



United States Adaptive Recreation Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

S. Mark Taper Foundation Awards United States Adaptive Recreation Center \$30,000

The United States Adaptive Recreation Center (USARC) has been awarded a generous grant from the S. Mark Taper Foundation in support of outdoor therapeutic recreation for persons with disabilities.

"We are grateful to be included in the S. Mark Taper Foundation's strong tradition of supporting the community," said Tom Peirce, a Recreation Therapist and Executive Director of the USARC.

The \$30,000 grant continues a long collaboration that has seen the S. Mark Taper Foundation previously provide \$75,000 over the years to the USARC to subsidize fees incurred by low-income residents of Southern California, facilitate the acquisition of new adaptive equipment, and train hundreds of volunteers annually.

Located in Big Bear Lake in the heart of the San Bernardino Mountains, the USARC utilizes grant funding from the S. Mark Taper Foundation and other foundations to offset the costs of providing its unique and life-changing programs in the winter and summer seasons. Since the winter of 1987-88 thousands of persons with disabilities have passed through the doors of the USARC, which has afforded access to the chairlifts of Bear Mountain Resort and the sparkling blue waters of Big Bear Lake.

Peirce stated, "To share with our program participants this beautiful mountain environment, and in the process using exciting and challenging activities to help them transform their lives, is truly a privilege." A fundamental tenet of the recreation therapy profession is to utilize leisure activities to enhance health, functional abilities, independence and overall quality of life. "Success in these challenging activities provides numerous benefits," says Peirce, "improving their physical, psycho-social, and emotional well-being."

"Access is not just ramps and curb cuts," Peirce adds. "Economic accessibility is just as important, and with the S. Mark Taper Foundation as a 15-year partner in our mission, our programs remain financially available to all."

Reflecting the USARC mission, the S. Mark Taper Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of people's lives.

S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION