

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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## **OPAF First Paddle Launches a Success in Michigan**

Waterloo, Iowa – First Paddle Adaptive Kayaking is the latest addition to the First Family for OPAF. First Paddle had a most successful launch in Ypsilanti, Michigan for their maiden voyage, sponsored by SOAR (Special Opportunities in Advanced Rehabilitation). This is the third time that SOAR has sponsored a First Clinic for their attendees in the greater Detroit area. The event was held at the Michael Jones pool facilities of Eastern Michigan University and coordinated by Chris Casteel, MSOP and prosthetic resident along with American Canoe Association certified instructors and a large number of enthusiastic kayaking volunteers. The afternoon session included adaptive kayaks, instruction as well as the chance to spend time with other folks facing similar physical challenges. Another First Paddle clinic is slated for this fall.

Capital City Scuba of Lansing, along with OPAF and the Dive Pirates organization hosted a First Dive Intro to Scuba Clinic the same weekend with First Paddle. First Dive hosted eight participants who were either amputees or low level spinal cord injury patients to enjoy an afternoon of adaptive scuba in the Williamston High School pool facilities in Williamston, Michigan. Stacey Minton, OPAF's First Dive Director described the action as a great afternoon. She added that the only way the clinic ended was "when they ran out of air and had to get out of the pool!".

For more information on how to host a First Clinic for your practice, your patients and your community, contact the OPAF office at 319-235-4318 or rlb@opfund.org.