

For Immediate Release

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Harp Music Therapy & San Diego's Special Needs Children

Just ten short years ago, Dianna Woodley was a deeply depressed victim of domestic violence. As a mother of three children, her active life grounded to an abrupt halt when in 2001, she was diagnosed with chronic plantar fasciitis and confined to a wheelchair.

After a lifetime of social activism helping children and women in violent homes, Dianna knew that it was time to help her self. The question was, where to start?

Then one day, she discovered that as she was listening to the beautiful tones of harp music, the pain in her legs began to lessen. She wanted to learn more and began to listen to harp and other soothing music.

The more she listened to this music, the better she felt. She wondered, why?

As she explored she discovered that music had been used for healing since the beginning of time and that only in the last few hundred years had it evolved into being used primarily for entertainment.

Euclid used the monochord, a single-stringed instrument, for healing in 300 BC. In the third century B.C., Socrates was said to have healed hundreds by playing water filled glasses.

The psalter, another musical instrument from prehistory, originally was simply a wooden board with gut strings stretched between pegs. It lifted the emotions to such a level that the Old Testament Psalms were given their name, as they were always presented and accompanied by the music of the psalter.

Listening to this music, Dianna's spirits soon lifted--and she began to have hope again.

She separated from her abusive husband and dreamed of creating a non-profit organization, which would provide harps for children who were disabled, like herself.

Eventually, she located a harp maker who had a specially designed lap harp that would be perfect for the special needs children.

To raise funds, she set a concert date and asked harpists and crystal bowl players to volunteer their time.

She then rolled her wheel chair to over 200 homes in her neighborhood, soliciting donations. In order to award the first harp, she even sold personal keepsakes to have the necessary money.

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During this trying time she reflected on Oprah Winfrey's urging people to, "Follow your dream!" That simple statement sustained and motivated her to continue and birthed the non-profit organization.

In 2005, Dianna's Angel Harps organization donated their first harp to a child with Down's syndrome and each year the annual benefit concert raises more funds and donates more harps to special needs children.

Starting with a dream to help others with disabilities, Dianna Woodley has changed the lives of hundreds of children with disabilities ranging from multiple sclerosis to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) by providing them with harps to assist in their healing process.

National and local businesses have lent their financial support to this healing harp music therapy movement and her concerts are a seasonal favorite in her city of Chula Vista. An amazing 95% of all proceeds go toward the purchase of harps, with all other necessary services donated.

Crediting it all to the power of healing music, Dianna today is fully recovered and pain free. As Angel Harps has grown, so has her vision.

Today Dianna looks forward to the day when she is able to give these specially designed harps to each special education department in San Diego County

. To discover how you can help enrich the lives of special needs children and support the larger dream, contact Angel Harps at (619) 518-6160 or go to AngelHarps.Org.

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Photos and other support materials are available at <http://www.angelharps.org>