



AHTF NEWSLETTER

September 2012

MISSION:

The mission of the American Hand Therapy Foundation (AHTF) is to fund clinical and scientific research and education in order to advance the practice of hand therapy and quality of patient care throughout the world.

VISION:

Our vision is for all evaluation and treatment methods in hand therapy to have well-documented, evidence based outcomes in the literature.

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www.ahtf.org

AMERICAN HAND THERAPY FOUNDATION PAYS TRIBUTE TO MARY KASCH

FEBRUARY 15, 1947 – MAY 21, 2012



THE PASSING OF A PIONEER

William W. Walsh, MBA, MHA, OTR/L, CHT
Chairman, American Hand Therapy Foundation

On May 21st the hand therapy profession lost a pioneer, Mary C. Kasch, OTR/L, CHT, FAOTA. Mary was one of the six founding members of the American Society of Hand Therapists, past President of ASHT in 1984, and the first President of the Hand Therapy Certification Commission (HTCC).

In 2001, she became the executive director of HTCC serving in that capacity for the last eleven years. Although she was never directly involved with the American Hand Therapy Foundation, she was always a strong advocate for the Foundation's mission to fund research and education in hand therapy. She was also a faithful friend of the Foundation. Even in her passing, Mary supported the Foundation in that she named AHTF for memorial contributions, in lieu of flowers.

Is there a way for any of us to fully know, appreciate, or acknowledge Mary's contribution to our lives and our profession? Her talent for vision, her capacity for insight, and her dedication to purpose permeate the past 40 years of our profession. Novice or master clinician alike, hand therapists throughout the world have been touched by the life of Mary Kasch. It is hard to imagine a world without her expertise guiding it. We have been blessed and privileged to share her tenure.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The American Hand Therapy Foundation was founded in 1989, the Foundation currently has thirteen members of the Board of Directors including:



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FOUNDATION SUPPORTS HAND THERAPY TRI-ALLIANCE

William W. Walsh, MBA, MHA, OTR/L, CHT
Chairman, American Hand Therapy Foundation

The American Hand Therapy Foundation, the Hand Therapy Certification Commission, and the American Society of Hand Therapists have recently renewed a resilient collaboration of intent and purpose.

A new Hand Therapy Tri-Alliance logo has been designed and will be released at the 2012 ASHT annual conference. The logo will be utilized for Tri-Alliance sponsored events, publications, and productions. Stay tuned for the official logo reveal in October!



The Foundation's mission is to fund research and education to advance hand therapy and the quality of patient care throughout the world. To achieve our mission, the Foundation has funded multiple research grants over the past 23 years.

Recent dialogue within the Tri-alliance has focused on a re-alignment of our critical functions with our mission statements and a greater collaboration between the organizations. To that end, ASHT has stated its intent to rename the "Evelyn Mackin Grant" as the "ASHT's Founder's Grant" and has proposed that the Foundation administer and award the retitled grant. Deliberation by both boards is expected to be completed by the October conference.

Continuing the collaboration, HTCC, ASHT, and AHTF are discussing a memorial tribute to honor Mary Kasch who passed away in May of this year. A task force has been formed which includes members from all three organizations. The initial intent of the tribute is to provide a scholarship to support the quest by hand therapists to achieve hand therapy certification. The scholarship is expected to be housed in the Foundation with potential funding by all three organizations. Task force recommendations are expected by the October conference. How appropriate it is for Mary to be memorialized by the collaboration of three organizations that embrace and forward her life's work.



EVELYN MACKIN TRAVELING HAND THERAPY GRANT LEADS TO SUSTAINABLE CONTINUITY OF CARE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TEACHING

By Jennifer Frydl, OTR/L, CHT



As the recipient of the Evelyn Mackin Traveling Hand Therapist Grant by the American Hand Therapy Foundation, I had the opportunity to provide one-on-one training to the primary rehabilitation therapist in Peru's Sacred Valley of the Incas.

The Sacred Valley in the heart of the Andes Mountains is a destination for tourists from around the world. In this remarkable setting, Frida Puma Delprado has built a physiotherapy practice at the Kausay Wasi Clinic in the small town of Coya. The clinic also serves the surrounding villages.

The rugged terrain and remoteness that make the region so appealing to tourists can present daunting challenges to people who need medical assistance. Without Frida's dedication, the indigenous people in the region would need to travel to Cusco for PT/OT treatment, an option beyond the means of many of them. Even so, Frida and her patients must walk or travel by bus to the clinic, as few people can afford motorized vehicles.

I met Frida in 2008 while working at Kausay Wasi with the Capital City Medical Teams from Salem, Oregon. Frida is the region's only licensed kinesiologist and physiotherapist, with a Master's Degree in PT.

Whereas most of the people I treat in the US are post-operative patients with distal radius fractures, thumb arthritis, tendon/nerve laceration and general tendonosis/tendonitis, Frida's caseload was diverse. She treated people suffering from traumatic brain injury, stroke, amputation, fractures, lower back pain, tendon lacerations, cerebral palsy and spasticity.

Our team's primary focus was pediatric orthopedic reconstructive surgery. But while treating the kids at the clinic, a local farmer came to us for help with what appeared to be a ruptured ulnar collateral ligament of the thumb. Being a hand therapist and understanding the importance of this ligament, I wanted to fabricate a hand-based thumb splint to stabilize it but I couldn't take time out from the team's busy pediatric caseload to fabricate the orthosis. It was a poignant moment. Here was a man who could be helped by hand therapy but no one was available to help.

On another day, after a tendon transfer surgery on a young boy with cerebral palsy, the surgeon asked me to fabricate a dynamic wrist extension orthosis with the forearm supported in supination.



Since we brought splinting material with us, I used it to fabricate the orthosis and Frida broke away from her other patients and assisted me. It was a start but she needed more training because she did not know specific protocols or when and how to splint patients with upper extremity problems.

That marked the beginning of my interest in training Frida. She knew all the fundamentals but did not have the specialty education to fabricate functional and protective orthoses for specific diagnoses. Given her caseload, she hardly had the time to become adept in the latest trends in hand therapy. Yet, she was eager to learn.

Kausay Wasi hosts up to 30 medical teams each year and Frida's goal was to become proficient in specialized hand therapy as part of the follow-up rehabilitation after the teams left the clinic. I hoped to help her meet that goal.

The Evelyn Mackin grant allowed me to travel back to Kausay Wasi in January, 2012, to assist Frida. For ten days, we worked together on upper extremity protocols and treatment strategies. My goal was to help her better treat patients conservatively as well as provide post-surgical care after upper extremity reconstructive surgeries by the visiting medical teams.

My time flew by and shortly before my departure, I felt a tug on my shirt. I turned and recognized Elvis Luis. He was now a young man and I had treated him a few years back. He and his father had traveled by bus to meet the orthopedic medical team from Oregon for hand splinting and lower extremity foot reconstruction. I was thrilled to see that his surgery and splinting had been a success. Elvis no longer walked with his feet turned in and the splints successfully prevented contractures.

Somehow, Elvis heard I would be at the clinic. He got a job in a public restroom selling toilet paper to save enough money to take the bus to see me because he had outgrown his splints and Frida had not yet learned how to splint. I was told that his father died in a car accident and he was now the man of the household, caring for his mother and younger sister. Although time was of the essence for me, I just had to help him.



Together, Frida and I made Elvis his new bilateral forearm-based thumb spica splints and I later said my goodbyes to everyone and returned home to Oregon.

Prior to this teaching opportunity awarded by the American Hand Therapy Foundation, many children and adults in the Sacred Valley of the Incas were not able to be treated for their hand conditions. Examples of needs included the farmers with traumatic ulnar collateral ligament injuries, children from orphanages who have fluctuating tone, and others who are at risk for significant hand and upper extremity contractures. Because Frida Puma Delprado is such a spirited, resourceful, motivated therapist, I embraced the opportunity to teach her and help the people of this very special place.

Quite honestly, after leaving the clinic, I was not sure if the grant had served its purpose, and I was curious as to what kind of teacher I had been. Although, my thoughts were positive, I tried not to expect too much.

Then, last week, I received a wonderful email from Frida. She wrote, "Hi Dear Jennifer. I saw Elvis yesterday and now he has new braces. The last [ones] are too little. Thanks, teacher." She had seen Elvis again. Frida fabricated the splints seen in the above photo just this month; she was quite proud of the rounded edges.

Knowing that Elvis and others are being cared for and having had the opportunity to teach and empower such a strong therapist with additional tools makes this award such a success. I very much appreciate the opportunities that the Evelyn Mackin grant have given so many people.

**Jennifer Frydl currently works at
Oregon Health and Science University**



AHTF SILENT AUCTION

The American Hand Therapy Foundation's mission is to fund research and education to advance hand therapy and the quality of patient care throughout the world. Through validating the effectiveness of our treatment methods in the literature, we strengthen our reimbursement and ensure the highest quality of patient care. Studies by therapists add to our body of knowledge and substantiate practice to health care providers, gatekeepers, and insurers.

The primary fundraising event sponsored by AHTF is the AHTF Silent Auction. This year the AHTF Silent Auction will be held Friday of the 35th ASHT Annual Meeting, Oct. 19th, 2012, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. San Diego, during the ASHT Annual Meeting, in San Diego, CA, Oct. 18th - 21st, 2012. Please revisit closer to the meeting for any update instructions.

The Silent Auction has been an extremely successful event in the past and AHTF looks forward to a successful event this year with your help. AHTF invites you to participate in the Silent Auction by contributing items to the auction. These items can be related in some manner to the hand and upper extremity, or be something that could be revenue producing because of its beauty or uniqueness.

Items typically contributed include hand related art, jewelry, clothing items, books, desk items, etc. Autographed items from notable individuals are always a hit, as are airline tickets, theme baskets, gift certificates, CDs, DVDs, course registrations, medical products, among other items. Be creative, if in doubt, ask!

Please find links on the ahtf.org homepage for the example AHTF Silent Auction Item Contribution Form, the example AHTF Silent Auction Instructions for submitting Items, and the example AHTF Silent Auction Mailing Labels.

We ask that all of the contribution forms be submitted two weeks before the meeting, so a master database of items can be created. Please send me an electronic photograph, if possible, or include a photograph of your item. We will include photographs this year at a table in the ASHT registration area. Please bring your items to the meeting if possible, or mail in to the 2012 address on the Item Contribution Form. Items sent to the hotel should arrive not before the week of the meeting.

We hope that we can include your name in our master list of contributors! Please support the silent auction and help make this our most successful fundraiser ever! Feel free to contact me directly for questions.

American Hand Therapy Foundation Silent Auction Co-chairs, 2012

Carla Cleary, PT, DPT, CHT
Maureen A. Hardy, MS, PT, CHT

Email:

ccleary@stdom.com; mhardy@stdom.com



AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK TO THE PROFESSION OF HAND THERAPY

Dear Colleague,

The American Hand Therapy Foundation invites you to participate in its annual appeal for funds to support therapist clinical and scientific research. This is an opportunity for you to help AHTF fund clinical and scientific research, establish standards of practice in hand therapy, and advance the practice of hand therapy.

The Foundation was established as a 501(c) 3 Not-For-Profit Organization in 1989, to help make seed grants available to therapists in preparation for them to have increased chances for larger outside grants. First time grants today are even harder to achieve. Self-starting and funding our own professional research makes sense. We face a great challenge especially at this time of increased need for substantiation of practice and changes in health care administration. We need your help!

A monetary contribution at any level provides the opportunity for therapy grants. The greater the funds we receive, the more grants possible, and any contribution is welcomed and appreciated. With these grants we are able to provide an investment in our profession. Your contribution can help move us forward.

You may also wish to consider applying for one of our grants which are found detailed on our website: ahtf.org. Thank you for your consideration of this special request, as well as your ongoing support of the American Hand Therapy Foundation.

Sincerely,

William W. Walsh, MBA, MHA, OTR/L, CHT
Chairman, American Hand Therapy Foundation



AMERICAN HAND THERAPY FOUNDATION 2012 CONTRIBUTIONS (AS OF 9/1/2012)

The AHTF Board of Directors thanks the following individuals and corporations for their generosity.

PLATINUM CONTRIBUTOR \$1,000 – \$4,999

Denver Hand Special Interest Group

Hand Care

Michigan Chapter, ASHT

Elaine Fess – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

GOLD “HIGH FIVE” LEAGUE \$500 – \$4,999

Hand Rehabilitation Foundation, PA – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Harmony Hand and Physical Therapy Center

Kansas City Hand Rehabilitation Special Interest Group -- Honor: Nancy Cannon

Amadio, Peter C, MD – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

King, James

Landrieu, Keri W. – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

SILVER “HAND SHAKE” CIRCLE \$250 – \$499

Aaron & Rose Hand Therapy Services, Inc.

Aaron & Rose Hand Therapy Services, Inc.

American Society of Hand Therapists – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Brown-Rogers Therapy

North Coast Medical, Inc.

North Coast Medical, Inc.



AMERICAN HAND THERAPY FOUNDATION 2012 CONTRIBUTIONS (AS OF 9/1/2012)

The AHTF Board of Directors thanks the following individuals and corporations for their generosity.

BRONZE “THUMBS UP” CLUB \$100 – \$249

Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) Olathe, KS – *In memory of Mary C Kasch “On Behalf of the staff at AMP, HTCC Testing Partner”*

Wisconsin Chapter ASHT – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Baumgartel, Jean

Beasley, Jeannine, Ed.D, OTR, CHT, FAOTA – *In memory of Mary C Kasch “Mary set the bar high for herself and all of us. Hand therapy would not be where it is now without her.”*

Cannon, Nancy -- Honor: James B. Steichen, MD

Cannon, Nancy M – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Cleary, Carla & John

Doyan, Stacy and Marc – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Evans, Roslyn, OTR/L, CHT – *In memory of Mary C Kasch “We will miss her so – An overwhelming loss to us all.”*

Finney, Lynne Hester, OTR, CHT – *In memory of Mary C Kasch “Mary was my teacher, employer, and friend. She will be sorely missed by the hand therapy community. She was dedicated to the development and education of hand therapy throughout the world. Each step she took progressed to a bigger step. She continued to contribute to the end. I give this gift in loving memory of her.”*

Hardy, Maureen

Jansen, Caroline – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Keller, JoAnn

Lavalette, Robert – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Mackin, Evelyn Jean – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Meals, Roy – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Matsuoka-Sarina, Judy L – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Muhlemane A, Christine OTR/L, CHT – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Porretto-Loehrke, Ann

Reynolds, Chris

Sarina, Judy and Dennis – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Schatz, Randi – *In memory of Mary C Kasch “An inspiration to our profession”*

Walsh, William W and Kathleen – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*



AMERICAN HAND THERAPY FOUNDATION 2012 CONTRIBUTIONS (AS OF 9/1/2012)

The AHTF Board of Directors thanks the following individuals and corporations for their generosity.

FRIENDS OF AHTF \$1 – \$99

Anonymous – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Anonymous – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Brechtel, Lynn Y, Retired PT, CHT – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Carlson, Lois – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

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Gilchrist, Maureen R – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Haines, Barbara

Hanson, Michelle – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Heigho, Linda – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Lang, Ann, MA,OTR, CHT – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Lee, Marilyn – *In memory of Dr. Paul Brand “Who gave himself to God, his patients, and taught and touched so many of us.”*

Mariani, Peggine and Elio – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Milasich, Julie

Nordlie, Mary

O'Brien, Virginia – *In honor of Rachel Schreiner, OTR, CHT*

Ono, Arlene

Paterson, Martha, OTR/CHT – *In memory of Mary C Kasch*

Paull, Julie

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Reichel, Rochelle, OTR/L, CHT – *In memory of Mary C Kasch “With gratitude for her contributions to hand rehab.”*

Resoff, Loraine

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Vileno Sosa, Margarita

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Yee, Lisa

