

Brandon Hillaker

Saginaw, MI



Mr. Hillaker has been battling mental health obstacles his whole life. He was able to fulfill a dream of becoming an underwater welder, until his bipolar became unmanageable and he tried to kill himself. The aftermath of the overdose left him with brain damage and he had to learn how to walk, talk, and communicate with others again. After 10 years of battling treatment-resistant bipolar, he stumbled upon psilocybin. Psilocybin and years of therapy have given him the opportunity to overcome his mental health obstacles to achieve greatness as a triathlete and mental health advocate, while also seeking a degree in psychology from Delta College and serving as a mentor to others who face similar obstacles. Mr. Hillaker recently achieved his goal to complete 11 medals for the 11 years bipolar took over his life: 10 triathlons and the Mackinac Island swim in 4 short months. The Edmund Fitzgerald Swim is one of many endurance swims Mr. Hillaker has planned for 2025. Follow his journey on his Facebook page: [Facebook](#)