



AOTF Announces the Robert and Sharon Ryan Endowed Scholarship

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF), Bethesda, Maryland, announces the creation of The Robert and Sharon Ryan Endowed Scholarship.

Sharon Ryan has a lifelong dedication to the field of occupational therapy and the education of future occupational therapists. She earned her degree in occupational therapy at the College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Sargent College at Boston University. Her professional practice concentrated on adult and geriatric education and involved supervision of advanced students completing fieldwork in occupational therapy. She was elected to the American Occupational Therapy Foundation Board of Directors in 2002, for a three-year term, was elected Vice President in 2004 and re-elected to the position in 2007.

Sharon, and her husband, Robert Ryan, retired CFO and senior vice president of Medtronic, Inc. continually demonstrate their untiring devotion to helping people participate fully in life, regardless of their physical, social, mental or developmental circumstances. The establishment of the Boston University Ryan Center for Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation to provide comprehensive care from diagnostics through post-rehabilitation, as well as the Boston University Goode OT Test Library, which houses a large selection of screening and assessment tools that measure cognitive, perceptual, motor, and functional abilities of children and adults are among their many good works. They have also established scholarships at Cornell, Boston University and the University of Pittsburgh.

As a testament to their ongoing commitment to occupational therapy, Sharon and Robert Ryan have now endowed a scholarship with AOTF. "Bob and I have always been committed to education," said Sharon. "Bob was the first member of his family to go to college. My father was one of the first African Americans to graduate from the pharmacy school at the University of Pittsburgh. (Because of) our shared commitment to education, it's important to us to help students, particularly students from an under-represented minority, who want to pursue their passion and finish their education," she said.

Endowed scholarships continue in perpetuity, supporting future generations of professionals and leaders in occupational therapy and touching countless others who benefit from their expertise. "We are deeply grateful to the Ryans for their leadership, generosity and untiring commitment to the future of occupational therapy," said AOTF Executive Director, Charles Christiansen.

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is a 501c3 charitable, scientific and educational organization established in 1965. To learn more about AOTF visit www.aotf.org

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