

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Gulbrandson First Dance a Success!**

February 14, 2012 – Waterloo, Iowa – Gulbrandson Orthotics & Prosthetics of Cary, Illinois hosted a First Dance Clinic on Sunday, February 12, 2012. The event was held at the Holiday Inn Crystal Lake in Crystal Lake, Illinois and dance instruction was provided by Cinnamon Trammell and the staff of the Center for Ballroom and Dance of Deer Park, Illinois. First Dance is a program of OPAF- the Orthotic & Prosthetic Activities Foundation and provides adaptive social partner dance instruction for anyone with a physical challenge.

The afternoon event saw over 50 attendees, including participants, family and friends. A volunteer group of high school students served as dance partners and extra hands. First Dance provided smiles all afternoon. Instruction was given in the Fox Trot, the traveling Waltz, the Meringue and even a bit of line dancing. “The instructors were very sensitive to the pace of this group. All of the smiles told the story of the day” said Gilbert Gulbrandson, CO and host of the event. First Dance provides a chance for everyone to enjoy the social aspect of partner dancing and get a bit of exercise as well. The attendees were amputees, wheelchair participants, stroke and brain injury survivors and their family. Media representatives were also on hand from both the Northwest Herald (newspaper) and McHenry County Living (magazine). No one was ready for the afternoon to end and plans are being made for another First Dance soon.

“While some of our attendees might not enjoy tennis or scuba or horses, almost everyone remembers social dance events from their youth and First Dance offers that chance to dust off your dancing shoes and have a bit of fun. Gulbrandson First Dance brought us another first-our most senior participant yet, with Kathleen Harlow, age 96, who danced from her wheelchair, only because of a recent injury,” said Robin Burton, OPAF Executive Director. Everyone went home with a Gulbrandson dance shoe bag, filled with goodies, so that they are ready for their next dancing opportunity.

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