



DOLPHIN AID NEWS 02/2007

Visit at CDTC

This spring the head of the medical board of dolphin aid visited CDTC in Curacao. Dr. Juergen Lindemann, head of the medical board spoke two days with therapists and management, inspected the therapy center and attended therapy sessions. The goal was to examine whether the dolphin aid therapy concept and the guidelines of certification are being observed. Such inspections through the medical board are conducted yearly, therefore the quality of the therapy centers recommended by dolphin aid can be guaranteed. Once again this year's inspection was successful and Dr. Lindemann was pleased with the result.

Kirsten Kuhnert - quest at health minister Ulla Schmidt

Mrs. Kuhnert, founder and President of dolphin aid, accepted an invitation of the German minister of health, Mrs. Ulla Schmidt and met with her at the end of June in Berlin. On this occasion, most of all financial questions were discussed. Mrs. Schmidt, herself a trained educator for special needs children and disabled patients, spoke of her very own positive experience with alternative forms of therapy. Thus Mrs. Schmidt recommends scientific tests. The health ministry now examines whether a respective group of patients can be treated with dolphin therapy in a scientifically observed experiment under the care of the legal health system.

New form of treatment for children with scoliosis

This new form of treatment can prevent young patients from long confinement to bed and pain. 8 year old Alina is one of the first patients in Europe profiting from the new implantation of the so called "Shape Memory Alloy Staples" (SMA). After being sick for several years already, Alina underwent surgery at the orthopedic clinic of the University of Heidelberg in summer 2005. Today her spine is significantly less curved and stable, allowing her to be without her supportive corset.



Titanium-nickel staples reach their desired form after implantation and after warming to body temperature. The method was developed in the United States and can stop further development of scoliosis. It may even correct an already existing curve. The spine can continue growing straight. Scoliosis is a lateral curve of the spine with an additional turn of the spine around its own axis. In Germany 400.000 people suffer from the disease. People contract the disease mostly after the age of 10. Girls are six times likelier to contract scoliosis than boys. In most cases the cause is unknown. Only in isolated cases the health system pays for the treatment.

Our therapy-children

Over the last couple of months a total of 73 children could attend dolphin assisted therapy thanks to the endless efforts on the support of our foundation. Most of them traveled to Curacao, some to IDC in Florida.

New dolphin therapy related studies

Today worldwide five research projects are being conducted. Among them a study of autistic children, respectively children with Down-Syndrome in reference to dolphin therapy. This research may result in detailed knowledge about specific effectiveness and may help gain the acknowledgment of dolphin therapy through the health system. The social educational point of view of dolphin therapy can be developed equally important. Dolphin aid continuously receives requests for thesis and scientific studies.



Castillo Morales at CDTC

At the beginning of this year, over a period of two weeks, the whole team of CDTC (therapists and psychologists) was trained by Joerg Pruess and his wife in the therapy concept of Castillo Morales. Joerg Pruess has practiced this form of Rehabilitation since December 2001 in Muelheim/Ruhr in Germany. This holistic concept of treatment mainly addresses children with neurological illnesses and sensor-motoric development impairments. Posture and awareness of the senses, as well as speaking and swallowing, are being improved. Therefore communication and also nourishing of the little patients shall be improved long term. The concept originates in Argentina. It is being used during preparation of dolphin therapy as well as during therapy at the dock. The concept complements ideally dolphin therapy, since the animals aim too is to seek the contact to the children, thus initiating communication through touching.

The year of the dolphin - NEWS

The dolphin diploma:

The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society developed a dolphin diploma for children between ages 8 and 12. It includes theoretic knowledge as well as concrete tests and actions in reference to dolphin protection. Information about the mammals and their endangerment is playfully transmitted in text, pictures and through hearing examples.

Amy's wish:

8 year old Amy wrote three stories about the dolphin Dolphy. She now would like to publish these stories and donate the profits to protect dolphins.



Humans and dolphins

There are many stories about humans and dolphins. Some are reporting how one or more dolphins helped a drowning person to the surface or even at shore. Others tell how dolphins chased away sharks. The question is whether dolphins help knowingly or whether it is part of their instinct. It is a fact that dolphins protect their own schools by attacking sharks and chasing them away. Dolphins possess a strong instinct to protect weaker members. More than a few people worldwide are convinced that dolphins saved them from drowning and shark attacks. In June 2001 a group of fishermen fished 56 kilometers out of the shoreline of Georgetown when their boat sank. They were quickly surrounded by sharks when fortunately a dolphin school appeared and chased the sharks away. The dolphins stayed with the men throughout the night and chased away an attacking 2,7 meter long white shark the following afternoon.

Necessary: Protection of the whales and dolphins

Reason being the possible legalization of commercial whale hunting. This shall also include blue whales. Especially Norway and Japan want to again allow hunting of these biggest mammals in the world.

Literature: Nomi Baumgartl/Chris Gallucci - The elephant man

At the renowned book fair in Munich, Nomi Baumgartl in the presence of many celebrity guests (among them dolphin aid ambassador John Juergens and dolphin aid ambadress Uschi Princess zu Hohenlohe) collected money for a good cause - for dolphin aid!



New Sponsor of dolphin aid - STADA Medical

Dolphin aid has a new supporter. STADA GmbH and its mother company STADA support the work of dolphin aid with 50,000.00 Euro thus making it one of the main sponsors of dolphin aid. "STADA knowingly decided this time to support a form of therapy which is not based on medication", states STADA GmbH managing director Peter Maier.

Low costs of administration

Over the last 10 years, the average administrative costs at dolphin aid accounted for 10.69 % of all donations. In comparison to other charitable organizations, this represents a very low percentage. The German main institute for social questions (DZI) has fixed the limit at 35 %. Up to 20 % seems reasonable. All costs under 10 % are qualified as very low. Therefore dolphin aid can be proud of doing extremely well.

IDC in Florida

The IDC in Florida is now certified as therapy center by dolphin aid. Therapies taking place at this facility are now supported by dolphin aid. For this purpose the board, as well as the head of the medical board of dolphin aid Dr. Juergen Lindemann, Kirsten Kuhnert and Matthias Heimer visited the Island Dolphin Care therapy center (IDC) in Key Largo. Over the last years, dolphin aid families had participated in therapy at IDC. So far dolphin therapy there was not directly supported by dolphin aid since after the leaving of Dr. Shannon, IDC no longer had a scientific management. Now there is again a scientific support at IDC consisting of five doctors. The center now also provides a hypnosis therapist. Per session, a maximum of eight children are being treated. The costs are lower than at the recently closed therapy center Dolphin Human Therapy (DHT). However, these costs seem relative, since the 20 minutes that the patient spends with the dolphin are only half of what i.e. DHT offered.



Ladies' Circle

Ladies Circle is an international service organization of young women, independent of political or religious interests and with the goal to deepen friendship and charity. The Ladies Circle of Germany recently invited our president Kirsten Kuhnert to give a speech at their yearly meeting on November 22 in front of expected 400 visitors, all of whom are socially engaged.

Real men

Theater owner Helmuth Fuschl and Paul Haizmann are presenting the comedy: "Real Men" (Ganze Kerle) on September 2, 2007 at 6.00 pm at the Comedy Dusseldorf, Steinstrasse 23. All participating actors are volunteering for this theater project. The entire profit will be donated to dolphin aid.

Beautiful horses supporting dolphin aid

On March 18 the Zuchtbezirk Bayern of the Arab breeding organization held their third day of the Arabic stallion under the patronage of our very own patron HRH Prince Leopold of Bavaria. 22 stallions were shown by their riders and could also be admired without saddles and bridles. This was accompanied by honoring old stallions and an attractive show program. The highlight was a raffle. The profits were donated to dolphin aid and thus to "our" families.

The economic board

We are only satisfied when donations reach our children, enabling them a therapy high in quality and effectiveness. In this respect dolphin aid is supported by our economic board. A total of four specialists in the fields of economy and justice support the management and the board, support with important decisions and provide helpful recommendations. One of them is **Frank Kuechler**. The headhunter not only supports with recruiting new employees but also was part of our board for a long time.



Tom Schroeder, CEO of Geha, a huge supplier of communication and office-supply, helps with questions concerning economy and office organization. Geha, with its own communication agency, is also responsible for the layout of dolphin aid NEWS. **Mark S. Scott** is the legal specialist on the economic board. The lawyer lives in the United States and has handled renowned clients such as Deutsche Bank AG. Friedhelm Bröker

NEWS FROM DOLPHIN AID AMERICA

Dolphin America as well is busy putting together its very own gala at the Palms South Beach Hotel on October 5. The purpose being to raise funds for American children being dear to our heart and participating in dolphin assisted therapy at either IDC (Island Dolphin Care) in Key Largo or CDTC (Curacao Dolphin Therapy Center).

The next little patient participating in dolphin assisted therapy at IDC in Key Largo will be Miguel Zappata from Davie/Florida. His stay in Key Largo will be documented by a professional film maker and will be shown to guests at the upcoming gala.

For News about IDC in Florida please refer to a contribution in dolphin aid NEWS 02/2007.