

# Diveheart

SEPTEMBER 2010

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## Note from the President

*Jim Elliott*



Dear Friends of Diveheart:

2010 is our year! This is especially true as we are increasingly seeing Diveheart in the media. In addition to our Money Magazine story, feature on CNN, story in the Miami Herald and other local papers, we are slated to be part of a segment on ABC Chicago Channel 7. This is especially exciting as it will illustrate Diveheart's evolution over the past several years.

Karen Meyer of ABC 7 completed a segment on Diveheart six years ago. During it, she interviewed Stephanie Dominici, a young girl with polio who was a patient at Shriners Children's Hospital and a Diveheart participant. Fast forward to 2010. When Karen Meyer does the upcoming segment on Diveheart, it will include Stephanie Dominici who is now a 21-year old woman. Stephanie went on from becoming a scuba diver, to mentoring other young divers, training to become a dive buddy, and now attending Florida Keys Community College to pursue her education and career in a dive related field. This is the vision that we have for people with disabilities.



*(continued on page 2)*

## First Peek: Renderings of the Future Diveheart Facility



*Courtesy of Perkins + Will*

Diveheart's dream is to have a site where we can serve children, adults and veterans with disabilities through scuba therapy; and where we can address research, rehabilitation, education, and vocational training. Furthermore, we envision that our facility will allow us to train individuals from around the world to scuba dive with individuals with disabilities. These divers can in turn, return to their homes and train even more people. The potential impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities around the world is enormous.

Ian Parr, president and founder of Construction Cost Systems has assembled an amazing, world class team of professionals who over the past months have helped us in the process of moving forward with our project of designing a Diveheart facility. Early on, Ian brought Ed Parkhurst of Prism Consulting Services on board to help lead the process. Diveheart's dedicated medical advisory team has provided their invaluable input. Most recently, Ian lined up Perkins + Will, one of the top architectural firms in the world to help design this one-of-a-kind facility. Jeff Saad of Perkins + Will enthusiastically embraced the challenge and has presented the renderings shown.

*(continued on page 2)*

*(Note from the President continued from page 1)*

Stephanie is a road map, a template for others. We want to duplicate that a million times so that others with disabilities will know that they are able to go on and do great things. We want them to imagine the possibilities, and know that they can go out and achieve anything. Karen Meyer's report will include Stephanie pursuing her passion and dreams, thanks to scuba diving.

Another exciting note about Stephanie is that we will be presenting her with the first scholarship check from the Diveheart Hall of Fame for Divers with Disabilities. One-hundred percent of the proceeds from Hall of Fame memberships support individuals with disabilities who are continuing their educations to pursue career paths in scuba related fields. Congratulations to Stephanie!

Please be sure to check out the renderings of the future Diveheart facility. We are very excited as this project progresses!

Lastly, as we continue to grow, so do our needs. Please consider if you or anyone you know is able to help out in the office. Our need for administrative help is great.

I can't thank our volunteers enough for all they do. I founded Diveheart, but our volunteers run it and make it happen.

As always, I thank-you for your continued friendship and support.

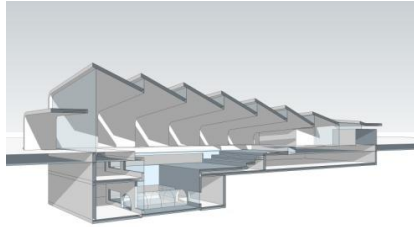
Jim Elliott

Founder and president of Diveheart 



*Please click [here](#) to learn more about the upcoming Laps of Love fundraiser.*

*(Sneak Look continued from page 1)*



*Courtesy of Perkins + Will*

"To be able to work with Jim and the team to come up with a concept for the Diveheart Facility that fits its mission has truly been a wonderful experience," said Jeff.

We are hoping that within the near future we will have a feasibility study done and shortly thereafter, a presentation piece that we can use with potential funders.



## Jim Haigh Memorial Dive Benefits Diveheart Military Wounded

It's sometimes referred to as the Caribbean of the Midwest...to Diveheart, it's been a remarkable venue for giving divers with disabilities a glimpse of the beautiful underwater world. Owner Tina Haigh has endeared Haigh Quarry to Diveheart even more, after having made Diveheart Military Wounded one of the recipients of the money raised at an event commemorating her late husband Jim Haigh.

Tina said that Jim was not a diver, but was a Marine vet. "Once a Marine, always a Marine" she said. After his untimely death in 2001, Tina said that she and her sons were on the receiving end of a tremendous outpouring of affection and caring from the dive community. "They really stepped up and showed a great deal of compassion to my family and myself," she said. "To thank them and to honor Jim's memory, we decided to hold a dive every year with proceeds going back to the community. Diveheart she said, is an

organization of which he would have approved. Tina decided to also donate proceeds to Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba (SUDS). "Diveheart and SUDS are a good way to honor Jim's memory," she said.



Jim and Tina first bought the quarry at an auction in 1978 as a place to dispose of trees from Jim's tree removal business. "We then decided to unplug the pumps and see what would happen. The quarry filled up in three years. The Haigh family used it for swimming and fishing. Jim eventually got out of the tree business and decided that they needed to find an alternative use for the property. "People suggested we open it for diving," said Tina, recalling that they had no idea what to expect, having divers in their backyard. They initially opened the Haigh Quarry to one shop, Goose Scuba, which used it exclusively for two years. "They would leave envelopes with their \$10 fee in our backyard," Tina said. "We decided to open it up to more divers and we grew gradually." Haigh Quarry now attracts more than 100 different dive shops from seven states.



The underwater artifact park, which is a huge attraction, came about from the inspiration of divers. "The stone company that had originally been here left the rock crusher and drills," Tina said. "We gradually added more. We *(continued on page 3)*

*(Haigh Quarry continued from page 2)*

wanted a military theme so we added a military dump truck," she said. A friend crafted the sculptures on the beach and in the quarry. Tina said that they add items little by little, usually at the suggestion of divers. "We want to keep it fun," she said. The quarry is always well stocked with fish including blue gills, trout and bass. ❤️

## Diveheart Training

Diveheart continues to pursue providing adaptive scuba training all over the world in our effort to facilitate programs to serve individuals with disabilities near and far.

Diveheart founder/president Jim Elliott recently completed working with instructors from Scuba Educators International. This group was formed after the YMCA discontinued their scuba diving program. "It's no small thing that the instructors we trained in SEI were the leaders in the YMCA program," said Jim. That program was one of the first and most thorough dive instruction programs ever. We're honored to be asked to do the training for the SEI leaders and instructors." ❤️

## Volunteer Spotlight

By Joe Squalo



**Name:** Andy Clisbee  
**Profession:** Account Manager for General Mills

Andy moved to Chicago in late 2009 from Minnesota. While in Minneapolis, he had satiated his volunteering passion at a crisis nursery. The search for a worthy organization in his new hometown led him to Diveheart. In January 2010 he attended his first Diveheart event, DSD training, and found a local outlet for his volunteerism. His other passion is *teaching* scuba, so the Diveheart mission was an immediate fit.

Andy frequently travels for work, so one of his greatest challenges is finding a volunteer date that aligns with his calendar. "I like the fact they [Diveheart] do many activities so it's easy to find one that fits my schedule" said Andy. He has been an active volunteer assisting with DSD events and picnics, as well as helping lead various Diveheart classes. He has already completed his Buddy Training and is currently an HSA Instructor candidate. Andy has dived a number of environments from natural reefs in the Caribbean to the largest artificial reef on earth, the USS Oriskany in the Gulf of Mexico. It's always great to see divers with this breadth of diving background become active members in the organization.

Andy has demonstrated selfless volunteerism repeatedly. A great example is when he volunteered to work the Diveheart booth at the 2010 Jim Haigh Memorial Dive. Andy left home (very early) in the city, drove to Diveheart headquarters in Downers Grove to pick up volunteers without a ride, drove to Haigh Quarry, worked the booth all day while others dived, drove the volunteers back to Downers Grove, then drove home. And he did it all with a smile.

Andy and Sara are expecting their first child in early November. "We're really excited to have our first son! It's crazy busy and should be a fun holiday season!" said Andy. When asked about his future son's involvement in

Diveheart, he responded, "I'd love to have my son involved, but it will be his choice. Not to shlub tanks - that he will do. But to dive ...."

When not volunteering with Diveheart, Andy is pursuing another passion: cooking. He recently started culinary school at the Illinois Institute of Art. ❤️

### Upcoming Events

(Ctrl and click at dates for further information)

**Volunteer Committee Meeting:**  
First Wednesday of every month

**Volunteer Orientation:** second Monday and fourth Saturday of every month

**Open Discover Scuba:** September 7 and September 26

**Diveheart Summer Picnic:** September 12

**Diveheart Golf Outing:** September 24

**Laps of Love Fundraiser:** September 26

**For more events and further information, visit:**

[www.diveheart.org](http://www.diveheart.org)

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## The month in pictures...

