

Shake-A-Leg History

Shake-A-Leg has its origins in Newport, Rhode Island, when 22-year-old Harry Horgan was paralyzed resulting from an automobile accident. Dissatisfied with then available programs to help disabled people to engage in their mental and physical recovery, Harry decided to 'shake-a-leg' {pun intended} and create, from scratch, a place where people of all abilities could break down previously impervious barriers.

The sailing program that Harry established soon became known nationally. In 1990, Dr. Barth Green, Chief of Neurosurgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital and co-founder of the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, recruited Harry to start a year-round program in Miami. Shake-A-Leg soon made its mark and today works in partnership with the City of Miami; Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and a host of community organizations, federal, state and local agencies; foundations, and private philanthropists to serve people with disabilities, disadvantaged children and their families and the entire community.

Shake-A-Leg Miami is one of the largest adaptive water sports facilities in the United States, having earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence and innovation. Its integration of education, recreation, health and wellness, and workforce training serves to enhance an already superb reputation and promises further expansion in the very near future.

- 1982 Shake-A-Leg was founded in Newport, RI by Harry Horgan
- 1986 Everett Pearson developed the first accessible sailboat; Independence 20' and launches the Shake-A-Leg Miami sailing program.
- 1990 Shake-A-Leg co-founded by Harry Horgan and Dr. Barth Green
- 1990 Accessible keelboats procured and launched to begin fleet development
- 1990 First Community Outing and Summer Camp for kids from City of Miami parks and community centers
- 1992 Hurricane Andrew hits! Rebuilding effort begins
- 1993 Reconstruction complete on historic Coast Guard hangar
- 1993 City of Miami & local community declares need for Comprehensive Facility to serve the entire community
- 1995 Incorporated as Shake-A-Leg Miami. Development of Community Water Sports Center begins
- 1996 Local foundations and corporations pledge funding for new facility: Trust for Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond approved to support facility and site development
- 1999 Accessible floating docks completed
- 1999 Hosted World Blind Sailing Championships
- 2002 Official ground-breaking for new facility!
- 2004 Official Opening of new Water Sports Center & Marine Academy
- 2005 Fifteenth Anniversary celebrated
- 2006 Official ground-breaking for Eco-Island restoration