CO 81615.

"Not only the Town of Snowmass Village, but the entire Roaring Fork Valley really reached out to embrace this phenomenal program last year," says Snowmass Village's Director of Marketing Susan Hamley. "We're hoping that generosity at least doubles this year, as the need is even more critical. The fundraising is just one more way we can show our compassion and support for these brave people who have given so much for their country, for us."

The Winter Sports Clinic has taught thousands of disabled veterans alpine and Nordic skiing as well as introducing them to a variety of adaptive sports and activities such as sledge hockey, scuba diving, horseback riding, snowmobiling, rock climbing and fly-fishing. The week also offers educational lectures, workshops, information on living with disabilities, and the chance to bond with other veterans at a variety of special events.



For media information on Snowmass' fundraising initiative or on the Winter Sports Clinic, please contact Allison Johnson at (970) 704-9988 or [aj@snowmasspress.com](mailto:aj@snowmasspress.com). For general information on Snowmass, please visit [www.snowmassvillage.com](http://www.snowmassvillage.com) or call 1-800-SNOWMASS.

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