

Cannonsburg Challenged Ski Association

January 11, 2009

All of this winter white stuff can make it difficult for those challenged with disabilities to get around. One group, the Cannonsburg Challenged Ski Association, has been giving ski lessons to those who thought it would have never been possible.

One of the participants, Chris Melton is a freshman at Zeeland East High School.

"I feel like I don't have limitations. It's the greatest feeling going down hill. Your flying cold breeze in your face, it almost feels like i was never with a disability."

Another young lady, Alison Moore, has been a part of the CCSA for at least 10 years.

"It has been a great way for me to meet friends. I really love down hill skiing."

Over 100 volunteers give many hours to teach people of all ages and disability levels this skill. The 7 week program has grown from a hand full of participants 20 years ago, to having to turn applicants away this year. The CCSA is one of only a few programs of its kind in the state.

Valerie Wallace, a long time board member and amputee herself, says the possibilities are endless.

"The only thing that can stop these people is themselves. Everyone can take part in this wonderful sport."

The group relies heavily on donations to buy specialized equipment and to cover other basic costs. You can go to their website, www.skiccsa.org, if you are interested in donating



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