

Mohnton quadruple amputee undaunted by scuba diving challenge



Special to the Reading Eagle: Sandi Yanisko | Jim Hoser supports Beth Kase of Mohnton, who is all smiles after having the opportunity to scuba dive in the pool at The Heritage of Green Hills in Cumru Township. Amputees on the Move provided the opportunity for amputees to scuba dive at the pool with the assistance of the Adaptive Diving Association, Schwenksville, and Keystone Water Rescue, Boyertown.

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By [Holly Herman](#)
BERKS COUNTY, PA.

Sitting on the edge of an indoor pool Saturday morning, Beth Kase, a quadruple amputee, was beaming in anticipation of learning how to scuba dive.

"I got a new bathing suit for this," said 51-year-old Kase of Mohnton while waiting to put on the scuba diving gear at Heritage of Green Hills retirement community pool in Cumru Township.

Her mother, Janet Cannon, 80, of Flying Hills was so proud of Kase for embracing the opportunity to participate in the lessons provided by Amputees on the Move, based in Green Hills.

Kase lost part of her limbs a year ago as a result of an infection, but she has not lost her enthusiasm for life.

"I am really looking forward to diving," she said, smiling at her mother.

Volunteers with Hilltop Diving, an Adoptive Diving Association, Schwenkesville, Montgomery County, and Keystone Water and Rescue Inc., Boyertown, provided lessons.

Jim Hoser, executive director of Hilltop, strapped scuba diving gear on Base, helping her slide into the water.

"Oh, this feels so good," Kase said, as she got into the pool. "I am going to do this."

Hoser and two other volunteers then guided Kase as she swam the 25 yards underwater.

"You feel a lot lighter in the water," said Hoser, who dedicated 30 years of his life helping people with disabilities find comfort and excitement through scuba diving.

Lt. Ryan Eschbach of Keystone Water Rescue said Kase learned very quickly.

He then put a colorful ball under the water for Kase to look at as she swam.

Mark Kray, 63, marketing director of Amputees on the Move, said he learned how to scuba dive last year at the group's first scuba diving session.

Kray, whose leg was amputated in 2009 after an infection, said once he started scuba diving it became a favorite pastime.

"I went for two hours last year," said Kray of Pottstown, before he got into the water to do it again Saturday.

Assistant Chief Robert J. Stichter of Keystone Water Rescue Inc. said seeing the smiling faces in the water make it well worth it to volunteer.

"It's all about giving back," Stichter said.