

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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OPAF First Swim makes a splash at ACA Conference

August 31, 2010 – Waterloo, Iowa – OPAF First Swim made a big splash at the recent Amputee Coalition of America Conference held in Irvine, California. First Swim invites amputees back to the water and works to help them feel comfortable both in and around the pool. Kingsley Manufacturing was our sponsor for First Swim this year and former OPAF board member, Lauren McVey-Harsch led with clinic with a host of volunteers, both able bodied and amputee.

The early morning clinic saw 25 amputees in the water, working on kicking, breathing and their strokes. Participants received both one on one and group coaching to help them improve their style in the water. One participant, Florraine Johnson of Atlanta, arrived unable to swim and left the event having crossed the pool several times! Other participants challenged themselves by swimming without their prostheses and working to improve their abilities in the water. Comments included,

“I have to say that all instructors for the last four years have been knowledgeable and very helpful” Jean Powers, NY

“This program is AWESOME!” Crestina Marez, WA

This program was made possible thanks to our sponsor, Kingsley, but also for the volunteers who came to help, aid and support their fellow amputees in the water. We were also fortunate to have physical therapy students from North Georgia University lend participants a hand with getting into and out of the water and making transfers.

OPAF & The First Clinics look forward to our participation with First Swim each year at ACA and hope that we can expand our offering of quality adaptive recreational clinics to the ACA attendees in 2011.

For more information on OPAF & The First Clinics, visit our website at www.opfund.org. Host a clinic for your patients, your practice and your community. It’s a win, win, WIN! Call the OPAF office at 319-235-4318.

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