

Kelly Brush Foundation

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MOUNT MANSFIELD SKI CLUB RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT KELLY BRUSH FOUNDATION AWARD FOR SKI RACING SAFETY



STOWE, Vermont (Nov. 24, 2008) Mount Mansfield Ski Club has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Kelly Brush Foundation for enhancing ski racing safety. Along with Aspen Valley Ski Club, the club was one of two in the country to receive the award, which is part of the foundation's *Ski Racing Safety is No Accident Campaign* to promote and improve racing safety in the United States.

“As one of the most important training sites in Vermont and a leader in the nation, Mount Mansfield Ski Club sets the standard for ski racing and training. This grant from the Kelly Brush Foundation allows us to bring the very latest in safety technology to our race venue and athletes, which is an absolute priority for our club,” said Igor Vanovac, Director of Mount Mansfield Ski Club.

The grant will be used for safety fencing along the Main Street trail on Spruce Peak at

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Stowe Mountain Resort, home to the Mount Mansfield Ski Club, one the oldest ski clubs in the country. Main Street was once a premier race trail at Stowe, but as safety standards changed for running speed events – downhill and Super-G – the course was too narrow and lacked snowmaking. Today the trail has been widened, regraded and snowmaking has been added, making Main Street once again an unparalleled venue for ski racing and training, Vanovac said.

“The Kelly Brush Foundation is proud to support the Mount Mansfield Ski Club,” said Charlie Brush, who founded the nonprofit along with family and friends after his daughter Kelly Brush was paralyzed in a ski racing accident in 2006.

Kelly Brush and her sister Lindsay Brush both grew up ski racing with the Mount Mansfield Ski Club.

“The Kelly Brush Foundation is working to raise the bar when it comes to safety in ski training and racing. We really want safety to be foremost in everybody’s mind anytime a skier is on the hill,” Brush said. “The goal of the *Ski Racing Safety is No Accident Campaign* is to facilitate safety enhancements and promote awareness in the ski racing community including officials , coaches, parents and athletes.”

So far this season grants from the Kelly Brush Foundation for the *Ski Racing Safety is No Accident Campaign* include:

- \$10,000 grant to Mount Mansfield Ski Club in Stowe, Vt. for safety fencing
- \$10,000 grant to Aspen Valley Ski Club in Aspen, Colo. for safety fencing
- \$2,500 grant to Green Mountain Valley School in Waitsfield, Vt. for safety equipment
- \$1,000 grant to the Middlebury College Ski Team in Middlebury, Vt. for safety equipment
- 450 *Ski Racing Safety is No Accident* posters to ski clubs and race programs across the United States to raise safety awareness

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About the foundation: The Kelly Brush Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to improving ski racing safety, enhancing the quality of life for those with spinal cord injury (SCI) through providing adaptive sports equipment, advancing scientific research on SCI and supporting the U.S. Disabled Ski Team. Kelly Brush, together with her family and friends, started the foundation in 2006 after she sustained a spinal cord injury while racing in NCAA Div. 1 competition as a member of the Middlebury College Ski Team in Vermont. That injury left Kelly paralyzed from the chest down. The Kelly Brush Foundation affirms Kelly's ongoing commitment to live life to the fullest on her own terms and better the lives of others living with SCI.
www.kellybrushfoundation.org

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