

WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day News



Celebration of 50 years of collaboration between WFOT and WHO

October 27 2009 marks Occupational Therapy International Day and the celebration of 50 years of collaboration between the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

From the beginning of its collaboration, WFOT has been actively involved in supporting the strategic objectives and activities of WHO as well as promoting occupational therapy and the occupational therapy profession globally.

WFOT and the WHO Disability and Rehabilitation Team (DAR) agreed on a four year work plan that reaches to 2012 and emphasizes human rights and the rights of persons with disabilities as a focus of action.

As part of the ongoing activities, WFOT significantly contributed in the initiation and development of a matrix on health related rehabilitation for WHO based on the concepts of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF, 2001) through a WFOT Focus Day 2008 held just prior to WFOT Council.

The World Report on Disability and Rehabilitation will be published at the end of 2009. WFOT has made major contributions to the review of this important document which will influence international and national policy and development on health and disability issues.

'WFOT- committed to improving health globally' will be the theme of the meeting of the WFOT Executive with WHO officials, at WHO headquarters in Geneva, October 2009. This meeting will feature several collaborative meetings, a lunchtime seminar and a workshop run by WFOT, and a commemorative ceremony.

This will be an inspirational way to celebrate WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day.

Kit Sinclair
WFOT Ambassador

WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day News

Occupational Therapy International featured in WHO newsletter.

The article below was recently published in the eighth issue of the WHO newsletter dedicated to disability and rehabilitation - which is also available through the WHO Disability And Rehabilitation website <http://www.who.int/disabilities/en/>.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND LIVING

HIV affects families and is increasingly seen as a disability issue, both as an example of people living with long term health conditions, but also the issues of informal care that the pandemic raises. In a deprived area near Cape Town, South Africa, grandmothers of children orphaned by AIDS established a community-based support programme and named themselves GAPA, Grandmothers Against Poverty and AIDS. The project brings together distressed women through a familiar occupation: patchwork quilting. It began when a research project by the Albertina and Walter Sisulu Institute of Ageing in Africa at the University of Cape Town sponsored an intervention programme for grandmothers who were affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Participants wanted to continue the activities when the research project ended, so they formed a committee with an occupational therapist (OT). Occupational therapists help people do everyday tasks which enable them to sustain themselves and contribute to the wider community



The participants were aged between 50 and 75 years: lacking education, they had to eke out a living doing menial tasks. A modest pension for those over 60 years had become the only income in these multigenerational households. Some grandmothers younger than 60 years had to give up employment to care for sick or orphaned children. Together with the extra expense of medicines, hospitals and funerals, this plunged them into often overwhelming poverty. These women were bewildered by a disease they could not understand or ask questions about because of the taboo on the subject, and were subjected to enormous stress as a result.

Occupational therapy intervention

Workshops were run by the occupational therapist with facilitators from local NGOs. Topics covered included HIV/AIDS, home care and grants, stigmatization, arthritis, nutrition, business skills, disaster relief, bereavement, gardening, and human rights.

The OT provided a safe non-threatening atmosphere which fostered communication among the participants. Together with the sewing activities, the grandmothers discussed mutual problems related to their orphaned grandchildren, found solutions, and provided support for each other. From one small group in 2001, the project has expanded in 2009 to 25 groups that generate incomes and provide peer psychosocial support. GAPA projects include monthly workshops for grandmothers, community-based support and income generation groups, preschool bursaries for orphaned grandchildren, an aftercare for the community's vulnerable primary school children and a health club for grandmothers over 60 years. There are now GAPA groups in the Eastern Cape and Tanzania. (www.gapa.org.za)



WFOT supports your celebration of Occupational Therapy International Day


More information and resources for promoting **Occupational Therapy International Day (27th October)** will become available on the WFOT website www.wfot.org Start planning your activities, promotions and fundraising now!



WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day

**Your invitation to participate
in WFOT Occupational
Therapy International Day,
27th October 2009.**


WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS
WFOT



WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day, 27th October 2009

WFOT is the international voice of the Occupational Therapy profession which consists of 66 national occupational therapy professional organisations from around the world.

WFOT International Occupational Therapy Day is the opportunity to increase the visibility of the profession's development work and to promote the activities of WFOT nationally and international. WFOT International Day is designed specifically for groups of occupational therapists and students to organise events that attract publicity and raise funds.



WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day, 27th October 2009

The aim is for WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day to be integrated with other national celebrations and promotions of the mission and goals of occupational therapy.

Many countries hold an occupational therapy day, week or month in October each year, so we are suggesting that **WFOT International Occupational Therapy Day be held every year on October 27th**. If this does not fit in with your country or time frame, then individual events can be scheduled to suit any local time frames. This will help to increase the awareness of occupational therapists and society of the truly global impact of occupational thera




WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day: Your participation - Fundraising

WFOT would like to make its commemorative effort one in which therapists and students actively promote the international side of their chosen profession.

Here are some suggestions:

- One day be designated WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day. WFOT can provide advice regarding sourcing information on our activities.
- Students be encouraged to be key organizers of an event and to use their innovative powers in raising funds for WFOT.
- WFOT materials be highlighted to raise awareness of the international activities of the profession.




WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day: Your donations at work

Funds raised through WFOT Occupational Therapy
International Day activities can be donated to WFOT to
promote and develop international projects:

OT International Outreach Network (OTION)

*Assisting occupational therapists working in low resource
countries. Go to <http://www.wfot.org/otion/> for more
information.*



WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day: Your donations at work


Disaster preparedness and response project

*Assisting our colleagues in disaster affected areas to
deliver appropriate services to their local and wider
communities.*

Go to www.wfot.org for more information.

WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

WFOT




WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day: Your donations at work

Congress attendance fund

*Enabling occupational therapists from low resource
countries to attend the next WFOT Congress*

Go to www.wfot.org/wfot2010 for more information.




WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day: Your donations at work

Country development work

*Development of the profession in countries where there
are no occupational therapists.*

Go to www.wfot.org for more information.



WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day: Your donations at work

Other WFOT activities that you can support:

- ✓ ***Community-based rehabilitation projects***
- ✓ ***General WFOT development work***
- ✓ ***Other projects***

Go to www.wfot.org for more information.

[Please note that 15% of all donations support infrastructure needs]



**WFOT Occupational Therapy International
Day: Your participation - Promoting
International Occupational Therapy**

There are many ways that you can
promote the international face of
occupational therapy ... read on!

WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS
WFOT



Promoting International Occupational Therapy: Send an e-card

Choose an e-card (available at www.wfot.org) and send to a colleague to remind them of WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day, or invite them to your Occupational Therapy International Day event ...



One of the many WFOT e-cards



Promoting International Occupational Therapy: Articles, stories, press releases

Send a press release or article about WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day to your hospital or university newsletter, or place on your website.

Go to www.wfot.org – we will be placing articles about OT on the website up until 27th October 2009



Promoting International Occupational Therapy: Display a WFOT poster

On WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day, why not display some great posters showing the international face of occupational therapy.

Go to www.wfot.org, select '**WFOT Shop**' and follow the links to purchase the 7 poster set.

You can purchase the posters in hardcopy or e-copy.

While you are in the '**WFOT Shop**' take a look at the other products and resources that are available.



World Federation of Occupational Therapists

WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS (WFOT)

Donation to WFOT Occupational Therapy International Day

Please complete all parts of this form.

| | |
|---|---|
| Send 1 copy of your completed form to Marilyn Pattison: Executive Director, PO Box 1001, Rowland Flat, South Australia 5352, Australia fax: + 61 8 8563 3467 email: admin@wfot.org.au | Send your donation and 1 copy of your completed form to E. Sharon Brintnell: President Department of Occupational Therapy 2-64 Corbett Hall, University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G4 fax: +1 780-492-9599 e-mail: admin@wfot.org.au |
|---|---|

Name or Name of Organisation:

TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE to "WFOT" in US dollars

\$ _____

Please tick what you would like you donation to be used for:

- Disaster Preparedness and Response Project – assisting our colleagues in disaster affected areas deliver appropriate services to their fellow countrymen**
- O.T. International Outreach Network (OTION) – assisting occupational therapists working in low resource countries**
- Congress Attendance Fund – enabling occupational therapists from low resource countries to attend the WFOT Congress**
- Country Development Work – development of the profession in countries where there are no occupational therapists**
- General WFOT development work**
- Other projects (please specify)**

Please indicate your method of payment:

- Bank draft (mail to E.S. Brintnell at above address)
- Cheque (mail to E.S. Brintnell at above address)
- Bank wire to: **World Fed of Occupational Therapists, TD Canada Trust, 10864 Whyte Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 2B3**
Transit #83689, Institution #004, Destination #0879, Account #7107082, TD Bank Swift Code:TDOMCATTOR

Please notify E.S. Brintnell (mail, e-mail or fax) if you send your fees by wire.

WFOT thanks you sincerely for your support of this important fund raising activity

A word document of this form can be obtained from the WFOT Secretariat admin@wfot.org.au