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## **Pauw Foundation renews partnership with Rocky Mountain Adaptive, providing almost \$500,000 for accessibility van and new women’s sports camps**

**Banff, AB — May 6, 2024** — The Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation has renewed its ongoing partnership with Rocky Mountain Adaptive (RMA), donating \$465,000 over the next three years to ensure sport and recreational opportunities are available to everyone.

RMA has consistently identified transportation as a primary barrier to access its programs, especially those held at destinations in the mountains. To that end, a portion of the Pauw Foundation’s recent funding has been used to purchase a wheelchair-accessible van. With a flexible seating arrangement that fits five wheelchairs and 15 seats, this vehicle has proven instrumental in ensuring greater accessibility for RMA’s diverse array of programs in the Canadian Rockies.

“The Pauw Foundation and RMA have a shared mission to foster inclusion and empower everyone to experience outdoor activities,” said Cathy Geisler, Executive Director of the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation. “RMA Programs allow people of all ages and abilities to experience adaptive sports in the mountains. The accessibility van will help get participants to the ski hill, the trail, and to the water’s edge—what could be better?”

This funding will also enable the establishment of four new multi-sport camps dedicated exclusively for women in adaptive sports. Starting this year, RMA will host one week-long women’s camp each season, with the goal of increasing accessibility and addressing the unique barriers women face in adaptive activities.

“Funding from the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation is instrumental to build momentum at RMA,” said Jamie McCulloch, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Adaptive. “Interest in our programs is seeing consistent growth, and the team is always coming up with new and exciting opportunities to ensure everyone can enjoy the great outdoors.”

In addition to new programs, support from the Pauw Foundation will help facilitate free participation for attendees at RMA’s well-established Try-It Camps. These camps introduce participants to winter sports they’ve never tried before, igniting a passion and enthusiasm for adaptive sports and providing the opportunity to experience new activities.

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**About Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation**

The Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation is committed to supporting initiatives that promote community well-being and sustainability in the Bow Valley. Through strategic partnerships and thoughtful investments, the foundation strives to create positive change and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors.

**About Rocky Mountain Adaptive**

Rocky Mountain Adaptive is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing inclusive sports and recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the Canadian Rockies. With a focus on accessibility and empowerment, RMA offers adaptive programs such as skiing, rock climbing, and paddling, fostering physical activity and personal growth regardless of ability. RMA's passionate team and collaborative partnerships, creates a supportive community where everyone can thrive and experience the joy of outdoor adventure.