

# Freedom's Wings International

## Soaring for People Living with Disabilities

Winter 2025

Dear friends of Freedom's Wings,



We believe that everyone deserves the chance to soar!

For over 40 years, our all-volunteer nonprofit has opened the skies to individuals with disabilities through the life-changing sport of adaptive soaring. Our mission is simple but powerful: to share the freedom, confidence, and joy of flight with those who might never have thought it possible.

Every flight is more than an adventure — it's an act of empowerment. When a pilot with a disability takes the controls of a glider and feels the lift of the wind, something extraordinary happens: limits fade, and possibilities expand.

The 2025 season brought together individuals living with disabilities from across the region to participate in our free ride events. We started in June with our long-time partners (25 years!) at the Philadelphia Glider Council (PGC) gliderport. This two-day event attracted participants from as far away as Long Island and South Carolina. We followed up with two more events at our home gliderport at Van Sant Airport in Buck Co., PA. In July, prospective students enjoyed a day learning to soar with our instructors. September brought a group of 20 from the Helen Hays Hospital recreational program, who traveled many hours from New York State for a chance to experience thrill soaring. Funders from the Dana and Christopher Reeve Foundation attended this event and were thoroughly impressed watching our gliders and volunteers share the joy of soaring with participants.

Thanks to the Reeve's grant and individual donations, we're able to keep our programs affordable or free for participants, maintain and adapt our gliders for accessibility and safety; train volunteer pilots and ground crew; and inspire new pilots to earn their wings.

- A contribution of \$100 helps with each adaptive flight.
- A gift of \$250 sponsors a new student's soaring experience.
- A contribution of \$500 supports group ride events.
- A donation of \$1,000 helps us maintain an adaptive glider for the season.
- A donation of \$2,000 supports outreach programs to other airports.
- A donation of \$5,000 helps with the restoration and replacement costs for our fleet of gliders.

**Every dollar directly supports flight experiences that change lives.**

Please join us in keeping the dream of flight alive for all.

Donate today at <https://freedomswings.org/donate/>

Or send a check to: FWI, 52 Eton Court, Bedminster NJ 07921

Thank you for believing that freedom has no limits when the sky is open to everyone. With heartfelt gratitude and blue skies,

*Gil Frost*

Gil Frost, President



**Judy,** “ It was exhilarating. I would do it again, and again, and again!”

**Jeff,** “I was eager to fly the glider because I wanted to do something most people think someone in a wheelchair can’t do.”

**Hanna,** “I felt like it was something I needed to do. It was exciting and exhilarating!”



**Matt,** “I felt free and alive!”



**Puspa,** “It was so exhilarating! You’re floating on air like a bird.”



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