

NEWS RELEASE

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San Diego Swim School Owner Receives International Recognition

San Diego, CA—Oct. 18, 2011—The United States Swim School Association (USSSA) honored Tammy Anderson, owner of San Diego's Aqua Pros Swim School, at its annual international conference in Orlando, Florida last week. Anderson received the coveted Guiding Light Award to a standing ovation after being unanimously selected by the USSSA Board of Directors for her vision and achievement in inspiring swim schools throughout the United States to develop autism swimming programs. Anderson was also recognized for Aqua Pros' book, *Swimming with Autism*, which was published in March of this year. The first book to specifically focus on swimming and autism, it encourages swim schools and independent instructors to accept students with autism and then provides a detailed, illustrated, and easy to follow curriculum.

According to Anderson, "Few schools have the expertise and tools to work with children with autism and other special needs. I have long been troubled by the fact that drowning is the leading cause of death for children with autism, and so Aqua Pros committed to finding a way for these special children to not only be safe in the water, but to find peace in the water and to learn to love it the way all children do."

Over the past ten years, Aqua Pros has taught several thousand students with autism to swim and has developed their now famous non-profit Surf Camp in collaboration with the Autism Society of San Diego, teaching students with autism how to swim safely in the ocean and surf. Since the debut of Surf Camp in 2001, the program has reached maximum enrollment capacity every summer due to its overwhelming popularity.

Anderson said she was surprised to receive the award and did not have any prior knowledge that she was a nominee. With attendees at the USSSA conference from all over the United States as well as Australia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Denmark, Sweden, and Brazil, Anderson hopes "this recognition will inspire an international movement towards developing autism swimming programs." "After all," she said, "that is exactly why we wrote the book." In her acceptance speech, Anderson challenged all 300 in attendance to teach at least five students with autism this year. For each school that accepts Anderson's challenge, she committed to provide the schools' instructors with regular newsletters, blogs, and personal consultations throughout the year to ensure that 1,500 students with autism learn to swim.

For more information about Aqua Pros Swim School, visit www.AquaPros.org and for more information about *Swimming with Autism*, Please visit the book's website: www.SwimmingWithAutism.com.

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