

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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## **First Swim Clinic held in Greenville**

October 26, 2017 – Charlotte, NC – An OPAF First Swim Clinic was held recently at the Kroc Aquatic Center in Greenville, SC. The event, sponsored by Shriners Hospital for Children Greenville, along with Sprinkle Prosthetics and Sure Step, brought together children and adults with physical or mobility challenges and provided them with safe, secure and fun instruction at the pool. Instruction was provided by two time World Champion Triathlete, Mabio Costa, a below the knee amputee. Mabio was assisted by volunteers from Shriners Hospital and the local Greenville Splash, a US Masters swim group.



With 18 participants, 22 volunteers swim buddies, plus parents and support personnel, a full afternoon of adaptive swimming was met with smiles and cheers. We were visited by local Fox affiliate and the Greenville News for media coverage and our hope is that our sponsors will make this an annual event in Greenville. Comments back to us on evaluations included:

*“Awesome experience! This was my first time.”*

*Mike Simpson, Participant*

*“Excellent! Thank you so much for your time in teaching Ellie new skills. Froggy swim! Instructor was very energetic and involved.”*

*Stephanie Mountcastle, Personal Aide*

*“Great for kids learning to swim and build confidence. Pool needed to be warmer due to kids with spasticity and decreased circulation. Kids may feel more comfortable.”*

*Karen Smalls, Volunteer*

*“My son Kelin loved the clinic.”*

*Ruby Kearns, Mom*

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**About OPAF:** Serving as the philanthropic arm of the US orthotic and prosthetic community, the Orthotic & Prosthetic Activities Foundation (OPAF), develops, implements, partners and hosts adaptive recreational clinics for those with physical challenges. The First Clinics are recognized as leaders in adaptive recreation. Whether this is the first time a participant is trying an activity after illness, injury or episode or the first time they are ever trying, First Clinics offer top notch adaptive instruction specifically for them. Founded in 1995 to support the Paralympic Games in Atlanta, OPAF & The First Clinics have moved forward to offer introductory level adaptive recreation opportunities to everyone, not just the elite athlete. For more information on OPAF and The First Clinics, visit [www.opafonline.org](http://www.opafonline.org).