

Damian C. Buchman

611 N. 66th Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213 | damian@tacwi.org | 262.385.5738
www.damianbuchman.com / www.tacwi.org

Public Speaker and mission driven social entrepreneur with a passion for advancing adaptive fitness, athletics, recreation & play opportunities for people impacted by disABILITIES.

I am a social entrepreneur with nearly 10 years in sports facility management, along with an additional 10 years in the nonprofit sector. I pride myself in being a problem solver and a sustainable idea generator, with the ability to envision a project from A to Z. A leader in the adaptive sports industry, I have founded two charitable endeavors aimed at delivering a greater quality of life and valued opportunity in fitness, athletics, recreation and play. I've delivered a vision for the future, transformed a community's recreation, and oversaw the merger and collaboration of five charities.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Nonprofit Management & Start-up
 - Social Entrepreneurship
 - Public Speaking
 - Universal & Inclusive Design
 - Adaptive Programming & Recreation
 - Sport Facility & Program Management
-

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AFAR, Inc. dba The Ability Center (TAC): Milwaukee, WI **2008 - Present**

Founded this 501(c)3 nonprofit, charitable organization in 2008 and lead the design and program of a universally inclusive fitness and athletic center for those impacted by disabilities.

Founder & CEO

2008 - Present

Current role: Oversee the implementation of our community adaptive recreation movement and partnerships through our TAC: RampUp, Open Gym, and Education programs while leading the development of Wisconsin's first inclusive recreation center in collaboration with the organization's Board of Directors, community foundations, partners, and philanthropists.

Selected Accomplishments:

- **Recipient** of the Donald Driver Foundation's, Driven to Achieve Award, 2019.
- **Recognized** as one of the Milwaukee Business Journal's, 40 Under 40, 2017.
- Adaptive Consultant with Sports Facilities Advisory, 2016.
- In collaboration with Milwaukee County Parks we "opened" four parks to ALL abilities through our RampUpMKE initiative, 2015-Present.
- Partnered &/or Collaborated with the: Metropolitan Milwaukee YMCA, Milwaukee County Parks, Harry & Samson Family Jewish Community Center, & Bublr Bikes.
- **Featured:** [Athletic Business Magazine](#), June, 2013.
- **Featured:** [Men's Health](#), Everyday Heroes, November, 2013.
- **Winner:** [Marquette University's Business Plan competition](#), Social Plan, 2011.
- **Nonprofit:** Developed AFAR, Inc's 501c(3), Board of Directors, Business Model.
- **Designed:** Comprehensive inclusive fitness center's with Technogym, Precor, Direct Fitness Solutions and aDDDvantage Creations, Inc.

Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association (WASA): Milwaukee, WI **2013 - 2016**

WASA is Wisconsin's first full service adaptive sports organization, in which AFAR, Inc. set the original bylaws, collaborative standards, and vision for.

Founder, Interim Executive Director & Board Secretary

2013 - 2016

Selected Accomplishments:

- Identified, organized, led, and funded the collaboration of five independent adaptive sport related nonprofits to create a single association.
- Amended the state and federal filings of a former 501c3 to create WASA.

- Organized the country's largest wheelchair basketball club, securing the sponsorship of the Milwaukee Bucks.
- WASA serves over 100 athletes per week, from 6-60+ years of age.
- Organized WASA's original Board of Directors.

Center Court Sports Complex: Waukesha, WI

2000 - 2008

A 54,000 square foot athletic facility, Center Court Sports Complex features: five basketball courts, eight volleyball courts, nine outdoor sand volleyball courts, a banquet hall, and a pub/grill. Over my years with the facility, Center Court changed management, names, and/or ownership hands five times – I remained the only constant.

Axis Athletics, Owner

2006 - 2008

Facility Director, Center Court Sports Complex

2004 - 2006

Program Director, Pilgrim Community Center

2001- 2004

Volleyball Director, Epicenter

2000 - 2001

Selected Accomplishments:

- Organized over 1,000 league based youth and adult basketball and volleyball teams per year.
- Served over 1,500 athletes per week.
- Increased volleyball revenue by 62% in six months.
- Fulfilled volleyball league capacity (164-275+) teams per session.
- Negotiated contracts for outside groups.

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee / Milwaukee, WI

Undergraduate Student, 1997-1999

Brookfield East High School / Brookfield, WI

Diploma

Continuing Education

- Nonprofit Management Certificate / University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Commission for People with Disabilities, Milwaukee County

Pending, June, 2018

Commissioner, Three year appointment

The Commission promotes the independence of persons with disabilities, removes attitudinal and environmental barriers, promotes maximal level of independence with dignity for persons with disabilities, and has primary responsibility for assessing and finding solutions for the needs of Milwaukee County residents with disabilities.

Committee for Citizens with Disabilities, City of Wauwatosa

June, 2018

Member, Three year appointment

Social Responsibility Committee & DIG Taskforce, YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee

May, 2018

Member

City of Milwaukee Pilot Adaptive Bike Program

May, 2018

Advisor

Children's Oncology Services, Inc. (COSI)

1998 - 2009

Program Director, Program Leader, Camp Counselor

www.camponestep.org

Organizer of various programs for Camp One Step childhood cancer camps. COSI offers numerous different programmatic experiences for childhood cancer patients and survivors from 7-19 years of age. During my tenure with COSI I had the opportunity to be a camp counselor (1998-2001), become their youngest leader of a summer program (2001-2004), and eventually became the program director for their Winter Camp (2005-2008) – doubling its' attendance in my first two years. It was also my honor to be one of the founding members of their first "Junior Board of Directors," and introduce the camp to adaptive opportunities to create a more inclusive atmosphere and programmatic opportunities.