

Climbing For Life News

April 2005 Edition

FROM THE (OUTGOING) CHAIR

Hello CFL volunteers and supporters. CFL is wrapping up a very successful BELAY season, and getting started with our summer programs. There is so much news to tell, including a new chairman, a new board member, a collaboration plan, and a new focus on our mission.

First things first - Eric Peers accepted the role as Chairman of the Board. I am now President and acting Treasurer. Brad Schildt continues as our Board Secretary. We also added a new Board member - Tim Ryan, who brings climbing experience and leadership to our BELAY program. Please welcome and support them in their new roles.

Sheryl Davidson opted to retire from the Board, but remains a very active volunteer. Sheryl has done so much for CFL in the past two years, including Treasurer, manager of the volunteer pro-deals, and successful grant writer for the Laura Musser Fund Grant. We will miss Sheryl's leadership immensely, and thank her for all she has done for Climbing For Life.

The Board of Directors met for the annual meeting and retreat on February 13. It was a good day of discussion and planning. We also got in a couple hours of climbing at Table Mountain! Many new ideas surfaced concerning the future of CFL. Our long-range goal is to focus on our BELAY (mentoring) program and make it year-round. We plan to expand again to three client organizations. We all agreed that we need funding to retain a staff and grow our programs.

Climbing For Life plans to expand our programs by collaborating with Big City Mountaineers (see News). We also continue to seek qualified youth for the Outward Bound West Scholarship program.

In 2005 we will again be a working board - volunteers, facilitators, site managers, medical support, BELAY program coordinators, and mentors. Please sign up for BELAY or summer programs, and offer to help with the office and program activities. We need all the help we can get and appreciate your support. - Gary gprice@climbingforlife.org

Climbing For Life Grants

Climbing For Life expects to receive grants again in 2005 from the Forest Heights Foundation and the Gay and Lesbian Fund of Colorado. We were also awarded a new grant from El Pomar Foundation. Climbing For Life has applied for state funding through the Tony Grampsis Youth Services (TGYS) Fund.

2003-04 BELAY Program A Success

(Building Effective Leadership Attributes in Youth)

Climbing for Life volunteers have just wrapped up a successful winter mentoring program for at-risk youth. Every Monday night from November to April, volunteers teamed up with youth from the I Have a Dream Foundation and Girls Inc. of Denver.

We owe the success of the BELAY program to (board members) Anne, Robin, Megan, Brad, and Tim, who accepted leadership roles. Also, Climbing For Life has a tremendous core of dedicated volunteers who made the 2004-05 BELAY program happen! Anyone interested in participating in BELAY should contact Robin at robin@uwalumni.com.

Weekend Programs

We are contacting our clients now to schedule weekend climbing programs for this summer. We have tentatively scheduled outdoor programs on May 7, June 4, July 9, July 15 and July 22. Mark your calendars!

CFL NEWS

Climbing for Life and Big City Mountaineers (BCM) are proud to announce a new collaboration. BCM, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is the country's leading volunteer organization devoted to providing positive adult role modeling during wilderness trips for urban teens participating in existing youth development programs. BCM combines the elements of a one-to-one youth to adult ratio mentoring program with an eight day backpacking trip specifically designed for this unique population.

Climbing For Life and BCM are gearing up for our 2005 season and are looking for qualified volunteers to lead our local youth groups into the Colorado wilderness. One of our goals for the upcoming year is to foster the relationships that have been made in the backcountry into everyday life. BCM would like to use the Belay program as a tool to keep the momentum of the relationships going between the leaders and youth.

BCM and Climbing for Life have come to realize together we can make a difference and impact the lives of at-risk teens through outdoor pursuits. There are many ways our programs can work together and we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Please contact gprice@climbingforlife.org or greta@bigcitymountaineers.org for information.

THANK YOU

See page 2 for our 2004 donation list and BELAY volunteer list!