

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Active Life O & P Hosts Two First Clinics in Albuquerque**

August 4, 2011- Waterloo, Iowa – Active Life Orthotics and Prosthetics, along with their sister company, Aqua Life Wellness Center hosted two adaptive aquatic programs for those with physical challenges at their facilities in Albuquerque, New Mexico. First Swim™ and First Dive™ Intro to Scuba, programs of OPAF & The First Clinics, were offered to Active Life patients as well as anyone within the community who wanted the chance to ‘feel the freedom’ that water activities offer to people with disabilities. Active Life is an ABC certified patient care facility with locations in both New Mexico and California. Jeff Schwarz, CP, an Active Life practitioner was instrumental in every aspect of the event and securing and welcoming those to attend. Fourteen participants tried adaptive swimming and/or scuba in the four hour event.

First Swim was led by three time Paralympic swim champion, Jason Wening, CPO who won five gold medals in the Paralympic games in Atlanta, Sydney and Barcelona. Wening still holds one world paralympic record in distance swimming. Jason is also a bilateral below knee amputee who offered many practical suggestions and tips to the amputee attendees. Jason and volunteers then spent time one on one and in groups working on specific needs of the individual swimmers.

Swimmers then transitioned over to snorkel and scuba with the help of the staff of New Mexico Scuba Center, located in Albuquerque. Stacey Minton, owner of New Mexico Scuba and her volunteers began with snorkels, masks and fins for everyone and then began outfitting everyone with scuba equipment and giving them the chance to experience breathing under water. Everyone attending was presented with commemorative t-shirts as well as Willow Wood beach towels. Comments included, “It was fun. It helped me with psychological issues about being an amputee” said Alfredo Rodriguez of Albuquerque. “Thank you so much for a great time. Enjoyed it very much and beyond” said Kevin Thom. Active Life practitioner, Deane Doty, CPO offered, “It was great to see the participants have fun and smile and do things they have never done before. The kids were great to watch swim for the first time. The instructors were excellent and provided confidence; the staff of OPAF ran a great clinic.”

For more information on OPAF & The First Clinics and the opportunities with adaptive recreational clinics, please contact the OPAF office at 319-235-4318 or [rlb@opfund.org](mailto:rlb@opfund.org).

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