



# Free In the Sea

*A Multi-Dimensional Program*

*Encompassing All Aspects of Aquatic Liberation  
for People with Disabilities and Those Who Care About Them*

# Mission

- Free in the Sea's mission is to:
  - Make the sea accessible to disabled people in order to:
    - Liberate them from the confines of their disabilities
    - Inspire them to expand beyond their perceived limitations
    - Train them to build core competencies they never thought themselves capable of
    - Expand the scope of their independence
    - Provide a platform for them to lead happier, more fulfilled and abundant lives
  - Through the development of:
    - Innovative rehabilitative and recreational programs
    - Exciting activities
    - New adaptive devices
    - Partnerships with complementary organizations to exponentially broaden the scope and outreach of each initiative

# Overview

Free In The Sea is a non-profit 501 c 3 Florida based organization, founded by Norman McMillan in 2003 and incorporated in 2004. It's purpose is to:

- Utilize the sea to train and inspire:
  - People with disabilities
  - Wounded veterans, including those experiencing PTSD
  - ...and their families
- Improve their:
  - Quality of life
  - Independence
  - Self esteem
  - Employment potential
- Support the development of:
  - Innovative programs
  - Aquatic Activities
  - Adaptive devices
  - Partnerships and outreach programs
- Inform the general public about the unique talents of people with disabilities through:
  - A film documentary series
  - Multi-media communications
  - Activities
  - Partnerships with individuals and organizations who share our goals

# Accomplishments to Date

- Over the past 7+ years, Free in the Sea's specially designed program model has successfully guided people with disabilities to:
  - Enjoy the freedom and liberation of diving in open waters
  - Swim with wild dolphins off the coast of Bimini
- Produced a short video documentary incorporating:
  - Specially designed adaptive equipment
  - Specially rigged boats
  - Specially adapted cameras
  - ...a precursor to a series of 10 one-hour documentaries planned to bring viewers into close virtual contact with many aspects of what Free in the Sea offers its program participants

# Core Team

- **Norm McMillan** - Free in the Sea Founder and Chairman; Swim With the Dolphin's Program Director and Documentary Producer/Director; Award-winning sculptural artist
- **Robert Murphy, CPA** - Chief Financial Officer and Development Officer

# Goals & Objectives

- Providing a full spectrum of programs for the enjoyment, rehabilitation and education of people with disabilities, their friends and their families
- Underwater Exploration and Adaptive Dive Training
  - Swimming With Wild Spotted Dolphins Off of Bimini
  - Production of a State-of-the-Art Documentary Series
  - Adaptive Water Sports Program (fishing, water skiing, kayaking)
  - Universally Accessible Fleet, Facility and Equipment Development
  - Free in the Sea Aquatic Park, Aquatic Center & Pavilion
  - Adaptive Equipment Design
- Veteran's Programs

# Underwater Exploration, Dive Training & Documentary

- Dive training will be offered semi-annually, preparing a team for diving adventures including a wild dolphin safari project in the Bahamas.
- The project will include the creation of a multi-media presentation, introducing wild Atlantic Spotted Dolphins and the underwater world off the coast of Bimini. Audiences across the globe will be given access to share the adventure and learning through the first in a 10-part documentary series. Other multi-media communications and distance learning programs will be created as well.
- The semi-annual training will also explore and map various dive sites along the coast of South Florida and will be fully accessible to people with disabilities.
- Programs will be offered on a regular basis.
- The dive team will recruit and train up to 10 disabled divers, and 4 of them will be chosen to be highlighted in the first episode of the documentary series.

# The Free in the Sea Documentary Series

- From the very first episode, we will bring viewers along on an amazing journey, chronicling a group of people with severe disabilities, as they learn to temporarily escape the bondage of their physical limitations and are set free to dive and swim with wild dolphins. The poignant interactions between these humans and cetaceans will highlight the unusual and breathtaking relationship between the 2 species.
- As the series continues, we will chronicle the around-the-world seafaring adventures of the Free in the Sea Team, some “able bodied” and some “disabled”, as they lead viewers on a highly charged exploration of sea creatures and habitats in some of the most spectacular aquatic nooks and crannies of the planet.
- This series will be produced and captured in a state-of-the-art High-Definition format similar in quality and technique to that of the BBC/Discovery’s “Planet Earth” series. With stunning footage and utilization of “up-close-and-personal” storytelling, each episode will provide viewers with an “edutaining” and immersive experience.
- Viewers are sure to be deeply inspired; people with disabilities will see that nothing is impossible as they are encouraged to get involved in water sports and diving activities of all kinds.
- The series will be an invaluable promotional tool, increasing worldwide awareness of the Free in the Sea programs, attracting donations, grants and underwriting to continue and expand the programming being offered.



# Episodes of the Free In the Sea Documentary Series

- Part 1: Miami & Bimini
- Part 2: The Arctic
- Part 3: The Azores
- Part 4: The Pacific
- Part 5: Antarctica
- Part 6: The Galapagos
- Part 7: The Northwest - Alaska and British Columbia
- Part 8: Sea of Cortez
- Part 9: The Mediterranean & Africa
- Part 10: Building the Free in the Sea Park

# Free in the Sea Explorer Flagship Vessel

- A 125-foot, universally accessible vessel will be designed and built as a versatile platform for advancing the Free in the Sea mission of:
  - Developing programs, equipment and partnerships to make the vast aquatic world easily accessible for people with disabilities
  - Inspiring and improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, proving to them that “when there’s a will, there’s a way”
- Included on board will be special interactive exhibits designed in cooperation with Miami’s Museums of Science and Art, which will include:
  - Mobile science laboratories for oceanic exploration and education
  - A traveling, working art studio with interactive opportunities for in-depth anatomical studies of animals in the wild, both above and below the sea
- This unprecedented vessel is sure to become a model for the design of other accessible vessels for diving and exploring the sea.

# Adaptive Water Sports Program for Veterans

Free in the Sea will collaborate with other organizations to provide ongoing:

- Scuba Diving
- Free Diving
- Fishing
- Water Skiing programs for disabled veterans and those experiencing PTSD
- Sea Kayaking
- Marine Biology
- Environmental Projects, including Global Warming, scanning the ocean floor, man-made pollutants. impact on the sea's environment



# The Free in the Sea Aquatic Park

Making Miami the Epicenter of  
Aquatic Programming for People  
with Disabilities of All Kinds

# The Free in the Sea Aquatic Park

- ... will be an unprecedented center for aquatic activities for people with any form of disability...physical, mental, emotional...and for those who care about them.
- The creation of this phenomenal program will transform a barren parcel of land in one of the Miami waterfront's prime locations into a destination-driven draw for an underserved population of people from around the world.
- A self-sustaining, privately funded, comprehensive, state-of-the-art mecca of aquatic therapies and artistic display, incorporating the best of Health, the Arts and Sciences.
- The campus will include the Home Port dockage for the 70-foot vessel the "Free in the Sea Explorer", providing a preview of the eventual offerings at the future homes of the new Miami Museums of Science and Art.

# The Free in the Sea Aquatic Center

- The most sophisticated aquatic recreational and rehabilitative venue of its kind in the world
- This state-of-the-art facility will bring together:
  - 21st century aquatic technology
  - The most advanced therapeutic hydro-aquatic rehabilitation programs on the planet
  - Universally accessible, highly specialized equipment for training, diving and underwater equipment testing and robotics
  - A Grand Pool Room featuring a quonset-style roof: suspended from the top of the roof will be a large screen, with gangways and cameras projecting audio and visually animated sea creatures with the capability of providing dynamic multi-media presentations
  - Cutting-edge aesthetics and design, featuring the highly acclaimed acrylic and stainless steel oceanographic sculptures of award-winning artist Norman McMillan
- Attracting people with disabilities seeking cutting edge hydrotherapies
- Increasing tourism revenues to the City
- Garnering greater recognition for Miami as an innovator in Health, Sciences and the Arts
- Complementing the rejuvenation of the Miami Waterfront

# The Free in the Sea Aquatic Center (continued)

- Featuring a super-Olympic-sized salt water swimming pool containing:
  - 2 shallow ends with zero entry ramps
  - A centrally located “deep end”, with pneumatically erected partitions to ensure complete safety and sanitary conditions for all users
  - Pneumatic elevators for special needs accessibility in the shallow ends
  - The deep end will be used for scuba diving, free diving and snorkeling, as well as cutting-edge robotic research
- In addition, 12 individual pools will contain a variety of state-of-the-art mechanical rehabilitation apparatus, including:
  - Tread mills
  - Water jets
  - Restraining devices
  - Lifting devices
  - All with specific thermostats ensuring proper temperature control dependant upon the needs of each individual patient
  - An exceptionally high-flow filtration system, allowing for rapid water exchange and continuous monitoring, enabling the quickest, most efficient water testing and treatment to ensure maximum hygienic conditions and optimum water quality
- Uses of the facility will also include:
  - Swimming lessons for the general public
  - Water safety courses
  - Birthday parties
  - Black Tie events
  - Competitive Water Sports

# Artistic Elements

- A stunning Aquatic Sculpture Garden will be designed and created by award-winning artist Norman McMillan out of stainless steel with crystalline polymer elements and will feature a wide array of majestic, hyper-realistic sea creatures.
- The larger-than-life, hyper-realistic sculptures' beauty and uniqueness will generate media attention worldwide, attracting cruise line patrons, vacationers, visitors, boaters and residents.
- A design and fabrication studio with large windows, enabling patrons to witness the astounding production of each piece of grand sculpture as it is being created by Miami Artist-in-Residence, Norman McMillan.
- The art will be placed between the Aquatic Center and the Pavillion, on the southern side of Bicentennial park set back from the seawall and throughout the grounds.



# The Park's Prominent Artistic Features

- “The Manta Ray Pavilion”, housing interactive exhibitions featuring stories of the future of the Miami Science and Art Museums, as well as the ongoing story of the development of the Free in the Sea Project, its participants and its sponsors.
- “The Megapod to the Sea”, portraying 30 stainless steel dolphins of different species (representing every type of dolphin and porpoise species on earth), frolicking in a shallow reflection pool with dynamic water features.
- “The Blue Whale Tail”, a life-sized representation of the largest creature on earth will feature a gorgeous rendition during the process of a deep dive, including a gentle stream of water that cascades down the raised tail. An audio feature will intermittently sound authentic whale songs.
- “Floating to Freedom” Sculpture will represent a metaphor within a medium of an enormous block of crystalline polymer, where a solitary stainless steel free-diver emerges from the depths of the sea, leaving the confines of his wheel chair in the great abyss.

# Artistic Elements (continued)

- **“The Hunt”** - Two life sized, stainless steel Sailfish, their dorsal and pectoral fins flared, will be surrounded by a majestic collection of twenty 10-foot crystalline polymer towers embedded with hydro-tubes continuously pulsating aerated water upward, cresting over the apexes, cascading down the sides of each tower. Encapsulated in each, will be a frenzy of highly reflective, stainless steel bait fish. At night in particular, a collage of lights will illuminate this masterpiece, creating a dynamic light show, with a markedly prismatic effect.
- **“First Encounter”** - A split level pictorial: A “dock” pedestal of yellow crystalline polymer...a brightly colored patinaed sculpture of a little girl in pig tails with a fluffy dress, kneeling down, her hands outstretched towards an adorable stainless steel duo of a mother and baby manatee, half submerged, their heads peeping out above a “waterline” composed of an 8” thick x 4’ x 6’ sheet of blue crystalline polymer...the viewer’s perspective will be from the point of view of the submerged manatees, experiencing the little girl from these sea mammals’ perspective. Included will be a water feature, spilling over the “waterline” on all three sides, providing the aesthetic of a “vanishing horizon”, bringing this sculpture to life utilizing effects of movement, vastness and prismatic effect.

# Adaptive Equipment Design

- Free in the Sea will continue to design adaptive equipment that increases access to the water for all.
- These devices will include:
  - Lifts
  - Deck layout
  - Driving systems
  - Communication systems
  - Dive and safety equipment
  - ...and other products to be developed

# Outreach & Educational Activities

- **Free in the Sea** will become a catalyst in the development and implementation of many programs to enhance the public's interest in all things sea-related.
- **“The Summit of the Seas”** will create a consortium of “Aquatic Allies” in an inaugural, annual event that will attract to Miami a large influx of world renown community leaders, industry leaders, film makers, artists, environmentalists, seaquariums, museums, marine biologists...to co-create a number of pertinent projects devoted to the research and ongoing protection of all aspects of our sea environment.