Music Therapy Internship Program

State of the Heart Care is one of the three hospices in the state of Ohio and one of two serving Indiana to have an internship for music therapy, which is becoming increasingly valued in the delivery of hospice and palliative care.

Hello! Thank you for your interest in applying for an internship with us. State of the Heart cares for families and patients confronting a life-limiting illness. The non-profit agency provides care in western Ohio and eastern Indiana. Since 2006, State of the Heart has provided music therapy to patients and their families.

State of the Heart has two full time music therapists who are board certified by the Certification Board of Music Therapy and are active members of the American Music Therapy Association. According to NHPCO officials, it is “unusual” for a program the size of State of the Heart to have two music therapists and very unique to have an internship program. The agency cares for about 125 patients daily. Having such an internship program within State of the Heart is indicative of a commitment to comprehensive care for our patients.

State of the Heart has contributed over 35 years of service to area communities. The agency has offices in Greenville, Coldwater, and Portland. For more information about the internship program, please feel free to call me at 937-548-2999.

Amy Pearson, MT-BC
State of the Heart Care

“We know that music is a powerful therapeutic tool, and I commend State of the Heart Care for its commitment to make music therapy available, and now to take an important leadership role in music therapy…”

J. Donald Schumacher
President & CEO
National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
Since 2006, State of the Heart has provided music therapy to patients and their families. This non-profit agency provides care in western Ohio and eastern Indiana.

### State of the Heart Care

**Music Therapy Internship Program Description**

**Location**
State of the Heart Care serves 14 counties in western Ohio and eastern Indiana. The main office is located in Greenville, OH. The supporting offices are in Coldwater, OH and Portland, IN.

**Description of Services**
State of the Heart is a non-profit, mission-driven health care agency. The agency serves patients with life-limiting illnesses, infant through geriatric (mainly older adult). Illnesses include but are not limited to: terminal cancers, chronic conditions such as heart failure, lung disease, kidney disease, Alzheimer's/dementia, and unspecified disabilities.

**Starting Dates**
Internships will start in January and June. The internships will be a minimum of 6 months in length. Applications will be accepted six months prior to the start date.

**Internship Experience**
Interns will work with patients with a wide range of diagnoses in individual and family settings. The music therapy sessions occur in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, patient homes, hospitals, and our inpatient unit. Types of sessions include: one on one, family sessions, peer groups, bereavement support groups and bereavement camps. Interns will be exposed to a variety of session styles based upon the individual needs of the patient and/or family. The intern's involvement in each session will vary according to their place in the overall internship process.

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### Music Therapists work with the interdisciplinary hospice and palliative care team of nurses, doctors, social workers and other disciplines. In addition, Music Therapists work with grief specialists to offer support to patient caregivers and the community.

**Internship Experience**

Interns will also participate in interdisciplinary team meetings, attend staff in-services, and music therapy meetings with other hospice and palliative care disciplines.

**On-Site Educational Programs**
Hospice educational opportunities are also available to interns through the agency at no charge. These could include the Ohio Hospice and Palliative Care Organization annual conference, teleconferences, bereavement seminars, and various alternative therapies conferences. Educational opportunities are also available locally and are posted in the monthly staff education newsletter. Sample topics include: Complementary and Alternative Therapies at End of Life; Suffering, Hope, and Spirituality; Discovering Cultural Values, Beliefs, and Practices at the End of Life; Communication Skills; Assertive Approach to Care; Health Disparities in End of Life Care; Pain Management; and Hospice Eligibility Criteria.

In addition, interns will be encouraged to attend professional meetings for music therapy, such as the Great Lakes Regional Conference, The Association of Ohio Music Therapy Conference and the AMTA National Conference for which internship hours will be counted.

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**Supplies**
Music Therapy interns will have full access to State of the Heart's music therapy resources. These include: songbooks, guitars, keyboard, rhythm instruments, digital recording equipment, iTunes account, mp3 players, art supplies, compact discs, CD players, and hospice, palliative care and music therapy-related literature. iPads are encouraged.

**Entry Level Requirements and Evaluations**
Prospective interns are expected to complete an application with essays and an in-person interview and audition (when possible). The interview process will allow the music therapists to assess the intern's voice, piano and guitar skills. Applicants should be able to sing a song a cappella and play guitar and piano I-IV-V accompaniment in at least three keys. Prospective interns should also demonstrate interest and a reasonable comfort level in working with death and dying.

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"Our patients love music therapy. Many patients initially don't understand the value of music therapy. Once they meet with our talented music therapists, however, the experience is often quoted as one of the best services we provide through State of the Heart Care."

Angela Sipe
Executive Director & CEO
State of the Heart Care

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"I think I should have no other mortal wants, if I could always have plenty of music. It seems to infuse strength into my limbs and ideas into my brain. Life seems to go on without effort, when I am filled with music."

George Elliot
English Novelist
Music Therapy Internship Program

The Music Therapy program will be singled out as a model with those involved serving as role models and examples of the high level of professional work being done by the program.

Internship Director Amy Pearson, MT-BC, has worked in the music therapy field since 1998. The comprehensive hospice and palliative care team is comprised of nurses, hospice aides, chaplains, social workers, bereavement specialists, a volunteer coordinator, medical director, pharmacist, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. State of the Heart has allowed social service and nursing students to observe and shadow their respective disciplines, but no other internship program is in place at this time.

Ashlee Slavin has been a Music Therapist since 2014 and assists in supervising interns.

Contact Information
Amy Pearson, MT-BC, Internship Director
E-mail apearson@stateoftheheartcare.org
Phone 937-548-7144
State of the Heart Care
c/o Amy Pearson
1350 N Broadway St
Greenville, OH 45331

“Sharing time with hospice patients is a really rewarding experience. They are very appreciative of the time we spend together. I’m glad I can bring some emotional and physical comfort to those in their time of need.”
Amy Pearson, MT-BC
Music Therapist

Other Helpful Information
Housing is not provided; a list of housing options will be provided upon request. Reliable transportation is required along with liability insurance. Interns will receive mileage reimbursement. Interns will have continuing education opportunities.

“About the Service Area
State of the Heart Care offers flexibility for your internship, with three office locations throughout the fourteen county service area; it’s easy to choose the most convenient location for you. Each area has its own rich community dynamic, filled with history, tradition, and fun!

In our Northern area, Coldwater, Ohio maintains a close relationship to their Catholic roots. Highlights include the Maria Stein Center-- National Shrine of the Holy Relics, originally settled by the Sisters of the Precious Blood from Switzerland in 1846 and home to the second largest collection of Holy Relics in the United States. Coldwater is also among “The Land of the Cross-Tipped Churches;” this grouping of churches, schools, recroties and convents was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Most of these structures remain to remind the community of the hard work and dedication of the early German-Catholic Settlers who founded the area.

Just a short drive north from Coldwater, you will find Celina, Ohio and Grand Lake St. Marys, offering 13,500 acres of outdoor recreation including the Governor’s Cup Regatta, a record breaking speedboat race.

The city of Greenville is located in Darke County, Ohio and the Southern Ohio Service area. Greenville has a prominent place in American history as the home to Annie Oakley and signature site of the Treaty of Versailles, and has been known for years as a vibrant rural community, rich in tradition and with a strong farming emphasis. Darke County boasts the Great Darke County Fair, the largest county fair in Ohio. While a rural city with a thriving downtown community, Greenville boasts interactive culinary adventures at the Kitchen Aid Experience Center and Stand Mixer Factory, as well as within close proximity to NASCAR driver Tony Stewart’s Eldora Speedway.

Greenville is also within an hours’ drive to Dayton, Ohio, a metropolitan population of approximately a half million, and two universities, University of Dayton and Wright State University. There, you could attend a Dayton Dragons baseball game, a class “A” affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds, or visit the Dayton Opera, Victoria Theater, or The Schuster Center for the Arts. There are several shopping malls, including the Mall at Fairfield Commons and The Greene.
State of the Heart is also located in Portland, Indiana. Full of genuine country charm, Portland offers entertainment, shopping, history and recreation. There are several antique and specialty shops, as well as many Festivals and Seasonal Events such as the Funky Fest, Winter Fest, and the Vintage Bike Show. History can come alive in Portland: the Museum of the Soldier offers an outstanding display of military memorabilia from 1775 to recent years. Throughout the downtown area, historically important buildings dating from 1870 to 1945 have been refurbished within a five block area that’s now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thirty miles southwest of Portland is Muncie, Indiana. This metropolitan city is home of Jim Davis, creator of Garfield, and Ball State University. Attractions include the Ball State Planetarium and Observatory and Emens Auditorium, which attracts national and local performances.