



LESLIE WHITE

Leslie White had been cruising the slopes of Liberty Mountain for over 3 decades. She was most often seen leading her Adaptive Skiing students or working with instructors on the fine art of guiding people with disabilities toward an active life-style on snow covered downhill or cross-country trails. She isn't a loner. She and her husband, Dick have been working as a close-knit team for most of their lives. Leslie came to the attention of the snow-sports world while leading Maryland Special Olympics programs. In recent years her Special Olympians have been holding their annual Winter Games at Pennsylvania's Whitetail Mountain. During Leslie's tenure as the games Director, she introduced the innovative unified partner's competition. It pairs



Special Olympians with family members or coaches to compete together.

But over a quarter-century ago, the Whites put central Pennsylvania and Liberty Mountain on the map as major contributors to Adaptive Skiing and snowboarding with instruction and all-terrain access. They developed the Blue Ridge Adaptive Snow Sports (BRASS) organization. Its mission was to provide opportunities for skiers with a wide range of disabilities from visual to mobility, to enjoy snow sports on equipment designed to meet their unique challenges. To achieve the mission, Leslie gathered and trained the BRASS volunteers who have been providing the instruction and support for thousands who have passed through the program, many becoming volunteer mentors, themselves.

The real tribute to the contribution of Leslie and Dick White is in the role their efforts have had on the lives of the people they served. It's summed up by the father of a 33-year-old autistic son. He wrote. "Leslie and Dick probably do not realize that they have changed Andrew's life. The environment they provided for Andrew gave him purpose and enjoyment. In a world where most individuals with autism struggle with challenges continuously, Leslie and Dick provided a program where a little boy who struggled to walk on wet sidewalks is now confidently skiing down mountains. We will never forget the impact that Dick and Leslie have had on Andrew's life."



Wounded Warrior
Disabled Sports Project

