

New Mexico Ski Hall of Fame

2013



Christi Hield

Christi Hield was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1963. After graduating from high school in 1981, Christi moved to New Mexico to attend UNM in 1982. She received a degree in Recreation Therapy in 1986 and shortly thereafter married Steve Hield. They both joined the Adaptive Ski Program as volunteers in 1990 to serve the community and pursue their ski passion. It did not take long before volunteering became dear to her heart. Christi taught people with cognitive disabilities for several seasons when the ASP founder, Ken Ley, recognized her talents and persuaded her to take on the role of Executive Director in 1994.

During her tenure as Executive Director, which continued until 2006, the program grew to more than 100 volunteers at both Sandia Peak and Ski Santa Fe, while over 1000 adaptive student lessons were taught every season. During this period, the Hield's moved to Santa Fe and had 2 children.

Under Christi's leadership the Adaptive Ski Program experienced substantial growth and by the time of her retirement, the program had a large surplus bank account plus both ski areas had dedicated buildings to house the equipment vital for student lessons.

Christi left a lasting impression at Ski Santa Fe and Sandia Peak, her energy was infectious and helped attract volunteers and students alike. Her work with the disabled community and ASP volunteers was invaluable. She can take credit for taking the organization to where it is today as she laid a solid foundation for future generations. In 1999, the NM legislature recognized her substantial contribution to the disabled community in New Mexico.

While many students and volunteers lives were positively impacted by Christi, her life was enriched by her 16 years experience in working with the disabled community. Her legacy is the strength and recognition of the programs at both Ski Santa Fe and Sandia Peak where there is an annual waiting list of volunteers available to carry out the work started by Ken Ley and consolidated by Christi Hield.

