

2009 Vertical Challenge for Brain Injury Awareness – A Success!

On Saturday, January 24, 2009, fifteen teams, consisting of 60 skiers, participated in the 6th Annual Vertical Challenge for Brain Injury Awareness at the Bretton Woods Resort in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. To sum it all up, it was a success! This year's event brought in over \$20,000 which will go directly to support our servicemen and women who are living with a brain injury or stroke.

Team members showed great enthusiasm before the event in raising their pledges and the monetary race was on as to which team would bring in the most amount. Four teams broke the \$1,000 pledge mark with two of those bringing in amounts just shy of \$2,000. All-ways Accessible supported the Challenge with \$1,151; NHMS-Full Tilt brought in \$1,400; Seacoast Ski Gulls pledged \$1,962; and MPZ Landscaping held the lead with \$1,970. As an incentive, Bretton Woods awarded these 4 members with lift tickets to be used at the Resort. What great efforts made by all teams participating in this year's event!

Sporting thick gloves, goggles, helmets, heavy jackets and other assortments of layered clothing to withstand the arctic winds, skiers headed to the slopes around 8:30 AM to compete in as many vertical runs as possible until the cut-off time of 12:30 PM. Teams Bee Men and Woman and Usta Bees tied the vertical run with 86 challenging runs each. However, the most exhilarating of all was team Zoe Veasey #1 with a total of 123 runs! These team members were also awarded lift tickets to be used at the Resort.

After closing the vertical runs at 1:00 PM, team members and volunteers were rewarded a well-deserved lunch of pasta, salad and garlic bread. Erin Hall, Event Coordinator, announced all the raffle prizes and awards to participants. The grand prize drawing of a weekend stay at the Mt. Washington Resort was given to Kevin Kelleher.

Special thanks go to Max Lane of the New England Patriots and Katrina Bernard, Miss Manchester, who also gave special appearances at the Vertical Challenge. Heartfelt thanks to each of you who supported these team members, as well as to the volunteers who braved the cold and came out to assist and support us for the day. Without you we could not have raised this money for such a worthy cause.

For more information about our annual Vertical Challenges and for pictures of this year's event, please visit our website, www.verticalchallengebianh.org. We hope you will consider joining us next year on Saturday, January 23, 2010.