



SRT
PROSTHETICS
& ORTHOTICS



SRT NEWSLETTER | 2012 SPECIAL EDITION

10 years

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"Since the beginning, our philosophy has been to focus on the whole person, not just the part that is missing."

—Sam Santa-Rita, SRT Founder

THE PAST 10 YEARS

A MESSAGE FROM SAM SANTA-RITA

It's hard to believe that ten years have gone by so fast. While I struggle to remember what I did yesterday, the memories of starting SRT are still very vivid and, in hindsight, comical. The struggles to get a new business off the ground were crazy. Working with good accountants, attorneys, physicians, nurses, therapists, and one good banker kept the stress level down to HIGH. Family was very supportive and provided daily encouragement and advice.

SRT started with two offices and we are currently remodeling our soon-to-open seventh office. I believe we started with twelve people and have tripled that number recently with exciting new additions to the SRT family. However, what is most important is that we are still serving many of our original patients. It is

the relationship with our patients that is the most meaningful of all our accomplishments.

When we work with a patient we become friends. We soon learn about his or her family, job, hobbies, stresses, and unique personality. When one connects and becomes emotionally invested in another person's well being, going to work doesn't really feel like going to work. I often tell new patients that there is a learning curve with prosthetics for both the patient and the prosthetist. The better I know you, the better the results. Each person is unique and what works well for one patient is not a guarantee that it will benefit anyone else.

Most experienced amputees don't like change. Once they find a prosthetist that

will listen and a leg that is comfortable, they stay for life. A few weeks ago I was joking around with a patient. As we were reminiscing about "old times," we realized that we have known each other for over 13 years. He suddenly became quiet, dropped his head for a moment, and then looked right at me and said "It's like we're married." It is a different way of looking at the patient/prosthetist relationship, but there is some truth to it. For better, for worse, in sickness, and in health, for richer, for poorer, till death do us part. We go through good times and bad times together. We work through job loss and health insurance loss together. Some times we irritate each other, but always, we look out for each other. And sadly, it is often death that does make us part.

I believe that the next ten years will be

better than the first ten. As we grow, we make new friends. Not just patients and their families, but other healthcare professionals as well. We are maturing as an organization which allows us to take on projects that are unique and beneficial, but certainly outside the scope of a typical prosthetic and orthotic company. Our walking school is eight years old and the oldest continuously running program in the country. We now have a golf professional on staff to help keep our patients active and healthy. SRT and The Way Outfitters have partnered on a national level to help sportsmen stay active outdoors despite their many challenges. In August of this year, we are hosting the US National Amputee Golf Tournament at the Brickyard in Indianapolis.

The goal of all these programs is also one of SRT's initiatives for the second ten years:

"A Healthier You." Since the beginning, our philosophy has been to focus on the whole person, not just the part that is missing. Remaining true to that belief has energized us to help keep people moving and active in an effort to promote whole body health. We've observed that many of our friends are experiencing a slow decline in their health and lifestyle. But we have chosen to stay active, not passive. And so should you. Take advantage of the many opportunities we are offering. In addition to focusing on your own physical health, become active in helping others who may have even greater obstacles than you. I find it difficult to focus on my own problems while I am helping others with their problems. One of my personal favorite projects is an SRT-sponsored orphanage in the Dominican Republic known as The Mustard Seed Orphanage. I would like to invite you to become a part

of that project also, or I challenge you to develop your own outward-focused venture or endeavor.

I cannot thank you enough for supporting SRT for the last ten years and allowing us to serve you. Everyone at SRT is fully aware that healthcare professionals have a choice where they send their patients, and patients have a choice where they go. We are blessed to live in a country where we can still make healthcare choices. This freedom drives us to do our best everyday to demonstrate that there is a difference in care at SRT. I am excited about being different and making a difference. I look forward to the next ten years, and I believe they will be even better than the first ten.

With Great Thankfulness,

Sam Santa-Rita

THE AMPUTEE WALKING SCHOOL

FOR OVER 20 YEARS, PARALYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS DENNIS OEHLER & TODD SCHAFFHAUSER HAVE HELPED THOUSANDS OF AMPUTEES WORLD-WIDE WITH THIS 100% FREE PROGRAM!

Monday, July 23, 2012 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital Rehab Center
3300 W. Community Drive – Muncie, Indiana

Tuesday, July 24, 2012 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Sports & Physical Therapy
2130 W. Sycamore Street – Kokomo, Indiana

Wednesday, July 25, 2012 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Turnstone Center for the Disabled
3320 N. Clinton Street – Fort Wayne, Indiana

Thursday, July 26, 2012 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital
1200 Ralston Avenue – Defiance, Ohio

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2012

Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana
4141 Shore Drive Indianapolis, IN 46254



9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Registration for Physical Therapists

10:00 – 12:00 noon

Hands-on demonstrations and training for Physical Therapists

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

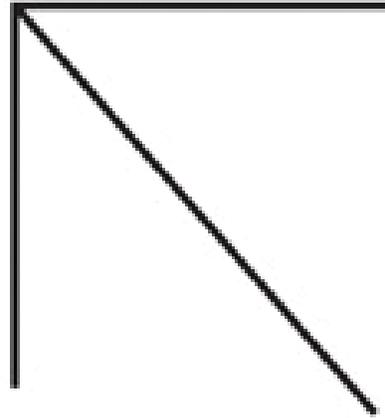
Registration for Amputees

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The Amputee Walking School!

For more information and therapist RSVP:
Connie Fiems, MPT, NCS, CBIS
connie.fiems@rhin.com

FREE CEU CREDITS
ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR OHIO &
INDIANA PHYSICAL THERAPISTS!



"If I can help someone to look deep into themselves and make them want to get on with their lives, then that is what makes me feel as if I have done what I am supposed to do for others."

THE HUNT FOR ADVENTURE

CAM TRIBOLET & THE WAY OUTFITTERS

In 1986 at the age of 23, Cam Tribolet was sitting at a stoplight on Coliseum Boulevard in Fort Wayne, Indiana in the middle of the night. What began as an attempted carjacking led to a fight and ended when Cam was shot in the stomach three times.

The bullets went through his bowel, ripped through his aorta, and sped through his intestines, lodging into his back. Cam lost consciousness as he tried to escape the scene and then crashed his truck behind a bar that had just closed for the evening. The owner heard the crash as he was walking to his car and found Cam slumped over the steering wheel. Cam was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Fort Wayne and was rushed into surgery where the doctors began the task of repairing his

bowel and aorta. Unfortunately, infections had already set in and within a few days, both of Cam's legs had to be amputated above the knees. During Cam's eight month stay in the hospital, he underwent 36 operations and coded 13 times.

"The infections shut my body down and I had full renal failure of my liver and kidneys," states Tribolet. "I was on full life support and my parents had already begun making funeral arrangements. By the grace of God, miracles do happen and after loved ones said their good-byes, my kidneys kicked into gear and I slowly, over six months, started to get better."

"I was a carpenter and a home builder before the shooting, so of course I couldn't climb ladders and roof trusses anymore. I decided to go back to school and got a degree in engineering. Then I started my life all over again but this time with my wife by my side. I met my wife Sue in the hospital; she was one of the physical therapists who watched me start the rehab process. We began

talking and getting to know each other and within a year after I left the hospital in 1987 we were married. We have two children, my son, Braden is 18 and my daughter, Julia is 13."

Cam had always been involved in hunting and the shooting sports, but when he got out of the hospital he sold every gun he owned because he thought he would never be able to hunt again. It wasn't until his brother-in-law convinced him to take up bow hunting that Cam changed his mind, and overall outlook on life.

"It took a while to figure out how I was going to hunt again. I started by hunting from my wheelchair, then I moved on to walking and hunting from a three-wheeler, but I wasn't having any success. I figured if I was going to work this hard to hunt then I needed to start increasing my odds. With help, I figured out how I could climb trees again by using my artificial legs to help me get up higher into the trees. After more and more tries, I figured out how to utilize ladder

stands which I now custom-make out of steel pipe.”

Once I discovered that having no legs wasn't really stopping me from trying new things, I got to wondering what else I could do. I found that it was really my attitude that was holding me back from moving on with my life. Once I had it in my mind that I wasn't going to give up on life, sports and recreation, I began doing even more things like scuba diving, biking, bungee jumping, parasailing, knee boarding, fly fishing, down hill skiing, cabinet making and being a father and husband.”

With a new lease on life, and a rediscovered passion for hunting, Cam is now providing opportunities for disabled children and adults through the charitable organization, The Way Outfitters.

“For over 10 years, I had traveled the country and coordinated hundreds of hunts for disabled and terminally ill children and adults through a different, yet similar organization,” says Cam. “On one of these trips, I met a hunter in Utah named Roger Devenport. I explained to him about the disabled hunter program I was associated with. Roger then told me that he owned a hunting preserve in Three Lakes, Wisconsin and said that he would love to donate a hunt for disabled children. For five to six years we did dozens of hunts with Roger and his family.”

The rest is history. Roger and Cam are the founders of The Way Outfitters, a faith based, charitable organization that provides outdoor adventures to disabled or terminally ill children as well as disabled veterans.

“Our mission is to get some of these guys or girls back in the outdoors again and maybe even to push their own limits a bit so that they too can see what they can do as a disabled person,” says

Cam. “We are faith based and we provide each guest with a camouflaged Bible at the end of each event. We don't push our Christian faith on anyone, but we want them to know that we appreciate what the Lord has given to us and that we praise Him even though we all go through some tough times in our lives. I want everyone to know that even though they may have a disability, it is at that moment when they are reeling in a 140 pound tarpon or putting their crosshairs on a trophy animal, that they don't have a disability and their minds are off of their restrictions. At that moment in time, they are just a fisherman or a hunter enjoying what they like to do best.”

These amazing stories are now being featured as a television series on The Sportsman Channel. The premiere episode of “The Way Outfitters Outdoor Adventures” first aired back in December 2011.

“The television series became reality because Roger and I were brainstorming one day trying to figure out a way to raise money to send our guests on these outdoor adventures. Raising money is the hardest part of our volunteer work and if it wasn't for private donations, the program would be



Camden Straub and his father, David, reeling in the catch of the day in the Florida Keys.

struggling to offer even a small part of what we do for our hunters,” states Tribolet. Roger thought that if we could reach out to millions of people, then we can get more people interested in our mission and there will be more opportunities for donations. In order for people to know who we are and what we stand for, then it's important for them to see us in action. We hope that the show, even though only 20 minutes, shows the viewers what we are all about.”

SRT Prosthetics is a very proud sponsor of the series, which airs every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. and every Friday at 1:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. (EST) on The Sportsman Channel. SRT has had the privilege of sending several patients on these amazing expeditions. Among the SRT family includes Norm Terrill of Hicksville, Ohio, Camden Straub of Auburn, Indiana and David Weaver of Howe, Indiana fishing for shark and tarpon in the Florida Keys. Also featured on the show is Brad Hurtig of Sherwood, Ohio fishing in Northern Wisconsin and Retired Marine Rob Warner hunting through the country hills of Texas. If you would like to make a donation to The Way Outfitters, please contact them at 715.891.2311 or visit them at www.thewayoutfitters.com and on Facebook.



David Weaver jumps into the water for the first time as an amputee with Mike Cyr of C-Hawk Charters who donated his time and boat for the trip.



LOCAL THERAPISTS JOURNEY TO THE MUSTARD SEED ORPHANAGE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HEROES AT HOME AND ABROAD



Last summer, SRT Prosthetics invited local physical and occupational therapists to travel to the Dominican Republic to work with the children and staff at a special needs orphanage in Puerto Plata.

That invitation was enthusiastically responded to by Sue Tribolet, Physical Therapist at Possibilities NE in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Denise Sparks, Physical Therapy Assistant at RehabCare in Fort Wayne, Indiana (who also served as the translator), as well as Deb Guebard, Physical Therapist and Sandra Vance, Pediatric Occupational Therapist at the Turnstone Center for the Disabled in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Deb's husband, Dr. Bruce Guebard, MD, a physician at Parkview First Care in Fort Wayne, Indiana, came along to help as well as to provide physicals to the children.

This experienced group of medical professionals recently returned from their trip to the Mustard Seed Orphanage. The journey was documented by Physical Therapist, Sue Tribolet (the wife of Cam Tribolet, who is featured on pages 4 and 5).

DAY ONE

We drove on a very rough road through a somewhat residential area, then through gates at the orphanage, opened by their security guard, Pierre. The building housing the orphans was fairly large and very clean. It was 9:00 a.m. but none of the kids were quite ready and the staff seemed less than enthusiastic to have us there. We found out later in the morning that a child had died prior to our arrival and the staff was very upset and not as organized as usual. There are 19 kids total at the orphanage, most of whom have very severe physical disabilities. The age range is 3 to 19 and only four walk (one on her knees).

It became obvious that our first priority was to get these kids positioned in their wheelchairs as appropriately and comfortably as possible. We eventually realized that there were not enough wheelchairs for all the children, so some would have to take turns in appropriate wheelchairs. All the kids were so cute, yet so poorly positioned that it was difficult to focus on one. Deb remarked that she just wanted to reposition all of

them for comfort and a better view of life. Dr. Guebard commented, "It was funny to see the therapists attacking the kids and chairs like sharks attacking fresh meat (in the best sort of way)."

Sam and Julie Santa Rita were with us this first day. Sam was able to purchase foam and Naugahyde to help pad the wheelchairs. Many pictures were taken in order to get to know each child as well as eventually make a book for the staff to refer to for positioning, feeding, and exercise.

Sandra was able to work with three children and three staff members with feeding techniques. Most of the children are fed pureed food from a bottle with the tip of the nipple cut off.

Denise was very helpful and calm about translating for us, even when all of us were requesting her help at the same time. We were very thankful for her "spanglish" as she puts it.

Two of the boys, Johnnie and Braelin, were having a great time exploring the suitcase of toys that we brought. Dr.



*Physical Therapist,
Sue Tribolet with her
new friend, Eduardo.*

Guebard blew bubbles for the kids and they seemed to really enjoy this.

On the way back to our hotel, we saw a man transporting a full size mattress on his bike. Apparently, this is not an uncommon form of transportation and one can often find animals being transported this way!

DAY TWO

We began instructions on feeding and positioning with a good response from the staff. We started to see individual personalities come out in the kids, more smiles and laughter today. We found out that Johnnie had dumped out all the bubbles that we had brought!

Sam and Dr. Guebard worked non-stop on modifying and padding wheelchairs.

The security man, Pierre, was drafted into helping as well. Dr. Guebard remarked that Sam may have gotten a bit “high” on the contact cement fumes, but his padding looked great anyway.

It appeared that a number of the younger kids understood us fairly well. None of them can speak, but were responding appropriately, hollering to get attention or to be picked up; teasing, and laughing.

One of the older girls, Migdalena, actually spoke well and even greeted us in English at times. Deb demonstrated sidelying position with many of the children. This was well accepted by the staff. More sound and movement was noted when the kids were positioned correctly.

DAY THREE

When we arrived on this third day, we saw that some of the children were lying on their tummy or side. Several of the children were placed on blow up pool rafts. These worked especially well for two of the older girls, Massiel and Jessica, who had severe scoliosis as well as hip dislocations.

We played with many children on the mats and the large ball. We met more staff today – the night shift who stayed to see what we were doing. They followed through with the positioning, playing on the ball and mats. All the staff admitted to having fun playing with the kids today. It was encouraging for the staff to see what the kids were capable of – like Eduardo who is able to sit on the mat without help, and Francesca who could belly crawl around the floor.

Friends of Sam, Dale Mason and Brent Wilson, were willingly drafted into coming this day and helping Sam and Pierre with wheelchair repairs as well as constructing a shower chair.

While waiting for PVC pipe to make the shower chair, the guys cleaned out a storage area and found two more wheelchairs for the kids to use. They also found a walker that was cut down to a pediatric size. Francesca was able



Sandra Vance demonstrating the sidelying position with the children.



Sue Tribolet (left) and Deb Guebard (right), assist Juan Carlos with his wheelchair.

to walk forward with it and was fairly cooperative (not her norm).

Two days ago, Sandra had made some suggestions on feeding Braelin who has Down's Syndrome. As of today, Braelin is now independently feeding himself thanks to the staff following some of the techniques demonstrated by Sandra.

DAY FOUR

This fourth day was more of the same — positioning, exploring the kids abilities with sitting, hands/knees position, standing, and even walking with some. We have continued to train the staff with much success. The kids are anticipating our arrival now and are making noises to get our attention. There are lots of beautiful smiles and giggles today. The children have touched our hearts. Bruce commented "If only all kids had the same opportunities." We have come to realize that many of the children would have been fairly functional if they had the type of resources that we offer in

the States. We found out that the kids are sent to school, but only if they are able to walk.

The shower chair was completed today with great success. The staff felt it would help their aching backs. The staff could see how important the various positions were. They also had great fun bouncing the kids on the large ball or the ride on toy.

DAY FIVE

Our last day at the orphanage. We presented the therapy book to the orphanage assistant director, Yvelis. It had many pictures demonstrating therapy, feeding, and positioning ideas with other suggestions as well.

We had been participating in the staff praise and worship time throughout the week. We found out today that during the prayer time the staff had been thanking God for our help with the children. There were many hugs and tears as we said our goodbyes. We are grateful to Sam and Julie for the

opportunity through SRT to work with these kids. We know that God is blessing the children through the awesome, caring staff and the many missionary groups that come through. All of the therapists felt blessed to be a part of these kids' lives for the week.

The staff of SRT Prosthetics was honored to have such an amazing and inspirational team of medical professionals join them on their annual trip to the Dominican and donate their time and talents to the Mustard Seed Orphanage.

Along with therapy, the children are in constant need of items for daily living such as medication for pain, cold, cough, flu and allergies. They are also in great need of diapers and personal hygiene supplies such as baby wipes, sanitary towels, toothbrushes, combs, and toilet paper. If you would like to donate any of these items to the orphanage, there are donation boxes in the lobbies of each SRT office.



The guys put the final touches on the shower chair and then install it into the bathroom at the orphanage (below).

(Left) 3 year old Francesca is all smiles as she walks through the halls of the orphanage.



When you walk through the doors at SRT, you are more than just a patient; you are a friend. One of SRT's longest and dearest friends is Pat Hoch, who has been part of the SRT family since the company first opened their doors in 2002.

"I haven't met anyone at SRT that I haven't loved," says Pat. "The kindness and consideration they show to their patients is absolutely their first priority."

In 1955, Pat and her friend, both seniors in high school, were driving to a basketball game just south of Zanesville, Indiana. As their vehicle cruised through the foggy country roads, Pat's friend lost control of the car and crashed on a one lane bridge. The wreck resulted in a punctured artery in Pat's left leg. After arriving in the hospital, the doctors delivered the news to Pat and her family that her best option was to amputate her leg below the knee. Pat boldly proclaimed, "I can get into Heaven with one leg the same way I can with two."

Pat would spend three months in the hospital in traction until she was finally ready to come home, however in a full body cast. With tears welling up in her eyes, Pat recalls the first basketball game she attended after her accident.

A FRIEND SINCE THE BEGINNING

The story of Pat Hoch



"I was still in my body cast in a reclining wheelchair as they wheeled me out in the gym," she says. "I will never forget the huge banner my classmates had made for me that said WELCOME HOME PATTY."

Pat has been an amputee for 56 years, and SRT has been honored to provide her prosthetic care for the past 10 amazing years.

"I have been praying for SRT since the very beginning," says Pat. "The company's faith in God is why they have succeeded. It's amazing to have that kind of concept built into a business."

Pat has retired from Franklin Electric in Bluffton, Indiana after working as a Managed Corporate Payroll Specialist for 42 years, handling the payroll for over 2,500 employees. If you ask Pat how long she has been married to her husband, Howard, she will look you in the eye and say, "Forever." But after some research, it was discovered that they have been married for 45 years, and have two sons, Tony and Kent. They recently designed and built their home in Columbia City, Indiana, after residing in Ossian, Indiana for over 40 years. However, you will rarely find Pat and Howard sitting still for any lengthy period of time. They both love to spend their winters in Florida and have enjoyed traveling the country together over the years.

"Make sure to include in this article that after everything Pat has been through, I have never once heard her complain." – HOWARD HOCH

FREE GOLF INSTRUCTIONS FOR SRT PATIENTS!

We are excited to announce that Kim Moore has joined the SRT staff as our Resident PGA Professional! Kim will be traveling the country, promoting an active lifestyle and giving FREE golf instructions. SRT patients will enjoy the benefit of having Kim as their personal, professional golf instructor year-round at no cost! All SRT patients are encouraged to call us to schedule their one-on-one golf lesson with Kim at the course of their choice!



PGA CLASS A PROFESSIONAL:

- 9 Year Consecutive U.S. National Amputee Golf Women's Champion
- Future's Golf Tour Player
- #8 Ranked National Collegiate Women's Golfer – 2003
- Canadian National & Japan Open Amputee Golf Women's Champion
- First recipient of the National Collegiate Golf Coaches Association Award named in her honor as the Kim Moore Spirit Award
- Expertise in golf instruction for all types of individuals, including those with limited mobility
- Custom club fitting and swing analysis
- Expert advice on full swing, short game and course management instruction
- 1 Free Complimentary Lesson for non-SRT patients
- Available as a motivational speaker to rehabilitation facilities and hospitals

Call to schedule your **FREE** one-on-one golf lesson with Kim today! A waiting list has already been started for this one-of-a-kind program!

1.866.633.3961 **kim@srtpo.com**



Kim Moore giving instructions to Reg Primeau of Fort Wayne, IN

SRT IS PROUD TO HOST THE...



64th Annual National & 23rd Annual Senior Amputee Golf Open Championship!

August 6 – 9, 2012
Brickyard Crossing – Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Indianapolis, Indiana



This year, SRT Prosthetics is partnering with the National Amputee Golf Association and will host the tournament, which will be held at The Brickyard Crossing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. With holes inside the Motor Speedway racetrack, this beautiful course will give players an exceptional and unique golf experience. *Open to professional and amateur golfers!*



For more information, contact Kim Moore
 kim@srtpro.com
 www.srtprosthetics.com

SELF DEFENSE FOR AMPUTEES MAY 14, 15, 16, 2012

For over 15 years, the Tactical Defense Institute has trained civilians, law enforcement personnel, military, and federal agencies in tactical firearm and physical self-defense.

If you are an amputee (upper or lower extremity) and want to take advantage of this life-changing opportunity please call:



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3301 W. Bethel Ave.	Muncie, IN 47304	765.896.9389 PH

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**CATCH
SRT ON CNN**
Dr. Sanjay Gupta interviews Shawn
Brown on the Power Foot BiOM!

Shawn Brown, CPO, LPO of SRT Prosthetics (left) has worked closely with the manufacturers in the developmental stages of the BiOM, and was selected to be interviewed by CNN's Chief Medical Correspondent, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, MD (right) because of his expertise in prosthetic advancements.

SRT is very excited to see the BiOM featured on such a prestigious show, and was honored to have been a part of the filming process.

As soon as the video segments are available, they will be posted at www.srtprosthetics.com and Facebook!