

# The Second Lady of the United States Embraces Art Therapy

AATA

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The Second Lady of the United States, Karen Pence, has embraced art therapy for children and families as her signature cause. Art therapy is featured on her official website at [WhiteHouse.gov](http://WhiteHouse.gov). As an artist and educator, Mrs. Pence is a long-time advocate for the unique ability of art therapy to unlock emotional expression by facilitating non-verbal communication. Her involvement with art therapy includes service on the Board of Directors of [Tracy's Kids](http://Tracy's Kids), a non-profit organization that uses art therapy to help young cancer patients and their families cope with the emotional stress and trauma imposed by the disease.



*From left: David Cohen, Marcelle Leahy, Matthew Gerson, and Karen Pence present the Courage Award to the Honorable Sue Myrick at Tracy's Kids 2011 'And the Winner Is...' event.  
Photo credit: Carly Glazier.*

The American Art Therapy Association is enthusiastic about Mrs. Pence's commitment to our profession. We look forward to providing support and resources to further her efforts, as we advocate for expansion of access to professional art therapists and lead the nation in the advancement of art therapy as a regulated mental health and human services profession.

