



October 2023

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

*"We love interacting with the volunteers and staff at AO. They are always smiling and so friendly. They seem to love to be there, and we do too" – feedback from a community member.*

Committed volunteers, dedicated staff, great facilities and natural beauty, and your support make Ascutney Outdoors a special place for our community and destination for visitors. The breadth of activities has brought vitality to our Town, while leaving plenty of quiet time for all of us to enjoy the environs around the Ascutney Outdoors Center.

Last winter we had over 3,500 skiers and tubers on the slopes, 16 open days for local school groups to ride the rope tow for free, and we also offered cross country skiing on Mile Long Field thanks to the Swards. Over the summer, we hosted well-known events that brought approximately 4,500 outdoor recreation enthusiasts to the mountain on 5 different weekends.

Each year we strive to make our operation a little better and more sustainable for the long run. This year, we received a VOREC community grant that allowed us to upgrade the rope tow with a volunteer-friendly electric motor. It will improve reliability and increase uphill capacity for our ever-growing school program. Within our organization we took several major steps forward, most notably the hiring of Jonathan Nichols as Executive Director and expanding the operational responsibilities of Greg Smith. Jonathan and Greg have taken on many tasks which simply cannot be expected of Board members over the long term. We also added several new Board members who have brought fresh perspectives and ideas to Ascutney Outdoors.

As a non-profit organization, we **rely on financial contributions from donors like you** to maintain our breadth of activities and facilities. Your support is greatly appreciated and is what sustains us. During our 2022 Annual Fund Drive, we raised \$78,000 from over 200 donors. **Our goal for this year is \$85,000.** The amount will enable us to pay for additional staff hours while not raising prices for our programs, thereby keeping them affordable for local families.

Altogether, the Annual Fund Drive, other donations we receive throughout the year, and our “program service revenue” (lift tickets in the winter and event fees in the summer), enable us to cover nearly all our operating expenses. Make no mistake, we still run very lean, which we can do because of the boundless dedication of so many great volunteers and Board members. If you are interested in learning more, our Annual Financial Report can be found on our website at [www.ascutneyoutdoors.com/donate](http://www.ascutneyoutdoors.com/donate).

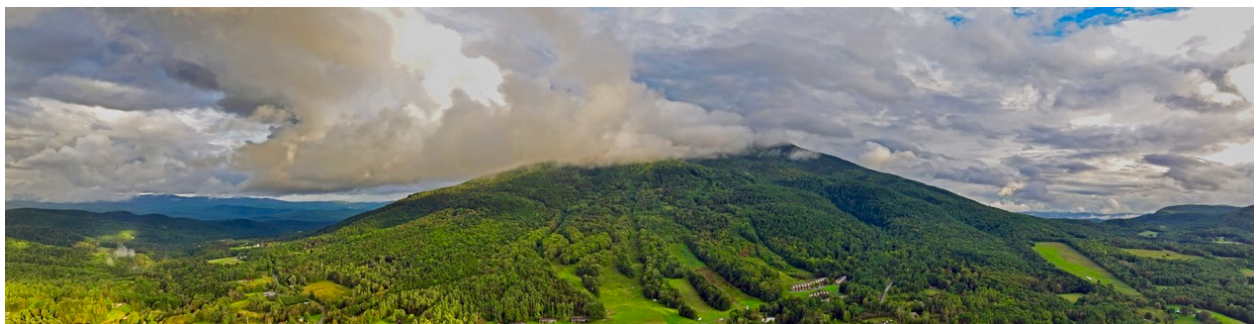
Every gift makes a real difference. **Your donations to AO stay local and are integral to helping make our community healthy and vibrant.**

Gifts to Ascutney Outdoors can be made by check to the address below or online at the above link. Also, if you know someone who is new to Town, please let them know about how important Ascutney Outdoors is to our community.

Thank you so much for your generosity and continued support.

Shelley      Steve

Shelley (Chair) and Steve C (Board fundraiser)



*Drone picture by AO Board Member Steve Giroux*

Ascutney Outdoors, Inc. PO Box 101, Brownsville VT 05037  
a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation TIN #47-5085988