

DIVEHEART®



Helping children, veterans and others with disabilities through adaptive scuba opportunities and scuba therapy.

THE DIVEHEART STORY

“ Diveheart is an amazing organization with people truly dedicate to improving the lives of the people it serves. We empower people with a can do spirit and greater self-esteem through scuba.”

Sean Barker
Diveheart Board Member

OUR MISSION:

Diveheart is a 501 C 3 not-for-profit organization established in 2001 that helps children, veterans and others with disabilities through adaptive scuba opportunities and scuba therapy.

Diveheart was founded in 2001 as a 510(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to build confidence, independence and self-esteem in children, adults and veterans with disabilities using adaptive scuba and scuba therapy.

Thanks to the wonder of the water column, pools, oceans and lakes of the world become the forgiving weightless environment of inner space. This zero-gravity environment offers perfect buoyancy and balance to those who might struggle on land, providing physical and psychological therapeutic value. It is this can-do spirit that Diveheart seeks to instill in its participants. Since its inception, Diveheart has trained volunteer scuba instructors, divers and participants with disabilities, with the aim of growing adaptive scuba and scuba therapy throughout the world. Over the

years, Diveheart has worked with individuals around the world, including the UK, Malaysia, Borneo, Mexico, China, Israel, Australia, the Caribbean and more.

Diveheart's dream is to have a deep warm water pool facility where children, veterans and others with disabilities can experience the benefits of zero gravity and scuba therapy, as well is where research, rehabilitation, education, training and vocational opportunities can be addressed for people of all abilities. The hope is that the Diveheart facility will bring individuals with and without disabilities from around the world to learn about the benefits of adaptive scuba and scuba therapy. The goal is to have these individuals, return to their communities and train even more people. The potential impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families around the world is enormous.



Tammy Duckworth
Turning Point Interview by Greg Kiefer

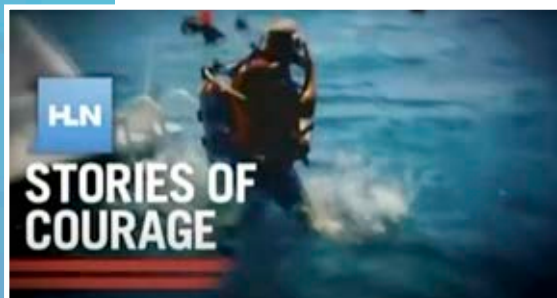
As the Director for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Illinois, before her ascent to U.S. Congresswoman and then U.S. Senator, Tammy Duckworth did an interview with the PBS film makers during *Turning Point* (a feature about the Diveheart story and some of its veterans and families). Duckworth eloquently articulates what it's like to have a disability and be a veteran, as well as the benefits of scuba therapy.



The Power of Scuba Diving for People with Disabilities
 WTTW story by Jay Shefsky

People with disabilities have been proving for years that very few activities are off-limits. And whether or not an individual has a disability, many activities can offer physical, psychological and emotional benefits.

Scuba diving, research has shown, offers special benefits for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and spinal cord injuries, as well as benefits for individuals with autism and other disabilities.



CNN/HLN follow Gold Star Families and Diveheart Military Wounded
 by Robin Meade

Gold Star Military Families who have lost loved ones in combat have to deal with their loss and their new normal. Film makers from CNN/HLN follow these families to Key Largo Florida with Diveheart Military Wounded in hopes to capture their stories and learn firsthand about the emotional, psychological and physical benefits of scuba therapy.

The mission of Diveheart Military Wounded (DMW) is to invigorate the spirit and the imagination of our veterans with disabilities by using adaptive scuba and zero gravity as a tool to:

- Build confidence and independence
- Offer a sense of freedom through the adventure paradigm
- Empower individuals to embrace the can do spirit.

We all need to be valued and have a purpose. DMW's mission-based diving philosophy gives our veteran participants that purpose again, helping them cope with their "New Normal" so they can focus on what they CAN DO instead of what they can't do.

Diveheart has been a proud CFC member since 2017 which enables current & retired federal employees to give to the Diveheart Foundation through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #32225).

“ If I can Scuba dive, I can do anything... ”

Vietnam veteran Darrell Young who is paraplegic from a spinal cord injury

RESEARCH & THERAPY



WGN News Medical Watch ▲
Autism & Scuba Therapy by Dina Bair

WGN News Medical Watch highlights a study done by Midwestern University and Diveheart on Autism and the many benefits of scuba therapy.

“ Every time I dive with Diveheart, I find another piece of myself.”

Greg Rodriguez, Marine veteran who sustained a traumatic brain injury



ABC 7 Disabilities Report ▲
by Hosea Sanders

ABC 7 Disability Report features veterans and children with disabilities during a Diveheart Scuba Experience Program.

At Diveheart we've seen the benefits of scuba therapy since our inception. So early on we began working with university medical centers around the country to conduct research in the area of scuba therapy. Since 2001 these researchers have only scratched the surface, but are realizing that the potential for therapy and medical research in zero gravity here on Earth is a new frontier worth exploring.



WGN Medical Report ▲
by Dina Bair

Marine Veteran Greg Rodriguez suffered a traumatic brain injury that changed his life. He felt useless, but Diveheart & Scuba Therapy helped turn Greg around. His story is featured in this WGN TV Medical Report.

“ When I scuba dive, I feel freed from the body in which I otherwise feel trapped.”

Ashley Hoffman, adaptive diver who is legally blind and has cerebral palsy

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Since 2001 Diveheart has been inspiring, promoting & facilitating adaptive scuba and scuba therapy programs around the world. There are too many international Diveheart stories to share with you here but these two will give you an idea of how Diveheart has been growing adaptive scuba internationally.

“ The Diveheart foundation is truly one of the best organizations on the planet. They are well run and run by people of integrity providing an invaluable service to so many.”

D.C. Young, Diveheart doner & supporter



CNN Español

Adaptive Scuba in Key Largo

Key Largo Florida is the backdrop for this CNN Español feature, filmed with Rainbow Reef and Diveheart while on a Diveheart adaptive scuba adventure in the Pennekamp underwater preserve.



Diveheart Malaysia

Bernama News Channel

Diveheart Malaysia was featured on the Bernama News Channel for the BNC Morning Talkshow on January 3rd 2018. Both Riza Faisal (PADI PWD Scuba Diver and Diveheart Malaysia Ambassador) and Hj. Syed Abd Rahman (PADI IDC Staff Instructor) spoke on the show.



DOCUMENTARIES & MAJOR FEATURES



Turning Point

Public Television Documentary Film Makers from "Turning Point" traveled with Diveheart around the country and to Cozumel Mexico to capture the entire Diveheart story and the journey of several of its veterans and families who are challenged with disabilities.



Dividing for Therapy: Jim Elliott at TEDxNaperville

After leaving a successful career in the media industry, Jim Elliott founded Diveheart, a not-for-profit that helps build confidence, independence and self esteem in individuals with disabilities through adaptive scuba and scuba therapy. Jim's a full time volunteer who's inspiration for starting Diveheart came from guiding and teaching blind skiers, which began in the mid 1980s. Passionate about scuba diving since college, Jim decided to replicate his experience guiding blind skiers in the forgiving weightless environment underwater which provides perfect buoyancy and balance to individuals with disabilities who might otherwise struggle on land.



Student Film Makers Feature Diveheart & Benefits of Scuba Therapy

Student documentary film makers from Glenbrook South High School, Galante, Hershey, and Pedrelli, chose Diveheart and scuba therapy as a story for their documentary film that was entered in a national student film festival.

Diveheart's media library includes hundreds of stories from around the world. We've selected a few documentaries and major features for you to sample to better get a sense of the Diveheart mission and vision.

“ As a proud partner working closely with Diveheart on their trips to Cozumel, Mexico, all of us at Dive Paradise have witnessed first-hand the inspiring and impressive impact this organization has on people with disabilities.”

Dive Paradise, Cozumel dive operator

ADAPTIVE SYMPOSIUMS

Diveheart hosted the first International Adaptive Scuba Symposium in 2009 at the midwest's largest dive show, Our World Underwater. Since then, the symposiums have attracted researchers, physicians, professors, therapists, adaptive dive professionals and adaptive divers from around the world. If you are interested in finding out more about the benefits of zero gravity, adaptive scuba and scuba therapy, as well as the latest in adaptive scuba training, techniques and equipment, you will want to check out these annual symposiums. Whether you're a scuba instructor, adaptive diver, dive shop owner, dive resort owner, researcher, therapist or recreational diver, you can benefit by learning more about the current state and the future of adaptive scuba, scuba therapy, the adaptive scuba market, the latest in adaptive scuba training and the latest scuba therapy research.

“ Phenomenal endeavor that not only selflessly gives to an underserved and often disenfranchised community... but builds bridges in helping heal physical and emotional wounds! Diveheart is full of amazing people, among the best I have ever met! Working with Diveheart has been personally life changing, and undeniably transformative!”

Dr. Ian Brown, DMW adaptive diver & Air Force Veteran



Diveheart symposiums have attracted researchers, physicians, professors, therapists, adaptive dive professionals and adaptive divers from around the country.



AUDIO



Jerome McDonnell WBEZ 91.5
Chicago NPR features Disability Therapy Through Scuba Diving

Global Activism: Disability Therapy Through Scuba Diving – Interview with Diveheart’s Tinamarie Hernandez

Audio, radio and podcasts have been a great way for listeners all over the world to learn more about the Diveheart story.

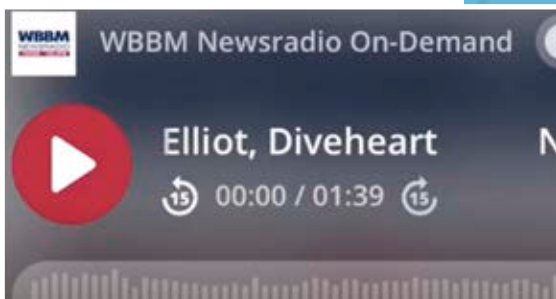


Kunitii Business Class News Podcast

A Deep Dive Into Making A Difference: Host and founder of Business Class News Karl Woolfenden, talks with Diveheart founder and president Jim Elliott about Diveheart’s win/win business strategy when collaborating with business partners around the world.



“ I am a Diveheart Scuba Instructor. I am so very proud to be a member of this organization. I have known Jim for many years and will continue to support this organization.”



WBBM Radio: Newsmakers Making a Difference

Disability Therapy Through Scuba Diving – Interview with Diveheart’s Jim Elliott

Joanne Sawyer, Diveheart Adaptive Scuba Instructor

FAQ

What does Diveheart do?

Diveheart provides adaptive scuba instruction, scuba therapy experiences and life changing scuba adventure trips to children, adults and veterans with disabilities.

Where is Diveheart located?

Diveheart's world headquarters are in Downers Grove, Illinois near Chicago. Diveheart works with individuals with disabilities, dive professionals, dive clubs, and recreational divers as well as service organizations, adaptive recreational groups, university medical centers and veteran organizations throughout the world.

Diveheart's mailing address is: 900 Ogden Avenue #274, Downers Grove, IL 60515



Where do you dive?

The heavy lifting is done in swimming pools around the world. Our open water diving activities take place in quarries, lakes and oceans, but community pools, including those in rehabilitation centers, high schools, hotels and hospitals provide the backdrop for the majority of Diveheart in-water adaptive and scuba therapy programs.

What types of disabilities do you work with?

We can work with virtually any type of disability. Our participants include individuals who have paraplegia, quadriplegia, amputation(s), vision and/or hearing impairment, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and many other types of physical and cognitive disabilities. Our adaptive dive instructors and buddies have undergone rigorous adaptive diving instruction in order to be able to dive with and assist individuals with a wide variety of disabilities.

How is Diveheart operated and funded?

With the exception of some part-time staff, everyone at Diveheart, including the founder/president, is a volunteer. What this means is that the majority of the funding we receive through grants and from our generous sponsors and donors, is committed to Diveheart programs and getting people with disabilities in the water.

Who can dive, and how long does it take?

Compared to other activities. The learning curve for adaptive scuba diving is relatively short. Adaptive divers work along side highly trained Diveheart adaptive instructors and dive buddies. Participants with disabilities don't even have to know how to swim in order to immediately enjoy adaptive scuba diving.

How do I learn more?

Visit www.diveheart.org





ShareCare Awards Healthy Living Recipient



Great Non-profit 2020



Sevan Charitable Foundation
Supports Diveheart



Naperville Women's Club
Supports Diveheart



Daily Herald Business Ledger's Award for Business Excellence



Charity of Choice 2017



COD Distinguished
Alumni Award



630 Chamber Awards:
Non-profit excellence



Charity of Choice 2018



Charity of Choice



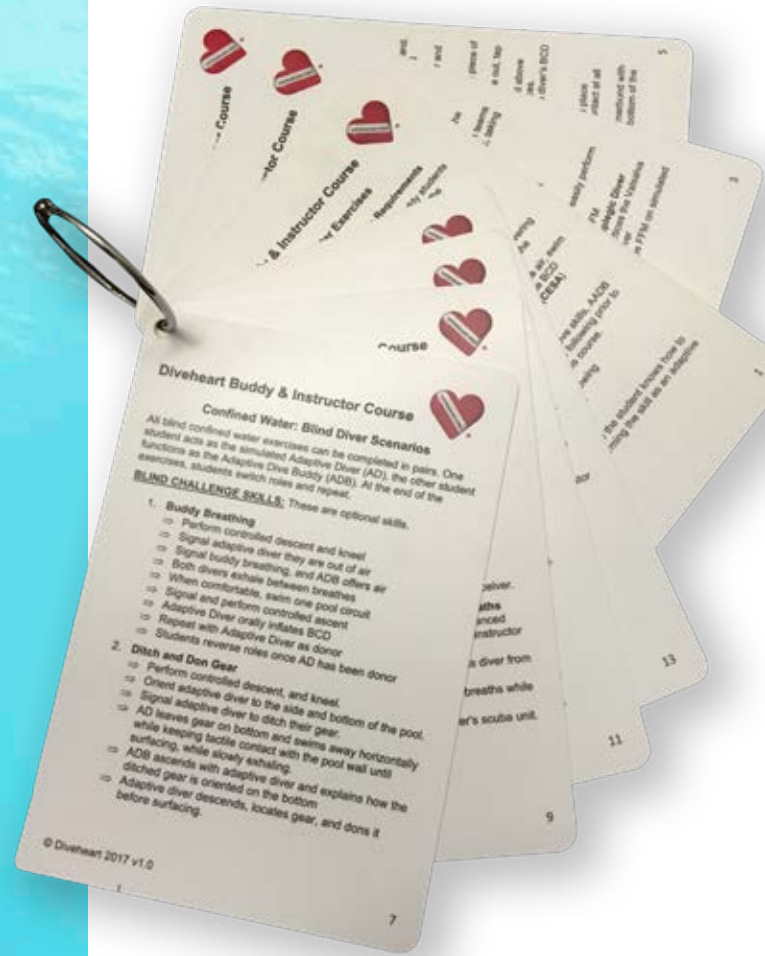
HONORS AND RECOGNITION



DIVEHEART REVOLUTIONIZES ADAPTIVE SCUBA

Diveheart has not only trained adaptive divers, instructors and dive buddies from around the world with the industry's most innovative adaptive scuba training materials and tools, it has ushered in and promoted scuba therapy research with university medical centers from around the country. Diveheart has also changed the language from handicapped and disabled scuba to adaptive scuba, now a recognized norm in the scuba industry. By successfully promoting and growing adaptive scuba internationally, Diveheart has inspired the scuba industry to embrace adaptive scuba and scuba therapy, which is why Diveheart is recognized as the leader in adaptive scuba worldwide.

To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#)



Got2Dive

CONTACTS



KEY SPEAKERS & LEADERSHIP

Jim Elliott

Founder and President

Jim Elliott left a successful media career to found Diveheart in 2001. As president, he does not draw a salary and as an instructor trainer he has helped facilitate adaptive scuba programs around the world. He is co-author of the Diveheart Adaptive Scuba Training program and is a leader on forwarding Scuba Therapy research around the world.

As a Rotarian, he lives by the motto of "Service Above Self" and works with Rotarians and other service organizations worldwide to grow adaptive scuba programs that serve children, adults and veterans with disabilities in the communities where they live.

Contact Jim at jim.elliott@diveheart.org

Tinamarie Hernandez

Executive Director

Tinamarie began her assignment as Diveheart executive director in February of 2014. She is deeply committed to Diveheart's mission and vision and has already implemented many changes that have allowed Diveheart to grow. She is specifically skilled on working to build alliances and partnerships with mission and results driven outcomes in mind.

When asked what drew her to Diveheart, Tinamarie responded: "I grew up with a cousin who lived his life with both physical and conative challenges. Joey didn't let much hold him back and I just know he would have loved scuba,

had he known about Diveheart. I work to make sure others with disabilities will not miss out on the wonderful experience and benefits that scuba and Diveheart can bring them."

Tinamarie works for the international consulting firm, Accenture since 1997. Her specialty is in continuous improvement and project/program management. Tinamarie earned BAs in English and Political Science from Northern Illinois University and completed MA course work in International Relations, Diplomacy at the University of Denver.

Contact Tinamarie at tinamarie.hernandez@diveheart.org



KEY GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CONTACTS

Rachel Crane, Training Coordinator, training@diveheart.org

Wilhelmina Stanton, South Florida Lead, wilhelmina.stanton@diveheart.org

Corissa Leung, Central Florida Lead, corissa.leung@diveheart.org

Mark Whitely, Oklahoma Lead, okteam@diveheart.org

Jody Seal, Southern California Lead, jody.seal@diveheart.org

Sara Nichols, Atlanta Lead, lethrenn@gmail.com

Syed Abd Rahman, Diveheart Malaysia/Singapore, syed.rahman@diveheart.org

Steve Woodham, DMW Liaison, steve.woodham@diveheart.org