

EMBARGOED UNTIL MAY 1ST, 2012



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**Seattle Children's Hospital and the
American Music Therapy Association
Partner to Increase Music Therapy Services for
Children**

SILVER SPRING, MD – MAY 1, 2012 – The Wilson Trust Music Therapy Project, a project of the American Music Therapy Association, is pleased to announce the awarding of a \$34,000 grant to Seattle Children's Hospital to increase music therapy services for children and families affected by cancer. This funding will be used to add music therapy services provided by a board-certified music therapist on the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) Inpatient Care Unit at Seattle Children's.

Currently music therapist David Knott, MT-BC, takes referrals from all areas of the hospital. Child Life director Kim Korte says the goal of increasing services on the SCCA Inpatient Care Unit is to give patients and their families greater access to a broader range of interventions and tools to use music in a therapeutic way. "At Children's, our Music Therapy and Art Therapy programs are funded 100% through donations. We are very grateful for this generous matching gift from the Wilson Trust that will allow us to provide a total of 16 additional hours of music therapy each week. Music therapy is an important service for our patients and families. We see many positive benefits when patients participate in music therapy." Wilson Trust Music Therapy Project representatives are excited about the partnership and hope that this will be the start of other such partnerships in the Puget Sound Region.

Background

Music therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program. Music therapy has been used in pediatric hospitals for many years and the music therapist is a vital member of treatment teams that help children cope with the overall changes in their lives, giving the children and their families support.

Music therapists often use children’s natural attraction to music to help work through difficult therapies and gain more control over their environment. Within the music therapy session, children can work on rehabilitation by playing instruments to increase functional movements, improve respiration through singing, work through pain and invasive procedures, and have the opportunity to express themselves verbally and nonverbally. Knott calls it “contextual support”, a way of structuring the process to provide choices and support children’s autonomy and development.

The Wilson Trust Music Therapy Project is a project that evolved from a generous donation made by local benefactors to the American Music Therapy Association in the 4th quarter of 2010. The American Music Therapy Association received this donation as a legacy gift from the Eleanor and Raymond Wilson Charitable Trust to advance access to quality music therapy services to those in need in the Puget Sound area. Mrs. Eleanor Wilson was a passionate advocate for music and the environment. The Wilsons lived in the area and supported numerous music and arts programs in the greater Seattle Area. To date, the Wilson Trust Music Therapy Project has funded professional development grants for music therapists and provided student practicum support at Seattle Pacific University, location of the first music therapy degree program in Washington State.

About the American Music Therapy Association

Headquartered in Silver Spring, MD, the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) is a nonprofit professional organization representing music therapists. AMTA’s purpose is the progressive development of the therapeutic use of music in rehabilitation, special education, and community settings. Predecessors, unified in 1998, included the National Association for Music Therapy founded in 1950 and the American Association for Music Therapy founded in 1971. The mission of the American Music Therapy Association is to advance public awareness of the benefits of music therapy and increase access to quality music therapy services in a rapidly changing world.

