



*For the Betterment of Adaptive Water Skiing & the Disabled Athlete*

We're sending this letter to tell you to about a disabled water skier named Doug. Doug remembers water skiing as a child and young adult. Then one day in 1979 his life changed forever. In an instant he became a double-leg amputee when he was hit by 2 cars driven by 2 people who were drinking and drag racing while he was changing the tire on his own car.

It wasn't until the summer of 2004 when Doug first learned about water skiing for the disabled. He was watching the news, and they were talking about a program for people in wheelchairs who can water ski. Doug only had \$5 at the time, but he drove out to Creve Coeur Lake anyway to give it a try, and he's been hooked ever since. He started on the beginner ski and within three hours progressed to the slalom ski. Now he has his own adaptive wakeboard and can do 360s, 180s, and other acrobatic maneuvers and tricks.

Doug water skis with the **Missouri Disabled Water Ski Association (MDWSA)** which was established as a charitable nonprofit organization to improve the lives of children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities, visual impairments, and special needs. **MDWSA** was created with the vision and understanding that adaptive water skiing and disabled sports will motivate and energize individuals with disabilities beyond their limitations and encourage them to pursue independence while they maintain active, healthy and well-balanced lifestyles.

Water ski equipment for disabled skiers is specially designed and unfortunately quite expensive. An adaptive water ski complete with ski base-board and seating device costs **\$2000**. It's available through a company called Spokes-N-Motion. Whatever the cost, it's vital for disabled athletes to have this type of equipment so they can be independent.

To help other disabled individuals, Doug is an instructor during Learn to Ski clinics. Doug uses his equipment to demonstrate to others how to water ski. This gives him a chance to talk to people with disabilities and to share his experiences so that people become empowered to change their lives. **It gives him freedom and a chance to show people how someone with a disability can do incredible things.** It connects him with others in a natural peer support environment for everyone involved.

Missouri Disabled Water Ski Association is an organization where people like Doug can **fully participate** in life again. **You** can help make this possible, too, **by making a gift to MDWSA today.** Your gift will enable the purchase of new adaptive water ski equipment for many disabled athletes. See examples for yourself by visiting our website at [www.mdwsa.org](http://www.mdwsa.org). You'll see pictures of not only Doug but of many other disabled skiers in action. Please contact us with any questions regarding our program or to find out how you can become more involved with adaptive water skiing. It's truly a rewarding experience for everyone who gets involved!

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Day, President & Treasurer  
314-378-8251 / [president@mdwsa.org](mailto:president@mdwsa.org)

Vito Lucido, Vice President  
636-458-2573 / [vicepresident@mdwsa.org](mailto:vicepresident@mdwsa.org)

Larry Greene, Secretary  
[secretary@mdwsa.org](mailto:secretary@mdwsa.org)

Rhonda Click, Director  
[Director1@mdwsa.org](mailto:Director1@mdwsa.org)

Joel Rauch, Director  
[director2@mdwsa.org](mailto:director2@mdwsa.org)

Joe Resimius, Director  
[director3@mdwsa.org](mailto:director3@mdwsa.org)

P.S. Doug says, "Because I am a double amputee, I am only three and a half feet tall...but I never measure the importance of a person by how tall someone is...I measure it by the size of their heart!"

P.S.S. Look for us on **New Years Day** water skiing on the Mississippi River right under the Gateway Arch!!