United Spinal Association of Georgia

2024-2025
Summary Report







NERVE GAMING

Prepared By
Ghost Gaming

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About United Spinal Association Georgia

United Spinal Association Georgia is committed to providing opportunities for individuals with SCI and other related injuries to pursue video gaming in both recreational and competitive settings. We are doing this through hosting hands-on, experimental clinics, local and virtual tournaments and an esports team, Nerve Gaming.

We strive to be a driving force in adaptive esports in Georgia and beyond.

Mission

To connect the individual living with a spinal cord injury and their support system, regardless of age, gender or time-lapsed since injury, with information, suport and personal connections in order to improve quality-of-life by successfully integrating into their community.



Leadership Team

MITCHELL TEPPER, PHD, MPH
PRESIDENT, UNITED SPINAL GEORGIA



RACHEL SCARBORO, OTD, OTR/L
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST | AT SPECIALIST



COUGAR CLIFFORD
COMMUNITY MANAGER, NERVE GAMING



JIHAN JOHNSTON
COMMUNITY IMPACT, GHOST GAMING



TJ STEPHENS
ESPORTS COACH, GHOST GAMING



TODD HARRIS
ESPORTS ADVISOR, GHOST GAMING



Program Benefits

People with disabilities use online gaming as a way to engage in menaingful relationships with people outside their home and to retain a sense of normalcy. Providing exposure and practice to adaptive gaming provides a venue to decrease social isolation and improve quality of life. Evidence indicates that the level and quality of community participation are directly related to cognitive, psychological, and physical health and funcition.

Program Goals

The primary program goal is to build a community of Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) gamers and create opportunities for individual members to participate in videogaming and competitive esports tournaments.



Grow Community

Leverage community platform Discord to grow community of adaptive gamers & supporters.



Competitive Teams

Represent Adaptive Gaming community across increasing number of game titles. i



Tournament Participation

Host and participate in regular casual and competitive gaming tournaments.



AT/Esports Professional Development

Conduct awareness and training sessions to increase the number of experienced assistive technology and esports professionals.

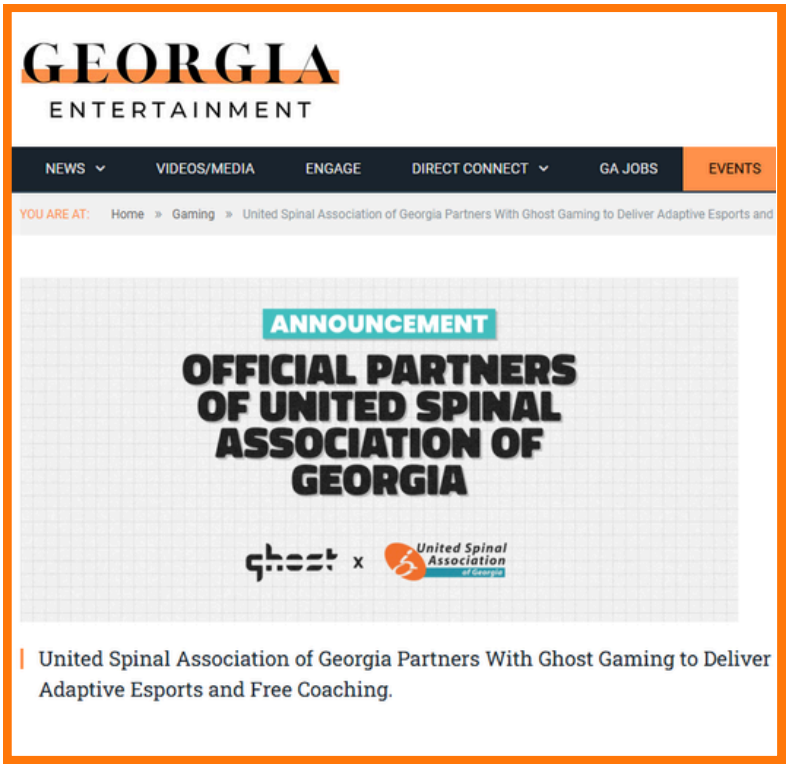
NERVE GAMING

Partnership & PR

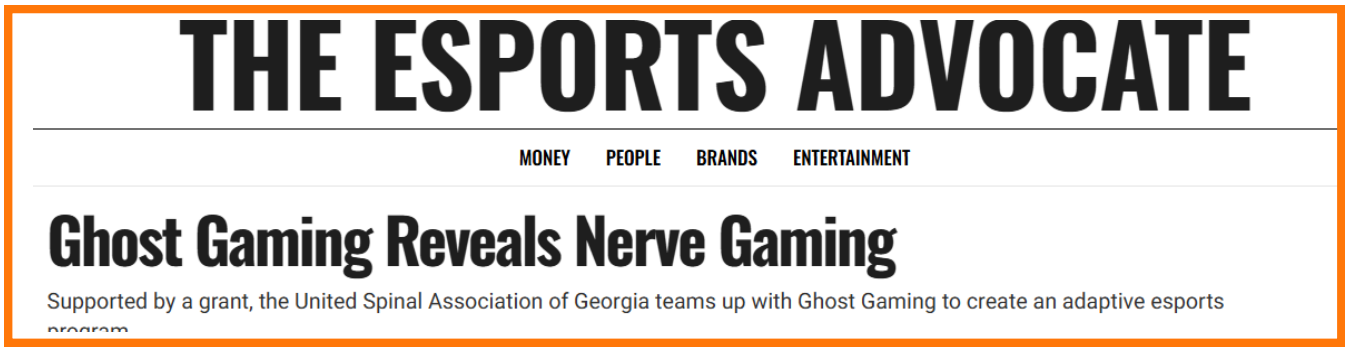
To kickoff 2024, **United Spinal Association partnered with endemic gaming & esports organization Ghost Gaming.**

This partnership announcement was covered by media outlets local to the state of Georgia and those covering the gaming industry globally -- generating awareness for the Nerve Gaming adaptive gaming initiative.

"Nerve Gaming is being supported by a generous grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, according to the release."

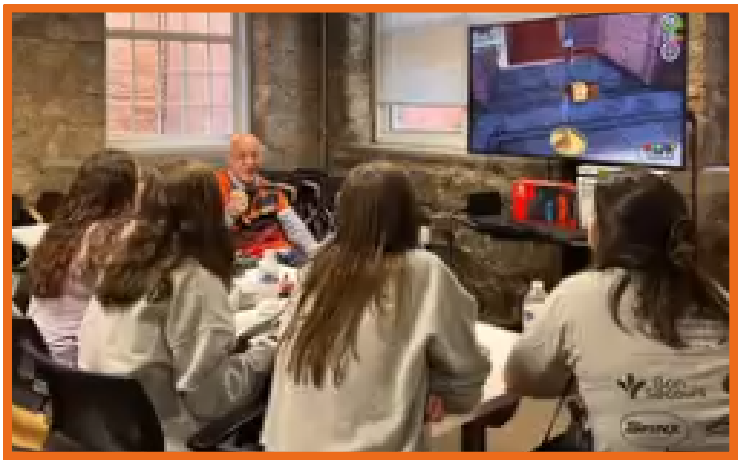




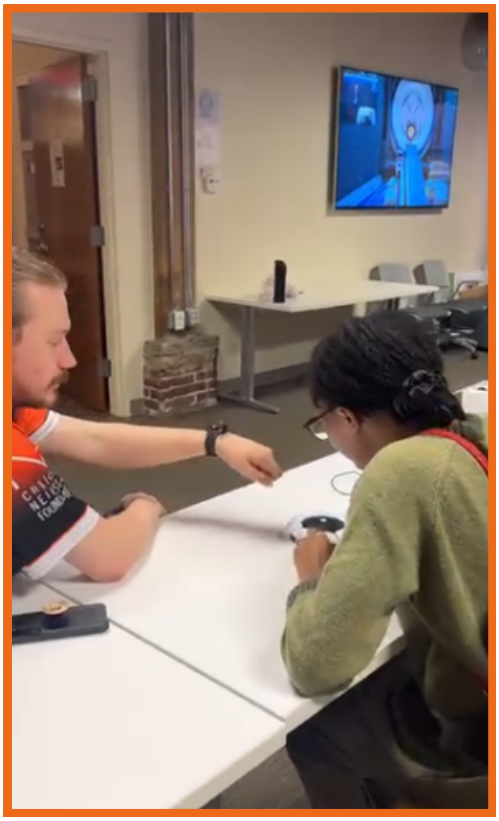


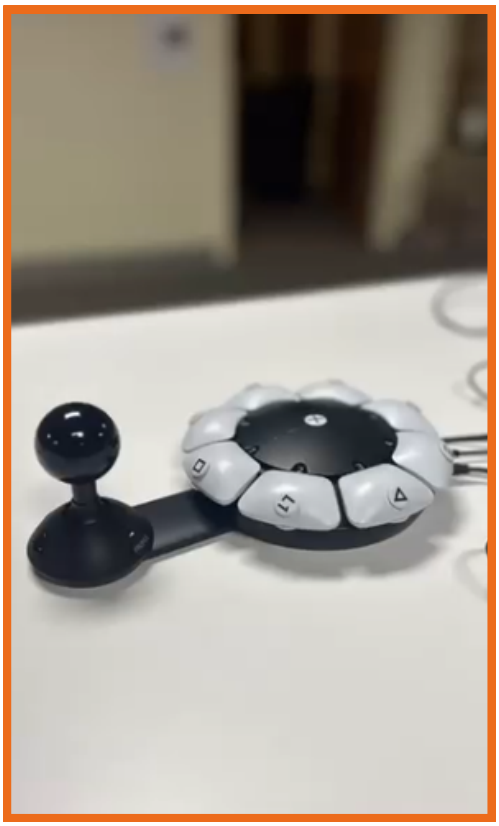
Partnership & PR

Georgia Tech Tools For Life, Assistive Technology Act Program











Online Awareness

Posts to Business & Sponsor Community (on LinkedIn platform) each post generating thousands of views

Let's make gaming a place where everyone can belong and thrive!

Ghost Gaming and Nerve Gaming (United Spinal Association of Georgia) introducing kids to Adaptive Gaming controls at the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

PK Graff Mitchell Tepper Cougar Clifford Nabil Ismail Austen Roberts Dylen Roberts Brian Grayson

#gaming #esports #adaptive #assistivetechnology #disability #inclusion



How can Adaptive Gaming promote inclusion in esports? | What is G

You and 59 others — 6 comments • 3 reposts

Reactions +52

Like | Comment | Repost | Send

2,178 impressions — View analytics

Gaming is for everyone, regardless of ability!

Today Ghost Gaming, with partner United Spinal Association of Georgia / Nerve Gaming, demonstrated Adaptive Gaming benefits, best practices & equipment to Assistive Technology Instructors!

Thank you to Tools For Life, Center for Inclusive Design & Innovation, & Georgia Institute of Technology for hosting the gathering in recognition of National Assistive Technology (AT) Awareness Day!

If you are looking for a free community, support, and resources as a disabled gamer please join the Nerve Gaming Discord community via link in the comments.

Nerve Gaming and Ghost Gaming also offer free gameplay coaching to those with spinal cord injuries thanks to a grant from Craig H. Neilsen Foundation.

Mitchell Tepper Cougar Clifford Rachel Scarboro Hunter McFeron Julian Caggiano Nabil Ismail PK Graff Mark Barlet Linda Levy Jared Grier

#gaming #esports #assistivetechnology #disability #inclusion



What are the benefits of Adaptive Gaming? | How can disabl

Iliya Kovachki and 154 others — 14 comments • 11 reposts

Like | Comment | Repost | Send

4,616 impressions — View analytics

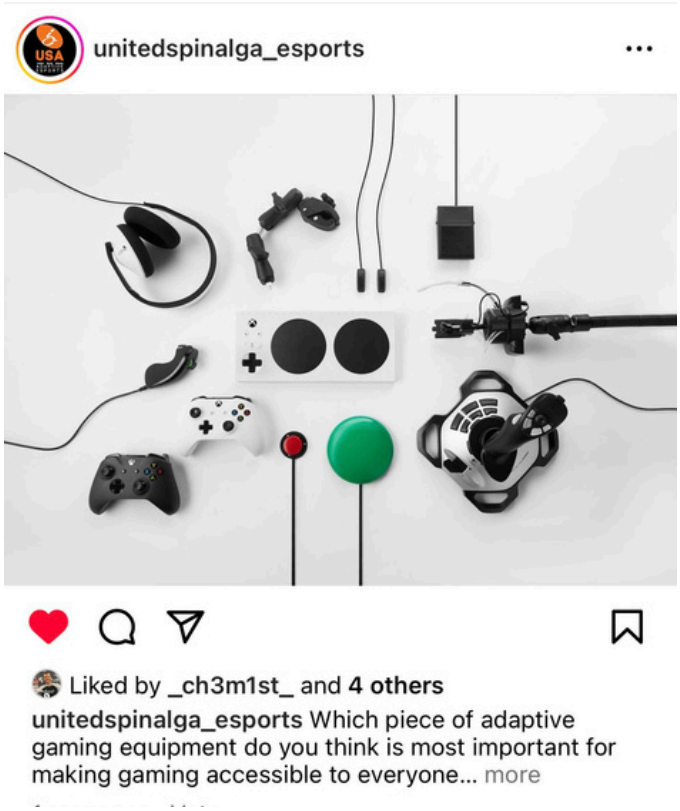
NERVE GAMING

Online Awareness

Regular posting on Facebook, Instagram, and X to increase awareness and grow channel followers.



Community Member Clip of the Week





NERVE GAMING

Online Awareness

Balance of Educational Content, Spotlighting Community Members, and Content that drives high engagem!ent



Join United Spinal GA & FODAC for our first-ever Wash 'n Tunes BBQ Social! Get that hair out of your casters, grease up those axels, and tighten up those breaks! Wheelchair wash is free! Good music, delicious BBQ, and lots of fun! Sat Jul 20 2024...

Tue, Jul 2

Post reach	Engagement
889	112



158 followers

199 members

391 followers

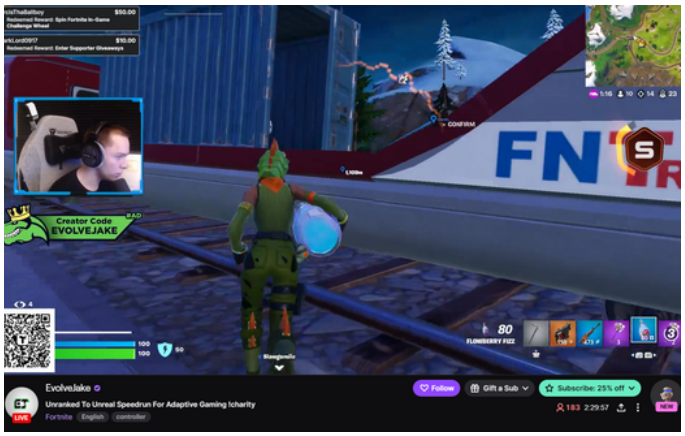
Online Livestreaming

Livestreaming on Twitch.TV to showcase Adaptive Gaming

4 Streams ~450 concurrent viewers; ~4,000 total unique viewers

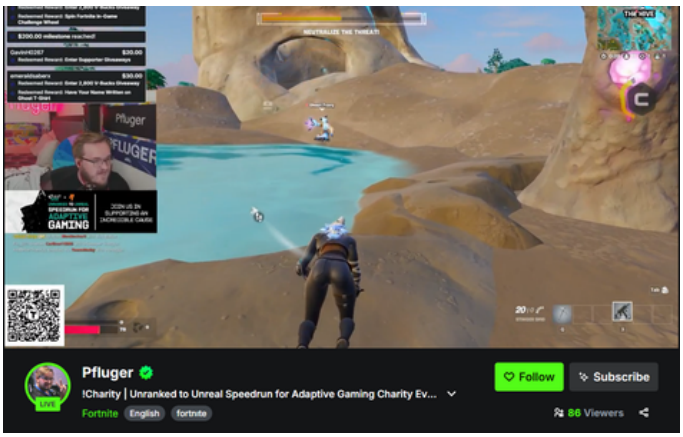












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Online Ambassador

Working with social media content creator “RockyNoHands” to further educate the public and grow the adaptive gaming community.



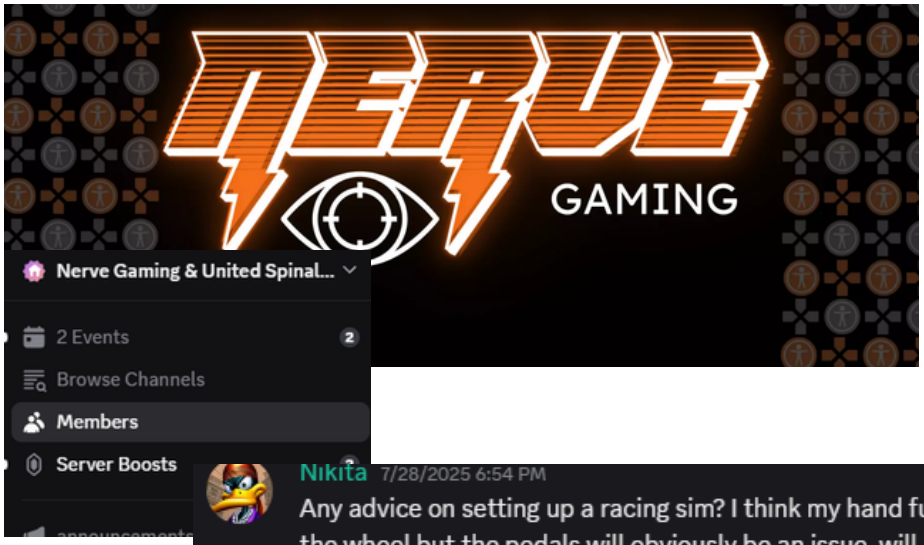




NERVE GAMING

Community Platform

The Nerve Gaming discord is a hub for communication and support. With 311 members and growing.



Community Game Nights



Competitive Teams

ROCKET LEAGUE

CALL OF DUTY WARZONE

APEX LEGENDS



Cougar Clifford
aka Sir Phive
c5 Quadraplegic



Charlie Merritt
aka Quadcapable
c3 Quadraplegic



Derick Gilmore
aka QUADimus_Prime
c6 Quadrapletic



Cameron Piorek
aka Letzzdodizz
c6 Quadrapletic



Jackson Reece
aka Pitbullreece
Paraplegic/quad
amputee



Trevor Simon
aka Soli2de
T4 Para Complete

NERVE GAMING

Team Coaching

Coaching

- Coaches onboarded from professional team Ghost Gaming.
- Coaching Staff has delivered

97 Esports Coaching Sessions to Adaptive Community



Teams

In 2024 & 2025 we grew Nerve representation to 6 Competitive Teams.

ROCKET LEAGUE

CALL OF DUTY WARZONE

APEX LEGENDS

BRAWLHALLA

iRacing

FORTNITE

Sample of Activations



Adaptive Gaming Setup

- At each live event we demonstrate adaptive gaming technology
- Technology is adaptable to different gaming platforms (Xbox, Playstation, PC)
- Then customizable for each individuals level of function

Events



National AT Awareness Day

- Education and presentation to 30 K12 teachers



- Demonstration and training with wide variety of adaptive equipment
- Delivered in partnership with Georgia Tech Tools For Life



Children's Healthcare of Atlanta 2024 Rehab Reunion

- Adaptive gaming introduction for youth

NERVE GAMING

Events & Workshops



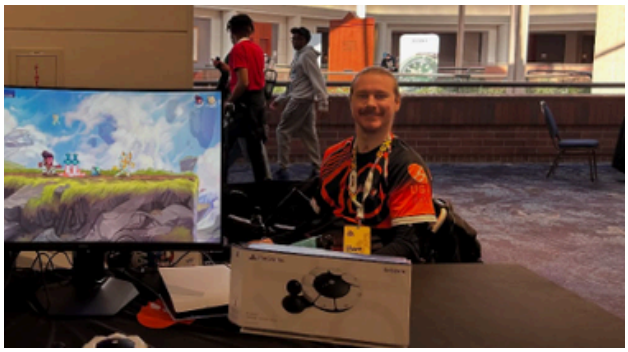
Esports Summit

- Workshop for K-12 Esports Educators



WashNTunes

- Free wheelchair washing and repair while listening to music
- Complemented by adaptive gaming instruction



Adaptive Showcase at Brawlhalla World Championship

- 3,000 gamers in attenance to experience adaptive gaming in popular fighting game Brawlhalla



Belong & Thrive - Game Jam kickoff

- Integrated Nerve, Adaptive Gaming and Design for Accessibility at Georgia State University Game Jam.
- 60+ student game designers across 15 teams

Events & Workshops:

Abilities Expo, Ft Lauderdale 2025

















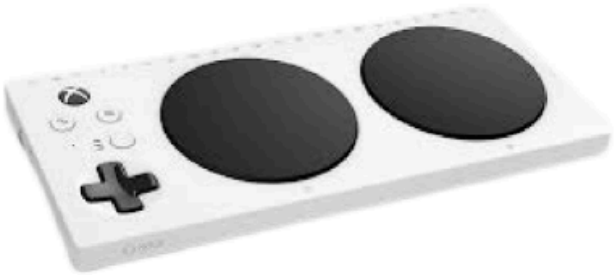
Equipment

An essential part of our program is educating our community and those interested about what adaptive gaming equipment is available.

We showcase this equipment at events and activations.









Loaners

We have lent out 2 gaming laptops to Georgia Tech Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation toward their training in Adaptive Technology.

Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation

NERVE GAMING

Professional Development

Educational and professional development events made available to all Nerve Gaming members - via in-person and/or live-stream in both 2024 and 2025. Provide content and industry connections toward working within the videogame, esports, and entertainment industries.



Creator Summit

- Panels and workshops related to becoming a social media influencer / content creator

csummit.live



Esports Summit

- K-12 and Collegiate Esports Education
- Panels specific to Adaptive Gaming

esportssummit.live



Animation Summit

- Panels and workshops related to working within the Animation industry.

animationsummit.live

Contact Us

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unitedspinalga.org/nerve-gaming

Nerve Gaming, United Spinal Association of Georgia's Adaptive Gaming & Esports Program, is supported by a generours grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation.

CRAIG·H NEILSEN FOUNDATION