



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

Handy

News & Notes

Milwaukee Community Update – June 2026

June brings the start of our notoriously *“long”* summer! Let Handy News & Notes be your guide to all the fun and resources of the season. No county does it like Milwaukee County!

WASA
WISCONSIN ADAPTIVE SPORTS ASSOCIATION
BACK IN THE GAME

**JOIN US FOR AN
ADAPTIVE
OPEN GYM**



Open gym is a welcome space with opportunities to stay active, try equipment, and connect with others in our community

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Every Monday from June 15th to August 6th

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: Wilson Elementary:
1060 Glenview Ave, Wauwatosa,
WI 53213

REGISTER NOW



For more information contact us at ericawilson@wasa.org / 414 310 7051

Free, All Abilities, All Ages, Equipment Provided



BE BOLD. BELONG. BECOME.

OUR VALUES

TEAMWORK.

Teamwork makes the dream work. We take a team approach to tackle our big mission. We embrace the support from athletes, families, coaches, community partners, and sponsors.

INCLUSION.

Everyone belongs at WASA. We create an open, welcoming environment for all who interact with our organization—athletes, sponsors, supporters, and the greater community.

SUPPORT.

Trophies don't measure success. We're committed to improving the quality of life for our participants, so we provide support, coaching, and mentorship with the whole person in mind.

COMMUNITY.

Our programs create a strong sense of community, but we don't stop there. WASA is committed to making the broader community more inclusive.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with physical disabilities or visual impairments through the power of adaptive sport, recreation, fitness and education.

WASA ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS



WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Wheelchair basketball is one of the fastest-growing adaptive sports and WASA's program is one of the largest in the country. Wheelchair basketball is played by individuals with varying physical disabilities that precludes the athlete from playing competitive stand-up basketball. However, not all wheelchair basketball players use a chair for everyday mobility; many wheelchair basketball athletes are ambulatory. Wheelchair basketball retains most major rules and scoring of basketball, though some are modified with consideration for the wheelchair.

GOALBALL

Goalball is played by visually-impaired and blind athletes. Similar to soccer or hockey, the game relies solely on sound. The ball is equipped with a noise producing sound when it rolls. Players must roll or throw the ball into a soccer-style net. Each goal scores one point. Defenders attempt to block the ball. Players must wear equalizing eye shades that reduce vision to zero.

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

Wheelchair rugby is a full-contact sport. The object of the game is to score a try (1 point) by crossing the goal line with possession of the ball while the opposing team is defending that goal. Rugby is played indoors with a volleyball on a basketball-sized court with goal lines marked by cones and a lined-off "key" area. The sport is played in four, eight-minute stop-time quarters.

WHEELCHAIR SOFTBALL

Wheelchair softball is similar to traditional softball with minor rule and equipment adaptations. It is played on a hard, smooth surface and follows the rules of 16-inch slow pitch softball, approved by the Amateur Wheelchair Softball Association of America (AWSA). Wheelchair softball is played with a softer ball, so players may opt to go gloveless in the field.

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Wheelchair tennis is one of the fastest-growing wheelchair sports in the world and fits seamlessly with the able-bodied game. The only rule difference is the two-bounce rule; where the ball can bounce twice before being returned to the opponent's side. Wheelchair tennis is played as single or double matches.



OUR HISTORY

Emily lost her mobility after a rare childhood cancer diagnosis in 2011. A typical 13-year old, Emily loved sports and friends. Cancer changed her life. Multiple surgeries and chemotherapy permanently reduced her mobility. Not only did this impact her physical health; her mental well-being dramatically declined as well. Without access to the sports and recreational activities she loved, Emily felt an identity loss. Her life lacked meaning and normalcy.



Emily desperately wanted to play, compete, and engage with her peers — to be part of her community. Joining a youth wheelchair basketball team changed her life. Emily looked forward to playing and being with friends. Her mental well-being immediately improved. She was hopeful. She was happy. The impact was clear. Her adaptive sports participation affected her entire family's overall happiness and quality of life.

Adaptive sports at the time were hard to find, and primarily designed for veterans or offered by independent organizations that didn't cross sport types or collaborate. Emily's family recognized the importance of giving everyBODY with disabilities the opportunity to play sports; along with a dedicated team of people, Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association (WASA) was founded in 2015 as an umbrella organization for multiple adaptive sports located throughout southeastern Wisconsin. During its first year, WASA served 60 participants and offered five adaptive sports. Today, WASA is the largest provider of adaptive sports in southeastern Wisconsin, serving 220+ participants ages 6 and older with physical disabilities, including a large Veteran population.

Emily went on to earn a college scholarship in wheelchair basketball at the University of Illinois, and in 2024, competed for Team USA at the Paralympics in Paris. There are countless stories like Emily's, and WASA aims to embrace all the individuals in our program as they find a sense of community, belonging, and success through the variety of different adaptive sports.



BACK IN THE GAME

Program Elements include:

Community Outings: Buck's and Brewer games, pizza nights, and First and Bowl are just a few examples of how our community likes to socialize and have fun.

Peer Mentorship: A Peer Mentor is available to all new WASA members with SCI. Our Mentors connect with new athletes, share resources and provide support. We are here for you!

Back in the Game Facebook Community: Join us online to learn, connect with each other, plan events and share resources. Just another way to stay engaged!

Back in the Game Support Group: Our in-person community meets monthly. We cover what's on your mind....adaptive sports, resources, your needs, a place to share and provide a personal way to stay engaged.

Dynamic Adaptive Wellness: We offer ongoing, community-integrated opportunities to stay fit and engage in adaptive sports and recreation.

Online Fitness and Workouts: We provide complimentary access to effective and productive fitness workouts to keep you in shape!

Online Education: Frequent E-blasts keep you covered with anything you need to know about adaptive sports, fitness, nutrition, health, resources and other related topics.

All "Back in the Game" members have access to WASA's 11 adaptive sports and our community-based TryIt. And of course, adaptive equipment is provided for all!

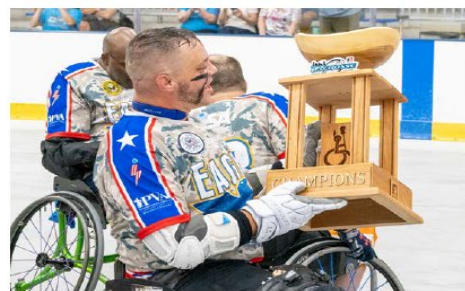
VETERANS PROGRAM

Our Veterans program provides veterans with free registration for all WASA sports and programs, thanks to generous grants and partnerships.

Veterans Program elements include:

- Operation Deep Health
- Bootcamp for the Troops
- Rolling with the Troops
- Salute the Troops
- Wheelchair Academy
- Adaptive Sports Participation
- Community/Support Groups

If you are interested in participating in, supporting, or sponsoring Operation Hero Fit, please contact Program Director Dr. Kenneth Lee at info@wasa.org or visit wasa.org.



WASA ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS



WHEELCHAIR LACROSSE

Wheelchair lacrosse is played on a roller hockey rink or box lacrosse pad, using a no-bounce ball and sport wheelchairs. Players use their lacrosse sticks to scoop, catch, carry, pass, and shoot the ball into the other team's goal. Gameplay is 8v8 (including a goalie) and players can change positions on the fly. Lacrosse is a challenging team sport for athletes with physical disabilities who want demanding, fast-paced action.

WHEELCHAIR BOWLING

Wheelchair bowling is played much like able-bodied bowling. Bowlers can use different size bowling balls and use different throwing or rolling techniques. A ramp is used to position and assist rolling the ball down the alley for those needing additional support.

SLED HOCKEY

Sled hockey is a sit-down version of ice hockey for players whose disability prevents them from playing stand-up hockey. Athletes use sleds made of light-gauge aluminum with a customized bucket comfortable for sitting. A frame supports the bucket, legs and feet, and is mounted on two skate blades attached under the bucket. Straps keep players secured. Players use two hockey sticks for propulsion, passing and shooting. Sled hockey is a growing sport for both the competitive and recreational athlete.



WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL

Wheelchair football is similar to traditional football with some minor rule adaptations including one-hand touch instead of tackling. Wheelchair Football is open to adults with a lower limb impairment. Football is 18+, but youth are welcome to practice/try it.



WHEELCHAIR BOCCIA

Boccia is an adaptive sport based on bocce ball with several modifications. The game is played indoors on a fixed-sized court with a flat, smooth surface. Players throw or roll colored balls aimed at a white ball target known as the "Jack." The player, pair, or team with the most colored balls near the "Jack" wins. In certain divisions, players may propel balls using ramps, as well as use assistants to position the ramps.

WHEELCHAIR PICKLEBALL

Wheelchair pickleball is an adaptive version of pickleball designed for players who use wheelchairs. It follows the same basic rules as standard pickleball, with a few modifications to accommodate mobility needs. The main differences include allowing two bounces of the ball before a return (similar to wheelchair tennis) and requiring players to have at least one buttock in contact with the seat while hitting the ball.



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP — BE BOLD. BELONG. BECOME.

WASA is more than just an adaptive sports program. It is an opportunity to BE BOLD. BELONG. BECOME. By becoming a member of WASA, you can benefit in countless ways. As a member, you will have access to the following:

- Scholarship opportunities
- 11 different adaptive sports
- Expensive adaptive sports equipment
- Trained and skilled coaching
- Exciting events in affiliation with the Milwaukee Bucks, Marquette Eagles, Milwaukee Admirals, Milwaukee Brewers, and Green Bay Packers
- MoveUnited Membership
- A sense of community (i.e. Facebook pages and support groups)
- Lifelong friendships
- Endless resources pertaining to fitness, education, and mental and emotional wellness

And if those benefits aren't enough, members of WASA can also speak firsthand to the impact that the organization has had on their lives. Read the impactful testimonials below to get a deeper insight into how WASA can change your life.

VOLUNTEER

Sign up to volunteer at wasa.org.

1. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage and click on 'Volunteer Registration' under 'Not a Participant?'
2. Complete all required information to sign up to volunteer.

Volunteer opportunities are wide ranging. They can include anything from coaching to working the concession stands at events. There are single-day event opportunities as well as service opportunities for the whole family. Our volunteers are so crucial because they help keep our program costs low and our impact high!



DONATE

Donations can be made at wasa.org.

1. Click 'Donate' in the top right corner of the page.
2. Click 'Donate Today' in the center of the page.
3. Follow directions to donate via Paypal or by using a debit or credit card.

Filling the opportunity gap for disabled athletes is expensive. Your support helps bring the life-changing power of movement to our community. Some of these costs include:

- \$250 Sponsor annual participation fees for one adaptive athlete.
- \$500 Team entrance fee for an adaptive sport tournament.
- \$1,000 The cost of one set of sport wheels.
- \$2,500 Practice facility fees for an entire sport season.
- \$5,000 Funds accessible transportation for 50 MKE youth participants.
- \$10,000 The cost of one adaptive rugby chair.

And be sure to check out the list of upcoming events under the 'Events', 'Calendar' tab on the website!

HEAR FROM ATHLETES AND PARENTS

"I have always believed in the power of sport for both physical and mental well-being, but seeing my daughter Ava grow as a wheelchair basketball player has made me realize just how powerful it can be."

"From the connections she has formed with her coaches and teammates to the pride she has sharing what she can do with her able-bodied friends and family, wheelchair basketball has been a bright spot in the trials of the past year. Traveling to tournaments and nationals has given Ava the opportunity to be surrounded by people who "get" her and also show her what ability potential she still has to strive for. Thank you for helping us make that happen."

– Janelle Finger
WASA Parent



"WASA allows me to keep an active and healthy fitness/sports lifestyle and feeling confident in my appearance/abilities..."

...learning new skills of ways to be as independent as possible, giving me a voice in the community, and a forever network of friends/role models to lean on when times are tough."

– Tony Sabel
WASA Athlete

"Being an athlete with WASA has allowed me the freedom to appreciate my body for what it can do..."

...instead of focusing on how I feel it limits me. I didn't start playing sports until I was 28, but I can imagine my childhood self-esteem issues wouldn't have been so severe had I participated in adaptive sports sooner."

– Rebecca Reinholz
WASA Athlete



715 Talon Trail | Brookfield, WI 53045 | 414-310-7051
wasa.org | info@wasa.org

Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association (WASA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

WHEELCHAIR/ADAPTIVE PICKLEBALL LEAGUE

JUNE 1ST - JULY 27TH

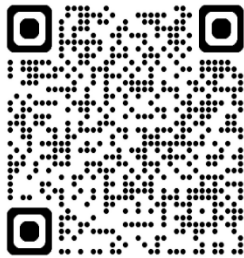


Every Monday
Evening

5:00 PM -
7:00 PM

Banting Park
2101 Butler Dr,
Waukesha, WI 53186

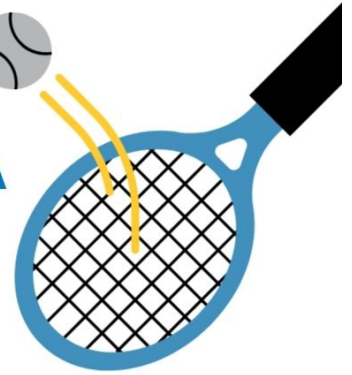
All coordination will take place through WhatsApp



Scan the QR code to be added to the league group chat!

having trouble? email
emilyoberst@wasa.org

- **Cost:** FREE
- **What to Bring:** A sports chair (if needed) and paddle if you own one — otherwise, we'll have equipment available for you!
- **Format:** Open play and/or drills — flexible based on experience level and participation!
- **All Abilities Welcome!**
 - Hybrid- One seated player + one standing player
 - Adaptive- Two seated players



Where will WASA be this summer?

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Mondays	BIG Open Gym	Wilson Elementary- Wauwatosa
Mondays	Wheelchair/Adaptive Pickleball	Banting Park- Waukesha
Tuesdays	Wheelchair Softball	MacDowell Montessori- Milwaukee
Tuesdays	Bowling	Bowlero- Wauwatosa
Wednesdays	Wheelchair Lacrosse	General Mitchell Elementary
Wednesdays	Wheelchair Basketball	Wilson Elementary- Wauwatosa
Thursdays	Wheelchair Basketball	Wilson Elementary- Wauwatosa
June 27th, July 11th, July 28th and August 4th	Wheelchair/Adaptive Tennis Camp	Hart Park- Wauwatosa





JOB READINESS PROGRAM

SKILLS • DISCIPLINE • RESPECT • PURPOSE

BUILD YOUR SKILLS. BUILD YOUR FUTURE.
BECOME THE **CEO OF YOURSELF.**



#keepitclean



YEAR ROUND PROGRAM
BUILDING SKILLS ALL YEAR LONG



10 APPLICANTS EVERY 6 MONTHS
SMALL CLASSES. BIG OPPORTUNITIES.



5 MONDAY & WEDNESDAY
HANDS-ON TRAINING & LIFE SKILLS



5 TUESDAY & THURSDAY
BARBERING TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT



BARBERING SKILLS

- ✓ Clipping & Fading
- ✓ Equipment Function
- ✓ Lining & Kid Cuts
- ✓ Taper, Beard Maintenance
- ✓ Blending
- ✓ Bald Fade, Cesar Fade

*LEARN A TRADE.
CREATE YOUR LEGACY.*



LIFE SKILLS

- ✓ Building Trust
- ✓ Believe in Yourself
- ✓ Hygiene
- ✓ Wardrobe Knowledge
- ✓ Goal Setting
- ✓ Self Discipline
- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Cleanliness
- ✓ Customer Service

*BUILD CHARACTER.
CHANGE YOUR FUTURE.*

READY TO
WIN?

SCAN HERE TO APPLY!



CONTACT

- Carlos Turner
- 414-712-1472
- winlosellc@gmail.com



**RESPECT
RESPECT
RESPECT**



APPLY ONLINE TODAY!

TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD
A BETTER TOMORROW.

RESPECT YOUR CRAFT. RESPECT YOURSELF. RESPECT OTHERS.

WIN THE RIGHT WAY. LOSE THE EXCUSES.



What is BOLD?

BOLD is open to all legally blind people. Event participation is free. BOLD's purpose is to allow the blind and visually impaired to experience outdoor sports and leisure activities while developing their social and athletic skills. For more information call Kevin Meyers – Out-reach director at 414-839-0635 or Ray Tweedale president at 262-224-5517.

BOLD Activities for June

Annual Motorcycle Ride

Hey motorcycle enthusiasts! It is time for our 26th Annual BOLD Motorcycle Ride!

Something new! We will travel to Road America, “America’s National Park of Speed,” where we will have the opportunity to ride on the 4-mile-long track with fourteen turns for three or so laps! It will only be thirty-five miles per hour, but it will be an exquisite ride! We will end it all as usual with one of the Richfield Lions legendary dinners.

The ride will happen rain or shine.

Bethesda Park Bike and Hike

Join us for a ride or hike on the Glacial Drumlin Trail. BOLD maintains a fleet of thirteen tandem bicycles that can be adjusted to fit you. You will be paired with an experienced pilot, who will steer for you as you peddle on the rear seat. When you call to sign up, let us know if you will be biking or hiking. If you plan to hike and are bringing a guide dog, please let us know. Water bottles will be provided, and lunch will be served after the bike ride and hike.

Schurmanns on the Lake

A brand-new event was offered to us by a gracious individual who lives on Bark Lake. He is confined to a wheelchair and wants to share his beautiful property with us. He has a lot of paved areas, an outdoor bar, gas grill, fire-pit, pier with ramp to get on boats and has an extensive collection of taxidermy mounts that he offers as a tactile experience for all. Be careful with the porcupine though!

We will have the following activities: fishing, riding a pontoon boat, disc golf (1 target), bag toss and of course some good food which will be provided by the Richfield Lions.


Virtual Bingo

This occurs twice this month.


You are invited to a virtual Bingo game!

To play you can request your large print Braille and embossed card or provide the numbers of your own card. You can also request a PDF card to be emailed to you that can be printed. Only ONE CARD can be played per person and your card MUST be registered with us.

If you have any questions, call Kevin Meyers, Outreach Director at 414-839-0635.




Featured Non-profit:



Vision Forward
Association

June 26 , 2026 6:30-9:00PM

Vision Forward is proud to be the featured nonprofit at the June 26 Milwaukee Milkmen vs. Cleburne Railroaders game!

Gather your family and friends and join us for a fun summer evening at the ballpark while learning more about how Vision Forward supports children, youth, adults, and seniors with vision loss throughout Wisconsin.

For more than 105 years, Vision Forward has been helping people who are blind or visually impaired build skills, confidence, and independence. Through training, education, and personalized support, we empower individuals of all ages as they navigate life with vision loss. Your attendance and support make a meaningful difference. Proceeds from ticket sales, donations, and the 50/50 raffle help sustain our programs and services, ensuring that anyone who needs Vision Forward's support can access it.

About the Milwaukee Milkmen

The Milwaukee Milkmen are an independent professional baseball team based in Franklin, Wisconsin. At every game, they shine a spotlight on a local nonprofit organization, helping raise awareness and critical funds for community causes. Through partnerships with organizations across the region, the Milkmen celebrate and support the people and programs making an impact in our communities. Learn more about the Milwaukee Milkmen by visiting their website: www.milwaukeemilkmen.com

Location: Franklin Field 7035 S. Ballpark Drive Franklin, Wisconsin 53132

Price: Tickets range from \$11 to \$68



To purchase tickets, scan QR code, or visit <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Visionforward2026>

For more information, contact Elle Henderson, Event & Volunteer Coordinator at ehenderson@vision-forward.org or 414-615-0161.

Recreation Classes

Join on-going recreation classes for adults to get together and socialize. All classes are run by volunteers.

Advanced registration is necessary for all classes. For questions, or to register, contact **Elle Henderson** at **414-615-0161** or email: ehenderson@vision-forward.org.

Activities/Meetings

These are typically held at Vision Forward Association in a meeting area on the third floor, unless otherwise indicated.

New times and days for 2026!

Tuesdays

Activity - Day	Time	Room
<u>Games</u> - first and third weeks. <u>Farkle</u> - second and fourth weeks.	1pm-2pm	B
<u>Closer Look</u> - first and third weeks. <u>Book Lovers</u> - second and fourth weeks.	1pm-2pm	A
<u>Bingo</u> - Every week	2:15pm-3:45pm	B
<u>Fitness Every Week.</u>	2:15pm-3:45pm	A

Thursdays

Activity - Day	Time	Room
<u>Knitting</u> - Every Week	9:15am – 10:15am	A
<u>Bingo</u> - Every Week	9:15am – 12pm	B

10150 W National Ave, Suite 100
West Allis, 53227
vision-forward.org

Free Hearing Screening

Hear Wisconsin Mobile Clinic



LEARN ABOUT

- THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HEARING & BRAIN HEALTH
- HEARING HEALTH RESOURCES
- HEARING ASSESSMENT



Date: June 12 2026

LOCATIONS:

- 9:00AM-11:00AM- WILSON PARK SENIOR CENTER
- 11:30AM-1:30PM- WASHINGTON PARK SENIOR CENTER



FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER
SCAN QR CODE OR [CLICK HERE](#)



Noah's Ark Waterpark Sensory Days

June 15 @ 9:00 am - 10:00 am

ORGANIZER

[Statewide Community](#)

Cost:

\$25.99

Noah's Ark Waterpark

1410 Wisconsin Dells Pkwy

Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965 United States

[+ Google Map](#)

Noah's Ark Waterpark is partnering with the Autism Society of Wisconsin to host three Sensory Days this summer! Join us on June 15th, July 20th, and August 17th at 9:00 AM to enjoy the waterpark in a quieter and more relaxed setting before the park opens to the public at 10:00 AM. Tickets can be purchased at that gate for \$25.99 plus parking fees.

During this first hour at the waterpark, certain rides will be open with sensory accommodations being made to the lights and sounds around the waterpark. Noah's Ark will also have designated quiet places for individuals who may require sensory breaks during their time at the waterpark.

Guests are welcome to stay past 10:00 AM when the park opens to the public. The music will turn on at this time but will remain quieter than it is on typical days.

For questions, please email: MeganH@autismsocietywi.org

[View our Noah's Ark Social Story](#)

By filling out the RSVP or ticket forms on our website, you will receive the Autism Society of Wisconsin email newsletter. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Confidentiality Statement: We are committed to safeguarding the privacy of our program participants and will not disclose any confidential information to external organizations, businesses, or government agencies.

<https://autismsocietywi.org/event/noahs-ark-waterpark-sensory-days/2026-06-15/>

ILLEGALLY PARKS CARDS

You are ILLEGALLY PARKED!

[@MKECoOPD](#)

The Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) has a supply of these cards. If you'd like some, please contact Jacqueline Formanek at 414-278-3938 or email jacqueline.formanek@milwaukeecountywi.gov with your complete name and mailing address.



PRIVATE PARTY RENTALS

Looking to book your next family gathering or community-group event? Weddings, family reunions, birthday parties, graduations, showers, organizational meetings, are among the many events held here each year. Both Wil-O-Way facilities are in beautiful Milwaukee County parks. The buildings are accessible and have a large hall and kitchen. The spacious grounds have picnic tables, walking trails, wading pools, and accessible playgrounds.

BOOK AN EVENT NOW!

Current Capacity 180 people

Check out the [Facility Guidelines](#) & [Facility Rentals Calendar](#).

Wil-O-Way Grant (South Milwaukee)



Wil-O-Way Underwood (Wauwatosa)



SHARE HANDY NEWS & NOTES!

Do you work with someone or know someone who would be interested in or would benefit from the information in Handy News & Notes? If so, please refer them to the link below to sign up for this FREE information source.

<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Sign-Up-for-E--Notify>

OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (OPD)

Director: Jacqueline Formanek



P. Coggs Human Services Center • 1230 W Cherry St • Milwaukee County 53205

• (414) 239-5679 • 711 (TRS)

[Office Persons with Disabilities Website](#)

