

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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First Dance Launches with SOAR in Detroit

March 29, 2011- Waterloo, Iowa - OPAF's First Dance successfully launched this month in Detroit with the help of our local sponsor, SOAR, Special Opportunities for Advanced Rehabilitation. SOAR and Elegance in Motion Dance Studio were the hosts for an afternoon of ballroom dancing for those with physical challenges. Over 20 participants, plus family, friends and partners had a wonderful time of trying waltz, salsa and more. Instructors from Elegance in Motion gave both one on one and group lessons to all who wanted to participate and some observers as well. The event was a tremendous success and adds to the First Family of adaptive recreational clinics sponsored by OPAF.

"First Dance has fulfilled a personal wish to bring social dance to the O and P population. There are many First clinic participants who may not envision themselves in a swimming pool or on a tennis court, but everyone remembers social dancing. First Dance gives participants a fun activity, with a partner for balance and gets them into a great social setting to meet other people" said Robin Burton, OPAF Executive Director. "People with multiple disabilities and ages were able to participate and have fun" said Wendy Beattie, CPO and SOAR founder.

"I loved the energy!" This quote is from Cara DePugh of Columbus, Ohio, who traveled with OPAF Board member, Lisa Arbogast to attend the inaugural event. Cara had just received her first prosthesis three days prior to First Dance. She was up dancing and having a wonderful time.

"It was fun, friendly and warm. I made new friends and hope to do this again. Dancing was easy, and everyone was comfortable being open about what they could and could not do, which put everyone at ease, knowing that everything was going to be okay".

For more information on First Dance or any of the First Clinics and possible sponsorship opportunities, please contact the OPAF office at 319-235-4318 or rlb@opfund.org.

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