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By Marcie Cipriani BIO >>

Pennsylvania man drowns saving boy in Mexico

Jeff Brown, 55, was on vacation with girlfriend, friends in Cancun

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FARRELL, Pa. — A western Pennsylvania man has drowned while saving a young boy caught in rough surf while the man was vacationing in Cancun, Mexico.

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Fifty-year-old Jeff Brown, of Farrell, was vacationing with his girlfriend, Tracy Duez, and several other couples when he died on Wednesday.

VIDEO: Watch Marcie Cipriani's report

Duez' sister, Wendy Donner, said Brown entered the water to save the boy even though there were red flags on the beach warning of a dangerous undertow. Witnesses said Brown helped the boy onto a life buoy but was himself caught in the undertow and died.

Friends at the Farrell Sportsman Club told Pittsburgh's Action News 4 that Brown moved to the area about three years ago from Texas, but he quickly made it his home.

"There's a lot of people who are going to miss him. We lost a really great guy," said friend Gary Steiner.

Steiner said Brown, his girlfriend and their group had just finished lunch when Brown decided to go for a walk.

"He was just walking along the beach by himself, not with anybody else in the group, when they saw this boy struggling out there, and there was another fellow there on the beach that they both went in," said Steiner.

Steiner said Brown's girlfriend found out after she noticed the commotion on the beach.

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