Word from the president

Greetings to all of you from the beautiful country of Kazakhstan. Whether you are working in health care or rehabilitation in Kazakhstan, interested in developing Occupational Therapy from in- or outside the country or supporting our work by following us on Facebook or Instagram: we are so grateful to continuously hear stories about the impact of Occupational Therapy on the quality of life of people with special needs. Almaz’ story is an example of how our philosophy of integrated therapy in daily life activities is most effective. At the end of this month we will celebrate World OT-day. Our board members will discuss the practical applications of the theme of this year: Improving World Health and Wellbeing. Through ongoing training and education for (future) OT’s in Kazakhstan, we as KEA would love to play a role in improving the health and wellbeing of many in Kazakhstan.

Ideas or needs for training? Please let us know!
On behalf of KEA,
Gerdine Lok - Interim-President

CITY vs VILLAGE

The story of Almaz

Written by: Linda Beadle & Bouwine van Eeden Petersman - Occupational Therapist

Our disability team in Almaty has regularly been travelling to a village five hours away to give therapy to children with cerebral palsy and to train nurses and caregivers in basic home programs. This is where the team met Almaz.

We had always thought that children with disabilities living in the villages were at more of a disadvantage than children living in the cities. Children with disabilities living in villages have less access to specialist educational and medical services and their living conditions are often harsher with outside toilets and muddy roads.

But meeting Almaz challenged our perceptions.

Almaz is 10 years old. He has been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. He needs help with his balance and speech, and he has an intellectual disability. But every morning Almaz wakes his dad up to go and look after the sheep. He rides his donkey or horse and helps his dad on the farm. Riding a horse challenges his balance and ensure that his tight muscles are stretched and in a good position, it’s brilliant therapy exercise!

We could see the loving relationship between father and son and it was his dad who brought him to the regional hospital to see us.

Almaz has a purpose and he is contributing to the life of his family. Living in the village has given him a quality of life he probably would never have had if he had been living in the city.

WORLD OT-DAY

On the October 27 we will celebrate World Occupational Therapy Day, 2019! World Occupational Therapy Day is the opportunity to heighten the visibility of the profession’s development work and to promote the activities of World Federation of Occupational Therapy locally, nationally, and internationally.

The theme for this year is “Improving World Health and Wellbeing”.

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Edited by Gerdine Lok

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