

The Building Block

An e-newsletter of the J. D. McCarty Center for children with developmental disabilities

Physical Therapist Earns ATP Certification

Amy Laizure, a physical therapist for the McCarty Center, has just earned her assistive technology professional (ATP) certification from the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America.

ATP's work with other therapists to help match the best piece of adaptive equipment to meet the patient's goals and skills. ATP's help to assure patient follow-up and training of the patient in the use of the adaptive equipment.

Assistive technology includes wheelchairs, augmentative communication devices, electronic aides to daily living, sensory aides for vision and hearing, environmental accommodations for job and school and adaptive eating utensils.

ATP's are particularly involved in the selection and setup of high-level power mobility chairs. From these chairs, patients can remotely open doors, turn lights off and on and do other functions.

"Amy's pursuit of this certification is just another demonstration of our staff's interest in gaining more expertise and providing a higher level of service to our patients," said Sue O'Hare, director of physical therapy. "Having an ATP on staff will help us in getting advanced or unusual adaptive equipment recommendations approved by insurance payers. It helps to have this resource on staff instead of having to depend on an outside source for it."

In order to become an ATP, Laizure had to become an expert in not only adaptive equipment commonly used by physical therapists, but also equipment that is used in the area of occupational therapy and communication disorders.

Currently, Laizure will need to complete 10 continuing education units per year to maintain her certification. Beginning in 2011, that number will increase to 20 hours.

Currently there are 38 ATP's in the state of Oklahoma. Laizure is the only one in Norman at this time.



Amy Laizure, J. D. McCarty Center physical therapist and certified ATP, checks the fit on the AmTryke therapeutic tricycle she's just assembled for Elaina Fredrickson, 13, of Norman.



Amy Laizure, PT, ATP

Gutter Dance 6 Set for May 7th

Uwe von Schamann, director of development for the McCarty Center, has announced that the sixth annual Gutter Dance charity-bowling event will be held on Thursday, May 7, at the Sooner Bowling Center in Norman.

Registration and Dinner are from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Bowling begins at 7:00 p.m.

"The Gutter Dance has become a very popular event with our supporters and sponsors," said von Schamann. "It's an evening to have fun, relax and bowl. The best part is that you don't have to be a bowler to enjoy the evening. We have many first time or once-a-year bowlers who participate."

Gutter Dance 6 is a two game event that provides everyone with an opportunity to win something during the evening. The Gutter Dance will award trophies to the first, second, third and last place teams. The trophies are being provided through the courtesy of Cimarron Inlay, Inc.

For the creative bowlers, the Gutter Dance will award a prize to the team with the most creative bowling team shirts.

"The real draw to this event," explained von Schamann, "is the 7-10 split roll off. We take the top ten high game bowlers and give them one chance to pick-up a 7-10 split. At stake this year will be a 2009 Chevrolet Cobalt SS courtesy of Marc Heitz Chevrolet."

Another interesting twist to this event is the ability of the bowlers to use a ringer to improve on their scores. For just \$10, bowlers can purchase the use of a local king pin with a very high average to add to their score. Bowlers are limited to using ringers twice during the event.

Registration and dinner begin at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is provided to the Gutter Dance participants. For all others a dinner ticket is available for \$10. Dinner is being provided by the RibCrib BBQ and Grill. Dinner tickets are available at the door.

This year's Gutter Dance 6 is presented by Key Construction and sponsored by Marc Heitz Chevrolet, the RibCrib BBQ and Grill, First American Bank, Dr. Randal Venk, DDS, and Blake Virgin, attorney at law.

There are a couple of different ways people can participate in Gutter Dance 6," von Schamann explained. "First, you can enter a team consisting of four bowlers. The entry fee is \$200 per team. Entry forms can be obtained from our sponsors' locations or you can contact me at 405.307.2804."

"Second, people can be lane sponsors. Lane sponsorships are available for \$100 per lane. Interested sponsors can contact me for more details."

Proceeds from Gutter Dance 6 will go into the Camp ClapHans scholarship endowment fund. Camp ClapHans is a summer camp project of the McCarty Center.



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OT's Ease Handwriting Frustration for Students

The days of reading, writing and arithmetic are gone. Because of curriculum changes there isn't the emphasis on handwriting that there once was. To further complicate the issue, in some school districts, there may be more than one method of teaching handwriting being used, adding confusion to the process for some students.

According to Handwriting Without Tears approximately ninety percent of all school based occupational therapy (OT) referrals are for handwriting issues.

Three occupational therapists from the McCarty Center recently completed The Print Tool workshop presented by Handwriting Without Tears. The Print Tool is an assessment and remediation program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade.

In The Print Tool workshop the OT's learned to analyze all handwriting curricula through the use of curriculum analysis; understand the eight essential components of handwriting; administer and score The Print Tool assessment (evaluation); interpret The Print Tool results, write a report and design handwriting plans for children (remediation); set hand writing goals and demonstrate evidence based intervention through proper documentation; and plan ways to share hand writing knowledge with others.

"Most handwriting assessments are pretty fluffy," explained Whitney Grigsby, doctor of occupational therapy and one of the McCarty Center OT's completing The Print Tool workshop.

"This assessment tool provides quantitative measures by which to assess the student's handwriting ability and to make specific remediation recommendations.

The quantitative measures include: **Spacing**. How much or how little spacing does a student place between letters and words; **Memory**. Does the student distinguish between upper and lower case letters; **Orientation**. Are the letters facing the correct direction or are they reversed; **Placement**. Are the letters placed on the line correctly; **Control**. Does the student demonstrate the fine motor skills needed to form the letters; **Start**. Does the student start to form the letter in the correct place; and **Sequence**. This is the order in which the student forms the letter and stroke direction.

With the completion of this workshop, Emily Langley, certified occupational therapy assistant, has qualified for Handwriting Without Tears level I certification for handwriting and remediation. Grigsby and Stacy Angermeier, registered occupational therapist, have one more workshop in the certification series to complete to qualify for their level I certification.

Thirty-years ago the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum was created by occupational therapist Jan Olsen of Bethesda, Maryland, in response to her son's tears over handwriting in the first grade. Olsen used her OT training and background to develop strategies to help him with his handwriting. Her son's teacher noticed his progress and asked Olsen to help

other students in the class. Olsen became known in the area as the tutoring solution for handwriting, and her ideas became the basis for the first therapists' guide, Handwriting Without Tears.

Handwriting Without Tears is one of three handwriting curricula in use in schools. The other two are the D'Nealian handwriting curriculum and the Zaner Bloser Ball and Stick method.

"The Print Tool assessment and remediation process is a natural fit for an occupational therapist," Angermeier explained, "because of our training in developing fine motor skills, sequencing and visual motor processing."

"It also gives us a level of preparation in this process that we wouldn't have otherwise had," added Langley. "It will be of great help because besides seeing patients here at the McCarty Center, the three of us also see patients in area schools. This program is for children with and without disabilities.

According to the Handwriting Without Tears web site there are currently eight certified handwriting specialists in Oklahoma. Langley will be the ninth.

For more information about Handwriting Without Tears visit www.hwtears.com.

Uwe's Corner



with
Uwe von Schamann
Director of Development

I'm very excited to announce that the McCarty Center will be one of the charities that will benefit from the 2009 Jimmy Houston and Roland Martin Fishin' With A Mission Tournament to be held September 25 and 26 at Grand Lake.

The Tournament is hosted by the Oklahoma Bassmasters Foundation. The organization is committed to enhancing the lives of many through the sport of fishing by raising significant dollars and

donating to deserving charitable organizations.

The tournament will permit both seasoned professionals and family enthusiasts to compete for cash and prizes as well as raise money for charity.

Located in northeastern Oklahoma, Grand Lake of the Cherokees was created in 1940 and is one of the premiere lakes in the midwest.

The 2009 Jimmy Houston and Roland Martin Fishin' With A Mission Tournament will partner with marinas and restaurants that make it possible to accommodate the anglers and spectators who will participate in the event.

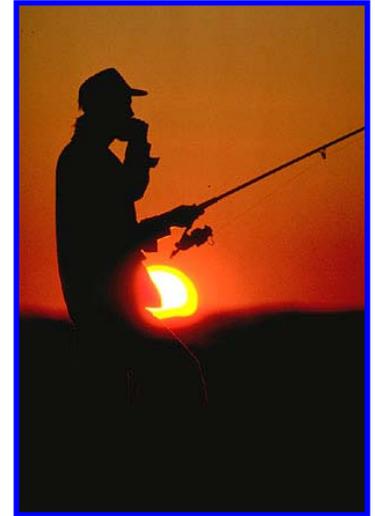
Martin's Landing, located at the entrance of Grand Lake's Monkey Island, is where the tournament will take place.

Activities planned during the tournament include a sponsorship village, a kid's casting contest and weigh-in facilities.

Other tournament related activities will include a VIP Meet and Greet

Dinner and Auction and award ceremonies.

For detailed information about the two-day event that kicks off with a VIP dinner and auction with Jimmy Houston and Roland Martin go to www.okbassmasters.com or contact me at 405.307.2804 or at uschamann@jdmc.org.



Tax Deductible Donations

We are a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit hospital. Donation checks may be made out to the J. D. McCarty Center or the J. D. McCarty Center Foundation. The IRS has designated these donations tax deductible.

For questions about supporting the McCarty Center, contact Uwe von Schamann, director of development, at 405.307.2804 or uschamann@jdmc.org.

Donation Card

Thank you for your support of the programs, services and capital building needs of the J. D. McCarty Center. Please fill out this card, cut it out and mail it along with your check to Uwe von Schamann, Director of Development, J. D. McCarty Center, 2002 East Robinson Street, Norman, Oklahoma 73070.

Make your check payable to: J. D. McCarty Center Foundation

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