

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Warrior Women <sup>in</sup> THE WILD

**BIG CITY MOUNTAINEERS**  
MENTORING URBAN YOUTH OUTDOORS™

- ⌘ Patience
- ⌘ Treat others they want to be ⌘ed
- ⌘ Motivate **Believe** in each other
- ⌘ Ask for what you need
- ⌘ Willing to learn.
- ⌘ Flexible
- ⌘ Take care of yourself ♡
- ⌘ Care where we are.
- ⌘ B+



Dear Friends,

For Big City Mountaineers to be effective we rely on people, partnerships, and places. “People” refers to the caring adult mentors who build relationships with BCM students and individual donors who make expeditions possible. “Partnerships” are the youth agencies we engage to recruit students, as well as the corporate sponsors and foundations who help outfit and fund BCM expeditions. Finally, “places” are the awe-inspiring landscapes that are the backdrop for our backcountry expeditions. These three elements have blended together for 27 years to provide over 40,000 nights under the stars for kids that lack the access and opportunity to experience such wonderment on their own.

In 2016, we served 27 youth development agencies in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, California, and Florida. We led 40 week-long expeditions, implemented 14 overnight camps, expanded to Boston, and established our new Boundary Waters basecamp in Minnesota. We engaged 630 students in transformational wilderness experiences. In total, we implemented over 2,100 youth program days in the field with students from across the country.

Since our founding, we have impacted the lives of thousands of children, and we know there is even more we can do to advance our mission. With this in mind, the BCM board approved a 3-year strategic plan to chart a course to develop more impactful programming, increase our relevance, and sustainably grow our organization. Our track record of success, relationships with our funders, and partnerships in the communities we serve provide us with an opportunity to take our work to the next level. If I were to distill the strategic plan down to one theme it would be: *to establish the strongest presence possible in the cities where we operate*. We don’t want to be a “nice to have;” we want our organization to be instrumental in our partners’ success and to be well-known and well-respected by the communities, businesses, and governments in the cities we serve. The three overarching objectives of the plan are:

1. *Great Programs - Provide youth with life altering experiences by investing in the qualities that make our program unique.*
2. *Strong Partnerships - Deepen our relationships in the communities we serve.*
3. *Lasting Support - Ensure sustainable funding and broad support for our work by inspiring our donors.*

As an outdoor enthusiast, I value my time in nature and recognize the positive impact outdoor experiences have had on my life, and I hope you do too. Unfortunately, not every kid has the opportunity to experience nature and transformational wilderness experiences growing up. BCM’s programming gives kids the chance to take in an endless mountain view, dip their paddle in a lake, find the joy of catching a fish, see the beauty of the Milky Way, and journey alongside a supportive and caring adult mentor. Thank you for your support and partnerships that allows us to provide these experiences for more kids in more places.

Sincerely,

# PROGRAM TYPES

## WEEK-LONG EXPEDITIONS

13-18 year olds

1:1 youth to mentor ratio

7-day backpacking or 8-day canoeing trips

Instilling critical life skills: character, citizenship, self-esteem, self-efficacy, goal setting, sharing stories, and transferring learning home

Every expedition includes additional touchpoints: family meetings, day hikes, canoe training, and celebrations.

## OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS

Colorado only (Coming to Minnesota in 2018!)

8-12 year olds

1:4 youth to mentor ratio

24-hour camping experiences

Instilling critical life skills: teamwork, increased sense of self, responsibility, respect for the outdoor world, and curiosity about nature

Overnight programs maintain BCM's model of working with partner youth agencies to choose the kids who will benefit most from the experience.



BCM proudly operates under special use permits from the USFS and NPS, BCM is an equal opportunity service provider and employer



## MISSION:

*Big City Mountaineers instills critical life skills in under-resourced youth through transformative wilderness mentoring experiences.*

## VISION:

*A nation transformed by youth connected to and empowered by nature.*

## VALUES:

**Youth** – Youth possess power, potential, and resilience. We make organizational decisions based on what will be best for our students.

**Nature** – The outdoors restores, renews, inspires, and teaches. To experience nature is to unlock our own potential.

**Community** – Communities provide the context that drives our work – to be inclusive, impactful, and meaningful.

**Collaboration** – Partnership coaxes fresh perspectives and promotes creative problem solving, enabling us all to succeed.

**Accountability** – Transparency builds trust. Through a culture of communication we hold ourselves to the highest standards of safety, stewardship of resources, and program delivery.



# JOHN'S STORY

## FINDING STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE IN THE BACKCOUNTRY:



When we first met John, he was a super enthusiastic kid eager to learn new skills. However, he had a hard time committing and seeing himself through difficult challenges. He first joined us at our Overnight Camp in the Colorado foothills. With the help of a skilled instructor and caring mentor, John thrived at camp and was so inspired by his experience that he wanted to join us the next summer for a second camp!

John was eager to return for another year; however, his agency leader informed us that John had been getting in trouble at school. John wanted to come back to camp as an assistant to help the younger students, but his agency made this opportunity conditional on his good behavior the rest of the school year. Fortunately, this was just the motivation he needed to stay out of trouble. When John came to camp, he set an amazing example for

the younger students and assisted us in facilitating activities and helping campers who were homesick or having trouble following directions. His agency leader told us it was an amazing transformation!

“JOHN THRIVED AT CAMP AND WAS SO INSPIRED BY HIS EXPERIENCE THAT HE WANTED TO JOIN US THE NEXT SUMMER FOR A SECOND CAMP!”

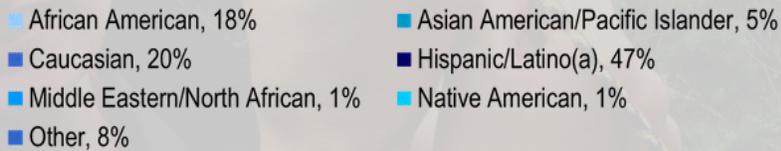
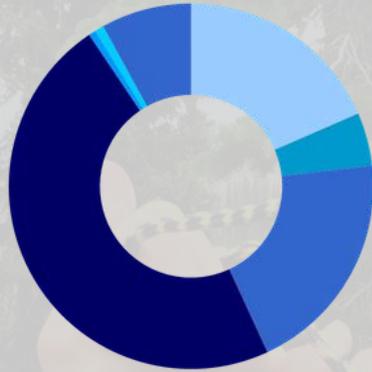
In his fourth year with BCM, we offered John the opportunity to join us on a week-long alumni expedition. John was honored to attend and, although he was the youngest, he stood out as a leader, opening up about his life and teaching the group many things including persistence and compassion.

John's newfound confidence continued after the trip and led him to gain leadership roles in multiple other community organizations. He now stands out as a young leader in his community. John caught up with BCM recently and told our program manager how important it was to him to be invited on the alumni trip and the impact it has made on his life.

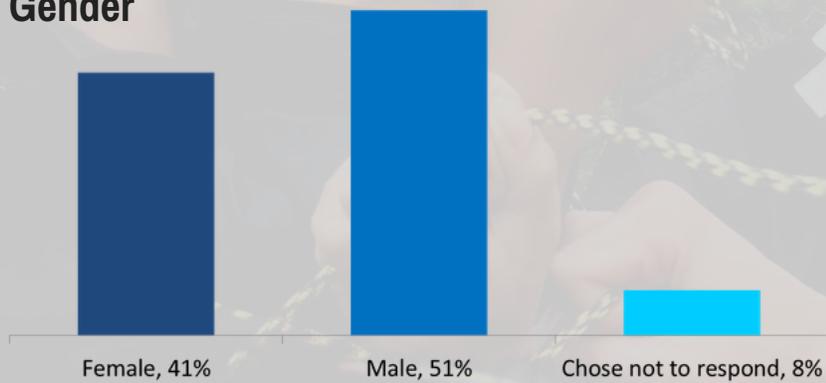


# YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

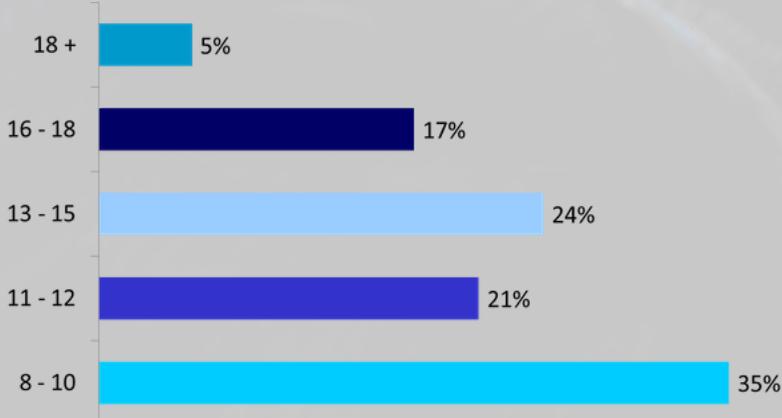
## Ethnicity



## Gender



## Age



40

WEEK-LONG  
EXPEDITIONS

2,143

YOUTH  
PROGRAM DAYS

23

YOUTH AGENCY  
PARTNERS

17%

HAVE EXPERIENCED  
VIOLENCE AT  
SCHOOL

14

OVERNIGHT  
CAMPS



45%

COME FROM  
SINGLE-PARENT OR  
GUARDIAN-LED  
HOUSEHOLDS

82%

QUALIFY FOR  
FREE OR  
REDUCED  
LUNCH

45%

VOLUNTEER  
MENTOR  
RETURN RATE

70

SUMMIT FOR  
SOMEONE  
CLIMBERS

5,320

MILES  
HIKED

6,350

RODS  
PORTAGED

1,846

NIGHTS SPENT  
UNDER THE  
STARS

# YOUTH AGENCIES

Collaborative partnership is the lens through which we view all our working relationships. Our partnerships with local youth agencies allow us to target the youth that need an opportunity like BCM the most, and we are able to work with agency staff towards common goals. Youth agency staff go on the expedition with their students, ensuring that the lessons learned on the water or trail are taken back home to the students' homes, schools, and communities.

"I discovered BCM as an AmeriCorps member in Denver and from my first trip as a volunteer I was hooked. I saw the transformation in the young ladies that first trip and it was inspiring. It was that inspiration that encouraged me to become an agency lead in the Northwest. This summer was my 4th trip and I am always excited to see my students' lives transformed." - Jenny Thompson, Executive Director, Police Activities League of Vancouver



"I feel accomplished because we made it to the lake and I never thought I could make it up here." - Cecilia, Police Activities League Student

# 2016 YOUTH AGENCY PARTNERS

## CALIFORNIA

- Canal Welcome Center
- East Oakland Boxing Association
- Oakland Lacrosse

## COLORADO

- Environmental Learning for Kids
- College Track
- I Have a Dream Foundation of Boulder County
- Jefferson Center for Mental Health
- Denver Kids, Inc.
- Denver City LAX
- Colorado, "I Have a Dream" Foundation
- Denver Parks & Recreation
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters
- Hope Communities
- Cole and Boettcher Boys & Girls Clubs

## FLORIDA

- Touching Miami With Love

## MASSACHUSETTS

- SquashBusters

## MINNESOTA

- Red Wing Youth Outreach
- Sisterhood Boutique
- Family Alternatives
- Cross Plains School District
- Pillsbury United Communities
- Northwest Passages High School

## OREGON/WASHINGTON

- Oregon Zoo
- Police Activities League
- Volunteers of America
- Project YESS
- Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue





## VOLUNTEER MENTORS

- 244 MENTORS & AGENCY LEADERS
- 20,154 VOLUNTEER HOURS
- 45% MENTOR RETURN RATE

*2016 INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR BRANDON PIATT*

*2016 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR TOM MILLER AND CHRIS BALL*

BIG CITY MOUNTAINEERS EXPEDITIONS AND OVERNIGHT CAMPS WOULD NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT OUR VOLUNTEER MENTORS. EVERY YEAR, CARING ADULTS INVEST IN BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR STUDENTS USING THE OUTDOORS AS A PERFECT BACKDROP FOR LEARNING CRITICAL LIFE-SKILLS.



# SUMMIT FOR SOMEONE

Every year, people from across the country take on challenges of their own to support Big City Mountaineers' Programs. Be it through a guided SFS climb or a personal challenge, these outdoor lovers use their own adventures to give back and help youth experience the power of the outdoors themselves.

2016 CLIMBS!



- BOULDER TRAVERSE
- GRAND TETON
- LONGS PEAK
- MT. HOOD
- MT. RAINIER
- MT. SHASTA
- MT. WHITNEY, RUSSELL, & MUIR

"To me, the Summit for Someone Program means a chance to give back. It means a chance to make new friends, reunite with old ones, and participate in an incredible experience in the outdoors with one mission in mind. I'm passionate about the BCM mission because I believe in the transformative power of nature and that every child should have the opportunity to experience it. I also believe that every child deserves the opportunity to feel that they can accomplish things they never dreamt possible. The wilderness mentoring programs of Big City Mountaineers help facilitate both of those beliefs into reality for thousands of youth every year, and I'm very proud and honored to be a part of that effort."

-SFS climber, Sean Estep



# CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Strong partnerships with outdoor industry companies and others have been essential to supplying much-needed gear, funding, and promotional support for our youth expeditions, camps, and Summit for Someone fundraising climbs. A first-time experience in the backcountry is challenging; providing high-quality outdoor clothing and equipment ensures that our kids have a safe, warm, enjoyable, and engaged time during their experience. A positive first exposure is more likely to lead students to return to the outdoors. Through the generosity of our outdoor industry partners, BCM received more than \$200,000 of in-kind product support in 2016!

BCM partners with great companies to provide important resources to our youth programs. Whether through program sponsorship, cause marketing campaigns, team engagement, or in-kind donations, our partners are investing in the future of the young people we serve and making our life-changing wilderness mentoring experiences possible. We are grateful for their belief in the BCM mission and their generosity in helping us create more opportunities in the outdoors.



# THANK YOU

\$50,000+



\$25,000+



\$15,000+



\$10,000+



\$5,000+



2,500 +

Boeing  
 Cascade Designs, Inc.  
 City and County of Denver  
 City National Bank  
 Deuter  
 Fox River Mills  
 Gociety  
 IBEX Outdoor Clothing  
 Mountain Hardwear  
 SOLE  
 ZEAL Optics  
**\$1000+**  
 Bluh Zoo, Inc.  
 Community Shares of Colorado  
 Florida Title & Trust, LLC  
 Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP  
 Google AdWords  
 Great Divide Brewing Company  
 Johnson Outdoors  
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 M3 Construction Group, LLC  
 Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables

Mountain Khakis  
 Nemo Equipment  
 San Quentin State Prison  
 Suncoast Medical Network  
 T & S Roofing Systems, Inc.  
 TD Gulfstream Partners, LLC  
 Tebo Properties  
 Tender Corporation  
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 UBS Financial Services, Inc.  
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 Xcel Energy Foundation  
**\$500+**  
 Big Heart Pet Brands  
 Chipotle Mexican Grill  
 Greater Horizons  
 Hancock Lumber  
 Modo Yoga Seattle  
 Mountainsmith  
 Network For Good  
 Notogroup  
 Sasquatch Advertising  
 Siemens Industry Inc.  
 Souza Construction  
 The Found Gen, LLC

Travelers Community Connections  
 US Charity Committee Abcam  
 Yukon Trading Company  
**\$250+**  
 Acemon Corp. DBA Visiting Angels  
 Anritsu Company  
 Big Agnes  
 Coldwater Software  
 Fernandez-Bergnes & Associates, P.A.  
 Florida Clear Title, Corp  
 Gables Insurance Recovery  
 GSI Outdoors  
 JustGive  
 Miami Center for Oriental Medicine Inc.  
 Mountain Connection  
 PS Financial Services, LLC  
 Sanderson Test Prep, LLC  
 Sargento Foods Inc.  
 Scandinavian Design House, Inc.  
 The Law Office of Matthew E. Ladd  
 The U.S. Charitable Gift Trust  
 Trajan Investments Inc  
 TRUIST  
 We Play It Forward  
 Weinstein & Cohen P.A.

# 2016 FINANCIALS

## Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets

### Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	117,717
Investments	54,447
Contributions and Grants Receivable	87,326
Inventory	263,150
Fixed Assets	216,882
Other Current Assets	111,727

**Total Assets** \$851,249

### Liabilities and Net assets:

Liabilities	\$21,626
Undesignated	237,798
Property and Equipment	216,882
Temporarily Restricted	274,943
Permanently Restricted	100,000
Total Net Assets	\$829,623

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** \$851,249

## Summary of Revenue and Expenses

### Program

Contributions	695,726
In-Kind	72,066
Other Income	45,838
	<u>\$813,630</u>

### Summit For Someone

Contributions	177,918
In-Kind	137,237
	<u>\$315,155</u>

### Expenses

Program Services	587,699
Supporting Services	229,328
SFS	289,596
Total 2016 Expenses	<u>\$1,106,623</u>

**Change in Net Assets** \$22,162



# FOUNDATIONS

## **\$25,000+**

Caerus Foundation

Cedar Tree Foundation

## **\$10,000+**

Benson Family Foundation

George Family Foundation

Smartwool Advocacy Fund

The M.S. Grumbacher Foundation

The Oregon Community Foundation

The Red Wing Shoe Company Foundation

## **\$5,000+**

Clif Bar Family Foundation

Dr. Scholl Foundation

East Bay Community Foundation

Mark & Marcene DeYoung Family Foundation

Positive Tracks

The Guardsmen

VF Foundation

## **\$1,000+**

Colorado Parks & Recreation Association

Glad To Be Here Foundation

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundation

The Rifkin Foundation

TJX Foundation

Trevor R. Marsh Memorial Endowment Fund

## **\$500+**

Arntz Family Foundation

LPL Financial Foundation

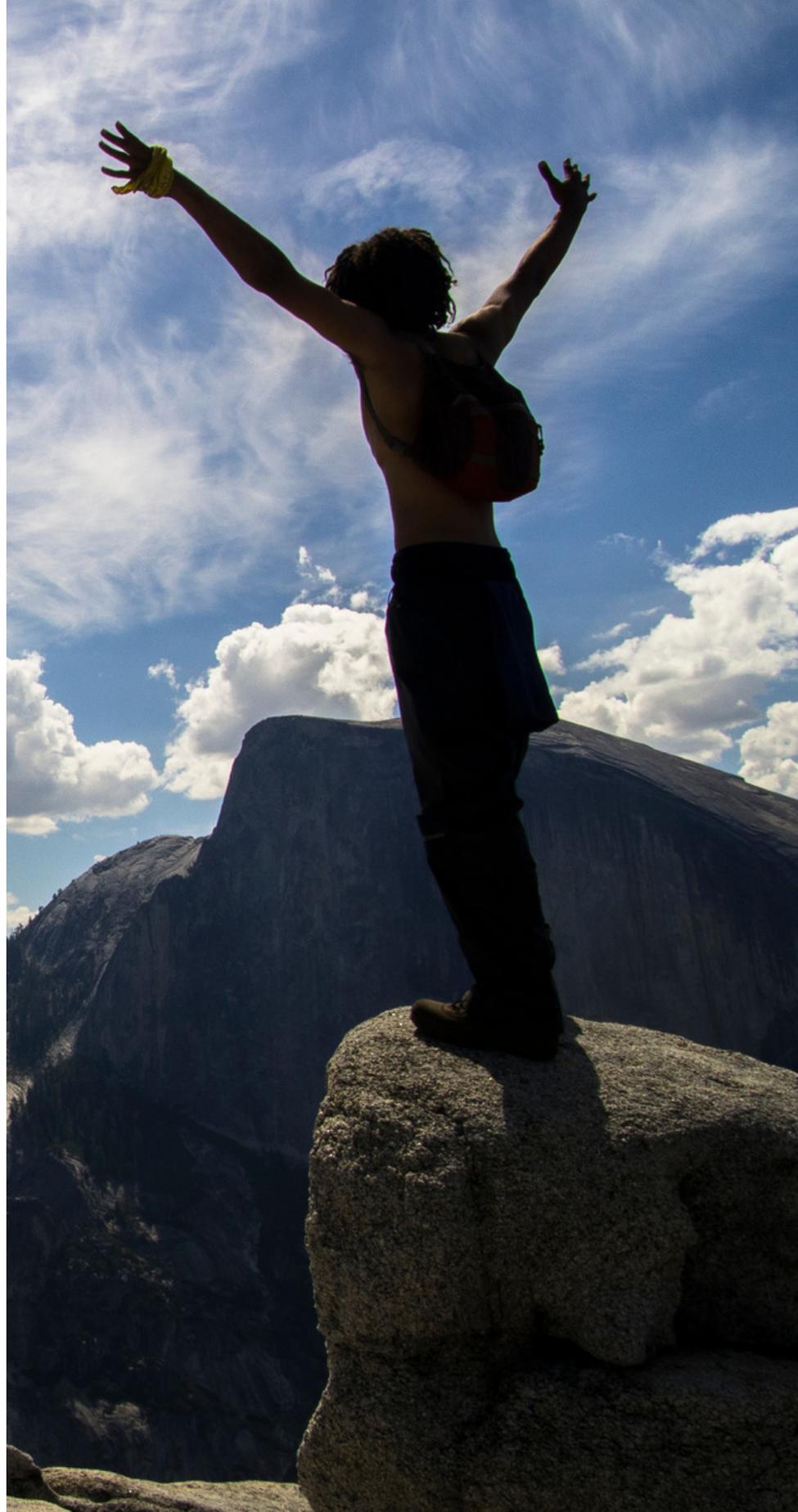
Paulsen Family Foundation

## **\$100+**

Community First Foundation

Gottlieb Fund

Jewish Community Foundation



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Monthly Donors\*

Major Donors

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Michael J. Keglovits**

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Jeff Oliver  
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Preston Osborn  
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Cheyenne Aberle  
Sherrie Aberle  
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Lauren Andersen  
Sonya Andrews  
Molly Baab  
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Daniel Bott  
Kaitlyn Brebner  
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