



FreedomWaters
Foundation

2023 Impact Report



Poised for Growth

Ahoy, Freedom Waters Foundation Family and Friends,

Thank you for another incredible year of providing therapeutic boat outings for all our participants, those with special needs and veterans. With just 3 full time and 2 part time employees most of this year, and with the help over 400 volunteers, by December 31, we will provide over **4500 on the water experiences. That's close to 1000 more than last year!**

Imagine a parent with tears in their eyes saying,

"Thank you for this boat outing. We didn't think we could ever go boating with our child and you made it possible. I haven't seen him smile in over two years until today."

Think about a veteran with PTSD and a TBI, hiding out at home,

only venturing out to grocery shop, in the middle of the night to avoid any potential conflict or trigger. That veteran is invited to come boating with Freedom Waters Foundation and finds a safe place for camaraderie; a loving, caring community; and goes home renewed and ready to venture into a new way of being.

For 17 years, Freedom Waters Foundation has been dedicated to our mission of **Enhancing the lives of children, individuals with special needs and veterans by providing therapeutic boat experiences.**

This year, we have had the privilege of having **three new Board Members** join us: **Ed Dernulc**, Director of the Foundation at Fabricators and Manufacturing Association and father of one our participants. **Scott Ward**, Vice President and General Manager of Freedom Boat Club Corporate-Owned Territory, and **Dr. Thomas Dammrich**, former President of National Marine Manufacturers Association. Scott and Thom have been following Freedom Waters Foundation since its inception, and as a compliment to us, are honored to serve on our Board of Directors.

We are poised for growth. I am in awe as to how far this organization has come since I started it with \$1000 and no idea what I was doing. I am excited to see where it will go, and how many more we can serve, well into the future.

Thank you for joining us in **Sharing Freedom and Joy on and off the Water!**

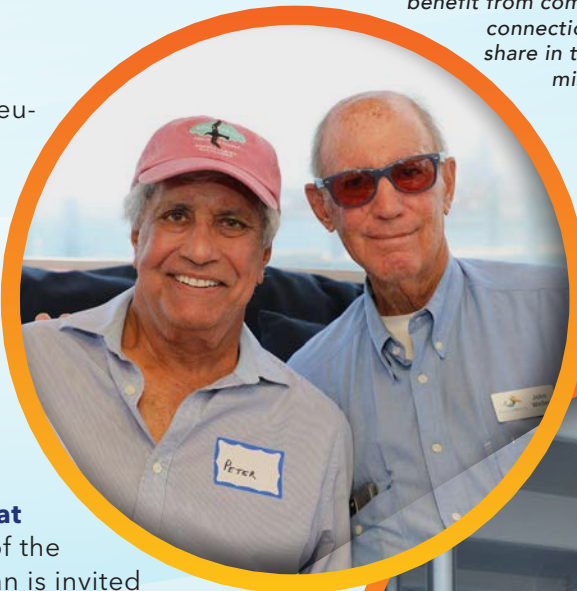
Together, we make it happen for others!

Debra S. Frenkel, LCSW

Debra S. Frenkel, LCSW
Founder/Executive Director

Peter Brown – "Through John Weller's commitment, I realized that FWF had identified and focused on overlooked groups who could benefit from compassionate attention. He, and Debby, marshaled their connections in the marine community and I greatly respect and share in their commitment. I feel a personal connection to their mission and am proud to be part of the Freedom Waters Foundation family."

**John Weller, Co-Founder and Peter Brown,
Donor and Volunteer**



AnnaMaria Seward – "Parker loves being in and on the water! Freedom Waters Foundation has given Parker all the boating opportunities he has ever had and there have been many. We have been involved since he was 5 and he is now, 20. We are so grateful for these boating experiences and all the joyful memories we have as a family because of them."

**Debra Frenkel, Co-Founder and Executive Director and Parker Seward, Participant
testimony from Mom**



Mission Statement

Our mission is to enhance the lives of children, individuals with special needs, and veterans by providing therapeutic boat experiences.



Programs We Provide

- "Weller Day" Boat Outings (local therapeutic boat outings)
- Adaptive Sailing and Regatta
- Fishing and Tournaments
- Veterans Programs



Who We Serve

- Children and individuals with special needs
- Children and individuals with life-threatening illnesses
- Veterans and active-duty military
- Youth at-risk



Our Impact



2000 Children Served

1700

Veterans Served

800

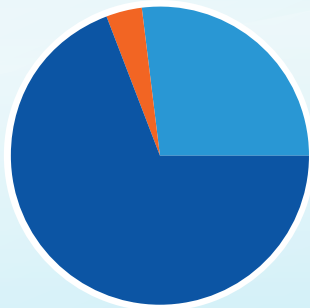
Adults Served



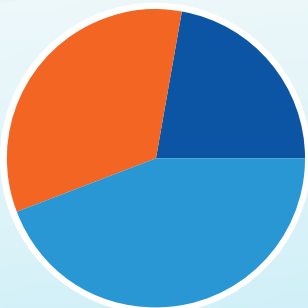
4500 water experiences



215 Volunteered Vessels



- Donations
- Donations with Restrictions
- In Kind Donations



- Fundraising
- Programs
- Administration

REVENUE		EXPENSES	
Donations	\$554,497	Administration	\$270,417
Donations with Restrictions	\$30,000	Programs	\$206,773
In Kind Donations	\$215,192	Fundraising	\$134,228
TOTAL	\$799,689	TOTAL	\$611,418
		NET ASSETS	\$188,271



3 full-time staff 2 part-time staff 400 volunteers



PARTNER AGENCIES WE SUPPORT

SWFL 54 | SEFL 40 | GEORGIA 23 | INDIANA 18

Agencies We Serve

Florida West Coast - Collier and Lee Counties

- Able Academy
- AVOW
- Barron Collier High School
- Best Buddies
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Cancer Alliance of Naples
- Candlelighters
- City of Naples Therapeutic Day Camp
- Collier County Parks and Recreation
- Collier County Public Schools
- EasterSeals
- Expanding Possibilities
- FGCU
- FGCU's Veterans Program
- Fish With a Hero
- Friends of Rookery Bay
- Galisano Children's Hospital
- Golden Gate High School
- Gulf Coast Veterans and Friends
- Help a Diabetic Child
- Hodges University's Veterans Program
- Home Base
- JDRF
- Justin's Place
- Lighthouse of Collier
- Little Pink House of Hope
- Masterpiece School for Autism
- MS Gals
- Nami
- Naples High School
- Naples Therapeutic Riding Center
- Naples Women Shelter
- NCH
- New Horizons of Southwest Florida
- Pace Center for Girls
- Possibilities
- Project Build of SWFL
- Project Search
- Protected Harbor
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- St. Matthews House
- Starability
- Sunshine Kids
- Take a Soldier Fishing
- The Learning Center
- The Life Project
- Unity Youth Services
- Valerie's House
- Vet Center of Collier County
- Veterans Council
- Waterfront Warrior South
- YMCA
- Youth Haven

Florida East Coast - Broward and Palm Beach Counties

- American Legion #36 - SR 84
- American Legion Post 199
- American Legion Post 321 Cooper City
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Boward
- Bowtie Kids
- Boys & Girls Club
- Broward Health/Salah Foundation
- Children's Hospital
- ChildNet
- Community Foundation of Broward
- David Feldman MD- Orthopedics)
- Deerfield Beach VA Clinic
- Deliver the Dream
- Epilepsy Alliance Florida
- Fort Lauderdale Vet Center
- Friendship Circle of Las Olas
- Gilda's Club South Florida
- Heart Gallery of Broward County
- Hollywood VA Clinic
- Irreverent Warriors
- JDRF - Broward
- Jessica June Kids Cancer Foundation
- Joe Dimaggio Childrens Hospital
- Jupiter Vet Center
- Kids Cancer Foundation
- Kids in Distress/Family Central
- Kids of Love Foundation
- Paley Institute (Kids Orthopedics)
- Palm Beach Children's Hospital

Georgia

- Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center
- American Legion Post 140
- American Legion
- Atlanta Veterans Association
- Bald Ridge Lodge
- Blaze Sports
- Cast for Kids
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Cure Childhood Cancer
- Dept of Veterans Services
- Great Prospects Inc
- Legion Post 239
- Lekotek
- Northside Hospital
- Rally Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House of Atlanta
- Special Olympics
- United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia
- Vet Center Atlanta
- Veterans Consulting Services
- Veterans Empowerment organization
- VFW Post 29
- Wounded Warriors

Indiana

- Aspire Indiana
- CareSource
- HopeBridge
- Indiana State Reserve
- Indiana University
- Indianapolis Recruiting BN
- Indianapolis VA
- Indianapolis VA Medical Center
- InteCare
- Irreverent Warriors Indianapolis
- Johnson County Armory
- Purple Heart Homes
- Special Olympics
- Stonebelt
- Veterans Support Council (VSC) & the Mayors' Advisory Council for Veterans (MACV)
- VOA Community Outreach
- Wayne Township Veteran Service
- Wounded Warrior

Wisconsin 6

- Howard Young Medical Center
- Star Gazers Academy
- Lakeland Union High School
- WEAP
- YMCA Family Camp Nawakwa
- Howard Young Medical Center



Thank You to Our Major 2023 Supporters

Best in Boating	Port Royale Marina
Bluefoot Pirate Adventure	Pure Florida
Dillman's Bay Resort	Seminole Casino Immokalee
FineMark National Bank & Trust	Silicon Valley Foundation
Fourwinds Lakeside Inn and Marina	The Dock at Crayton Cove
Freedom Boat Club	The Dykema Family Foundation
GRMC Lending	The John Ulbrich Charitable Trust
International Yacht Brokers Association	The League Club
JetRide Boat Club	The Naples Princess
Jim Moran Foundation	The Wellington Group at Morgan Stanley
Keenan Marina	Winterfest Inc./ The Winterfest Foundation
Lacks Enterprises	Total Wine
Macchia Foundation	Tower Hill Insurance
Marine Industries Association of Collier County	Trinity By the Cove
Marine Industries Association of South Florida	Walmart
MarineMax	Walter Duke + Partners
MarineMax Yacht	Water Taxi Fort Lauderdale
Mariner III	WaWa
N2N Homes	Yamaha
	Zehr Center Orthopedics



Mark Your Calendars!

Kind Mariners Ball - **February 22, 2024**

Water Safety Family Fun Day - **March 10, 2024**

Port Royale Marina Weller Days - **September 7 and 8, 2024**

Fourwinds Lakeside Inn and Marina Weller Days - **August 17 and 18, 2024**



How You Can Help

There are many ways to become involved with Freedom Waters Foundation, and each one ensures we can offer more participants a memorable experience on the water.

Donate or Sponsor

- Donate online
- Become a corporate sponsor
- Join the Treasured Friends monthly giving program
- Host a cultivating event, inviting your friends and family to learn about Freedom Waters Foundation
- Host a social media fundraiser

Please Give Today!

Thank you!



Volunteer

- Boat owners, share your love of being on the water and your vessels with us - all boat sizes are appreciated, and you can participate as often as you'd like
- Give a helping hand on an outing and interact with our participants
- Help maintain the boats, teach others to sail, or manage registration with our Adaptive Sailing program
- Teach participants how to bait hooks and catch and release fish with our fishing programs
- Come down to our office and assist with mailings, data entry, and more
- Capture beautiful memories for our participants with your photography and/or videography talents
- Join an event committee
- Be a Freedom Waters Foundation Ambassador in your community

For more information about volunteering, contact
mgavin@freedomwatersfoundation.org (SWFL)
or rmeagher@freedomwatersfoundation.org (SEFL).

Participant Testimonials



I am writing to thank you. Yesterday the children had an incredible time. They really enjoyed fishing. They are older and had more control over the fishing rod, and they caught a lot. Thank you. I had not seen Matías so happy with an activity.

With our sincere thanks,

Katherine Hermosa



Your generosity enabled over 100 veterans, service members and their families to enjoy a great day on the water with their fellow veterans. Everyone from the ship's Captain to your volunteers were professional, helpful, insightful, and pleasant.

Larry Whitmore, MSW

Lt Col USAF, Retired



FreedomWaters
Foundation

Sharing Freedom and Joy on and off the Water!

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