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AOTF/Patterson Foundation Announce Community Volunteerism Award

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Bethesda, MD - The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) and the Patterson Foundation, of St. Paul, Minnesota, have partnered in a pilot program to recognize occupational therapy practitioners who provide outstanding and needed occupational therapy-related volunteer services in their communities. The award, to be given in 2011, will be called the AOTF/Patterson Foundation Community Volunteerism Award.

This award is based on the belief that when professionals contribute their time and expertise to assist others, particularly people who do not otherwise have access to occupational therapy services, both the community and the profession benefit. By honoring exemplary volunteer projects of occupational therapy practitioners, AOTF and the Patterson Foundation hope to encourage more widespread volunteer efforts among individual practitioners and groups and to direct volunteer efforts toward the needs of low income and disadvantaged target populations.

Up to five awards will be made at the AOTA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA during April, 2011. Awardees will receive a travel stipend of up to \$1,000 to participate in the conference and receive their award. Nominations will be due in November, 2010 and announced in January, 2011. Additional information about this award and the nomination and selection process is available on the AOTF website at www.aotf.org.

The Patterson Foundation is a 501c(3) private independent foundation headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota. Founded in 2000, its mission is to provide resources to programs and non-profit organizations that make a distinct contribution to enhance the quality of life and create social and economic value in communities, primarily in the areas of oral health, animal health, and occupational and physical rehabilitation.

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is a 501c3 charitable, scientific and educational organization established in 1965. Its mission is to advance research, education, and leadership in the field of occupational therapy and to raise public awareness of the importance of enabling individuals to participate fully in life regardless of their physical, social, mental, or developmental circumstances.