

NEWS RELEASE

Double Amputee Gains Independence in Shower



The slim Tornado Body Dryer



Hank in his shower with dryer



Sponges and soap dispensers

Hank Esmond of Bluffton, Indiana suffered serious injuries in an accident that resulted in his losing both arms just below the shoulders. Suddenly, this proud, self-reliant individual faced obstacles in performing even the most routine activities.

Persons with injuries similar to those suffered by Hank often cite their loss of independence, privacy and perceived dignity as a major cause of grief and anguish. Nowhere is this loss more evident and consequential than in the shower.

In Hank's case, as with many others, he "accepted" assistance from his loving family when he had to shower. He will readily admit his acceptance was given reluctantly and only after resigning himself to the reality that he could not shower any other way.

Enter Denny Squires – building contractor. Denny was retained to modify the Esmond's family home to provide Hank a living environment free of barriers to performing life's daily activities.

When Hank explained what he had to sacrifice and endure in order to shower, Denny became determined to find a solution. Ultimately, Denny and his team designed and built a custom shower that allows Hank to shower and dry without any assistance.

The shower consists of a tiled enclosure containing very unique features:

- One section of the shower (see bottom photo) has a series of soap dispensers and sponges mounted in strategic locations. Hank simply pushes a button with his foot causing a cleansing solution to be released into the sponges. He then rubs his body against the sponges creating lather and a scrubbing action to get clean.
- Once clean, Hank steps over to another section (see center photo) of the shower containing a shower head and water jets used to rinse his body.
- After rinsing, Hank presses his foot on a pressure-sensitive switch to activate the Tornado Body Dryer (see center and top photos). This unique product blows warm air over his entire body drying him from head-to-toe without a towel and without assistance.

Thanks to their customized shower, Hank's wife no longer feels rushed in the morning — helping Hank with his shower as she also prepares for work. And for Hank, that which was once a dreaded invasion of his privacy has been transformed into a pleasurable spa-like experience that restores and reinforces his dignity and independence.

