

Summer 2007
2702 N 3rd St – Suite 1000
Phoenix, AZ 85004



Celebrating 26 Years of Serving the Phoenix Community!

Now in its 26th year, NMTSA provided home-based services for 20 years, opened its clinic six years ago, is currently in its second year as a non-profit corporation, and is expanding its support services in 2007.

Meet the Board of Directors!

NMTSA has had a Board of Directors since March 2005. Because they are the decision-making arm of NMTSA, we asked the members to share with the community and our consumers what their role is, and how they contribute to the vision of the organization.

Suzanne Oliver, Board President

I am the founder and executive director of NMTSA. I have been in practice in Arizona as a board certified music therapist for 26 years and as a neurologic music therapist since the first NMT training was offered in 1999 at Colorado State University. As a current board member I bring the historic reference of the development of, and funding for, music therapy in the State of Arizona, and NMTSA's strong vision for the community and its consumers that was founded at the company's inception in 1982. Participation on the board of this nonprofit organization is extremely exciting in that the continued vision of the company is fueled by the board and the company's many community supporters. So much can be done when we keep in mind the company's historic mission and we work together to strategically plan for the future. My vision for the company is to continue to stay on top of new research information and best practices, and to formulate programs which always push the edge of maximizing what is available to the community and its consumers. I feel very blessed to be able to serve on NMTSA's board at this exciting time.

Jennifer Lansky, Board Secretary

I am the parent of a 10-year-old boy with autism and apraxia, and my husband and I also have an 8-year-old son. Receiving Music therapy at NMTSA and being a part of the ACT Program have helped my son tremendously and continue to be an integral piece to his progress. Having a master's degree in special education and having taught children on the autism spectrum provides me a well-rounded picture to help NMTSA. As board secretary, I will work to fulfill the mission and vision of NMTSA.

Blythe LaGasse, Board Public Information Officer

I am a Neurologic Music Therapy Fellow who is currently a doctoral student at the University of Kansas, researching the effect of music therapy on speech and communication skills with persons with developmental disabilities and autism. I am honored to be the Public Information Officer for NMTSA. In addition to having owned my own music therapy practice, I also have a background in negotiating contracts and managing events for nonprofit associations. I hope to bring my experiences in both music therapy practice and business to assist the NMTSA Board of Directors in exploring options and making decisions that will be integral to the growth of the organization. I feel that NMTSA is an extremely reputable music therapy practice that will only continue to change the lives of persons in the Phoenix community with practical and functional accommodations. I am truly thrilled to be a part of this wonderful organization!

Marilyn Chadwick, Board Member

As a speech/language pathologist, I have worked with people of all ages to develop both verbal and nonverbal communication skills. I specialize in using alternative methods to meet the goal of effective communication. I am currently the Assistant Director of the Facilitated Communication Institute at Syracuse University, where I direct the training initiatives and teach a graduate level course Augmenting Communication in the Inclusive Classroom. In addition to the traditions of AAC and FC, my work with families embraces many disciplines, including Feldenkrais, Floortime, and Neurologic Music Therapy. Rhythm is so central to communicative process, that it has become a primary focus in my work with individuals and families. I travel across the country and to other countries as well and I never go without my drums!

The work of Neurologic Music Therapy Services of Arizona is vital to those individuals and families who can experience the benefit directly. It is also vital to the overall professional growth of many within the music therapy tradition. I think it is important that it grows in the direction of a multidisciplinary organization. Perhaps the school is the first step toward such a vision. I also feel that this work is too important to have just in Phoenix, Arizona. We need to articulate a vision for similar organizations in other states, with other professionals drawing from the model and expertise that the Neurologic Music Therapy Services of Arizona has developed.

Upcoming Events

September 15
Competency-Based
Communication Group

September 22
NMT Parent Training

October 13
Facilitated Communication
Parent Training – Level 1

November 10
Facilitated Communication
Parent Training – Level 2

*call 602-840-6410 to find
out more and sign up for
these events!

“I love that store!”

Do you buy your groceries Safeway? Do you ever shop at OfficeMax, Eddie Bauer or Macy's? Chances are, you stop by at least one of those places on a regular basis. Why not support NMTSA in the process? Go to www.escrip.com and sign up as an NMTSA supporter. (NMTSA's group number is 500007234) It's completely free! Just register your Safeway and/or regular payment card numbers and the next time you use that card to purchase items at a participating store (complete list of stores available online), that store will donate a percentage of your purchase directly to NMTSA!



About our clinic...

NMTSA has been providing music therapy services to individuals and their families in the Phoenix metropolitan area since 1982. In 2001, following 20 years of providing home and community-based services, NMTSA opened a clinic in central Phoenix. The clinic allows NMTSA to serve more families, and to provide a center for support and networking opportunities for families and staff. The clinic also allows NMTSA to provide ongoing parent and staff education and training. With the inception of the NMTSA clinic came the opportunity to specialize in Neurologic Music Therapy (NMT). In 2007, NMTSA moved into a larger clinic and expanded its offerings to include community education programs as well as an literacy-based elementary education program called Assuming Competence Today (ACT).

Get In Touch

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To download this newsletter in electronic form visit our website at www.nmtsa.org

Did you know?

The first music therapy degree program in the world was founded at Michigan State University in 1944. There are now 67 schools with Music Therapy programs in 30 different states.

NMT Parent Training

Bridging the Gap Between Therapy and Life at Home

This course is designed for parents, care givers, and therapists of individuals currently receiving treatment through Neurologic Music Therapy Services of Arizona. The course is open to the public for a nominal charge.

Course components will include the following:

- Presentation of NMTSA's treatment philosophy inclusive of
 - Neurologic Music Therapy
 - Competency-Based Communication
- Discussion of the evidence-based practice of Neurologic Music Therapy
- Information on the specific interventions used within the clinic
- Information on what you can do at home to support treatment
- Opportunities for the problem solving of issues interfering with the optimal functioning of your child at home and in the community

NMTSA is offering the next Parent Training on September 22nd in the clinic's group room from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Families of NMTSA clients are strongly encouraged to attend a training to help further understand the techniques being used and how those can be applied and supported at home to create a greater opportunity for achieving individual client goals.

Autism in the News The Puzzle of Hidden Ability

Newsweek has just published an article about the utilization of IQ tests for children with autism that suggests that the most widely used IQ test is not the most accurate identifier of intelligence levels. The article discusses crystallized intelligence vs. fluid intelligence, and suggests that children with autism may exhibit higher levels of intelligence than previously thought.

Read more at:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20226463/site/newsweek/from/ET/>

(note: this article is also linked in the "Bookmarks" on the computer in the Parent Empowerment Center)

Staff Spotlight

Stephanie McCann

a.k.a. The Woman Behind the Glass...

Meet Stephanie, our amazing Office Manager. If you come in the morning for your therapy session, you will see her behind the sliding glass window. As Office Manager, Stephanie takes care of us and keeps this clinic running. Her duties are endless but mainly include inventory, paperwork processing, cleaning, and billing. Stephanie stays behind the scenes to meet all of our therapist's needs so we can concentrate on providing quality therapy. And what is Stephanie's favorite part about working at NMTSA? She says it's watching the client's progress and the interactions between clients and therapists. Thank you Stephanie for ALL you do!

Research Study Opportunity

Physical therapist Kathy Berger is conducting a research study on toe walking in autism as a part of her studies in the Department of Psychology of the University of Florida. Her study is called "The Development of Idiopathic Toe Walking in Autism" and she is in search of videos parents have of their children from birth up to present age showing their toe walking characteristics as well as their day-to-day activities. Also, video of children with autism who are not toe walking are needed for comparison as she studies movement differences. No compensation is offered for participation, but results of this study will be available upon written request. Videos will be returned to participants. For more information and a copy of a consent form, see the posting in the Parent Empowerment Center at NMTSA or e-mail Kathy directly at kberger@ufl.edu.

**Facilitating Relationships . . .
Promoting Independence**