

Staci Mannella
Partially Sighted – Wicked Fast!

New Jersey ski history is going to be made again!

Staci Mannella is a 15 year old ski racer who lives in Randolph, NJ. She was born with an eye disease called Acromatopsia. Acromatopsia is a congenital condition that causes extreme irritation to light. Staci is also color blind. She is partially sighted, however, she can only see a few feet in front of her face and her vision is not clear. She is the least of the visually impaired categories in both eyes.

Staci started in the Adaptive Ski Program at Windham Ski Area when she was 4 years old. Her parents never treated her like she had an impairment and they wanted her to at least try to participate in everything and anything that they did.

Staci trains and races through the Adaptive Ski Program at Windham. If you met her at the New Jersey Ski + Snowboard Council's Winter Kick Off Party you know what an incredible young girl she is. Staci wants to be an equine veterinarian when she graduates from school.

Staci Mannella has been chosen as the youngest member of the U.S. Paralympic Alpine Skiing National Team. Staci and her coach Kim are going to the 2014 Paralympics in Sochi, Russia. Currently Staci is on the Developmental Team, if she does well in her World Cup races this season she will move up to the B Team. Either way – she is going to Sochi, Russia.

The athletes, their coaches and their families have to raise most of their own funds to go to the Paralympics. Currently Staci and her team are selling t-shirts for \$20.00 (everyone should buy one.) I feel there is a lot more that the New Jersey Ski + Snowboard Council and the member clubs can do to help raise some more money for them.

Think about it – we have another local athlete going to the Winter Olympics! I feel that the New Jersey Ski + Snowboard Council and the member clubs should jump on this fantastic opportunity. There is a huge opportunity for us to support Staci Mannella and get the New Jersey Ski Council's name out to the public.

The New Jersey Ski + Snowboard Council does make a donation to the Adaptive Ski Program at Windham. Every year part of the proceeds from the Winter Kick Off Party are donated. However, that money is spread out throughout the whole program. We have an opportunity here to support a specific athlete.

An account is already set up through the Adaptive Sports Program so that our donations can go directly to an athlete.

And if your company has a matching gift program – consider asking them to make a donation as well. Every donation helps get Staci and her coach Kim closer to going to the 2014 Paralympics.

Money can be donated directly to:

The Adaptive Sports Foundation
Att: Kim Seevers
PO Box 266
Windham, NY 12496
Phone: 518-734-5070

Or to:

Staci Mannella
390 Route 10
Randolph, NJ 07869
Phone: 973-366-8422

Let's make Staci's dreams come true!

Follow Staci's races on Facebook. Log on and search for "Staci Mannella"

More info can also be found at: www.stacimannella.com

Staci Mannella – Partially Sighted – Wicked Fast!!!

Elizabeth Holste
Author, "Skiing In New Jersey?"