



**WORLD JOURNAL FOR
SAND THERAPY PRACTICE**
PROMOTING THE ETHICAL PRACTICE OF SAND THERAPY

IN MEMORIAM



Sherry Ann Fisher

11/22/1968 - 6/28/2025

Sherry Fisher was a moving force in the establishment of the World Association of Sand Therapy Professionals. She gathered with others with a similar vision, and soon the WASTP was a reality! As our first Board of Directors President, she led a fledgling association toward all the detailed work needed to establish a functioning organization. She also led the first research team as WASTP began its work to develop its vision and fulfil its purpose.

We miss her greatly.



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Obituary

Sherry Ann Fisher, 56, of Evansville, passed away Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Evansville. She was born November 22, 1968, at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland to Steve Martin and Elaine (Wells) Kay.

Sherry graduated with a master's degree in social work from the University of Southern Indiana. She was proud to serve others as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Clinical Addictions Counselor, and Registered Play Therapist/Supervisor. She was the founding President of World Association of Sand Therapy Professionals and has a President's Award for distinguished contributions in the field and a scholarship both named in her honor. Sherry had a strong work ethic for caring for patients in her private practice for mental health therapy.

Sherry loved God, cruises and going to the beach. She liked expressing herself through art. Her kids and grandkids were her life. She especially loved being "Gigi" to her grandkids and caring for her cat, Sasha. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who will be missed dearly.

Sherry is survived by her loving husband, Vance Fisher; daughters, Brittnee Fisher, Jordan Kappen (Zach), and Torey Fisher; 2 grandchildren, Avery Kappen and Bryson Fisher; father, Steve Martin (Betty); mother, Elaine Kay; brothers Russell Martin (Katie) and Jason Bell (Stacy); aunt, Janet Wells-Ferres; father and mother-in-law, Bruce and Ronica Fisher.

Tributes from Colleagues & Friends

Sherry Fisher's dedication to the field of clinical social work and therapeutic practice has left an enduring impact on the profession and the communities she served. A passionate advocate for children and families, Sherry's career spanned roles as a clinician and leader in the development of the World Association for Sand Therapy Professionals.

I first met Sherry in 2001 as the professor of Social Work with Children and Adolescents class in the MSW program at the University of Southern Indiana. I remember her passion and confidence were palatable. She was well-respected by her peers and emerged as a leader even during that class. Sherry then became well-respected as she grew as a clinician, first working for Evansville Psychiatric Group and then establishing her own private practice. Her office was not just a workspace but a carefully constructed environment of therapeutic intention and creative expression. Sherry had a dedicated room when you walked into her space with shelves and images on every wall, a play therapy space and a traditional office.

Following her departure from active practice due to illness, Sherry ensured that her therapeutic tools would continue to serve others. She arranged for her collection to be gifted to Catholic Charities in



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Evansville, along with her request that clinicians be trained in Sand Therapy. That investment continues to bear fruit, with staff still engaged in regular supervision and formal training as recently as July 2025.

Sherry Fisher exemplified professional excellence, clinical innovation, and ethical leadership. Her legacy lives on through the lives she touched, the professionals she mentored, and the healing practices she helped shape. She is fondly remembered and deeply missed.

Gene Schadler, LCSW

Sherry Fisher, LCSW, RPT-S, loved her family, God, and her blue Mustang. She loved a powerful guitar riff, deep conversations, and Prince.

She loved her people fiercely, setting aside many of her own passions in the pursuit of care for others. She was a true servant leader.

Her leadership skills were on full display during her foundational work at WASTP. It was her vision that an increasing number of clients could benefit from sand therapy through the hands of well-trained and knowledgeable clinicians. She envisioned a dedicated space where clinicians could collaborate and refine their expertise. Such an environment would foster opportunities to gain insights and fill voids for those working long hours in solitary practice settings.

Sherry's ardent focus to "keep going" was manifest in her 4-year battle with cancer. Upon discovery of her diagnosis, she pursued vigorous care, underwent experimental treatment and succumbed to a harrowing surgical procedure and recovery period. I know of no one more courageous in this battle. She rushed to the front lines, determined to prioritize her family and seize every available moment.

Sherry's love for sand therapy and WASTP persisted, and she wanted to know all about the progress of WASTP despite the need to step away from her leadership role. She had hopes of returning to clinical practice, and WASTP: the timing of her passing was unexpected.

Born 11/22/68 and left our world 5/28/25. WASTP extends condolences to her husband Vance, daughters, and grandchildren.

It's raining in my head; humming "Purple Rain", I'm pondering her life in themes of love, loss, and spiritual renewal. She has now entrusted us with this responsibility, and we aim to uphold the



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commitment to seeking meaningful and restorative experiences, as well as to facilitating emotional release through effective sand therapy practices.

Davi Stein-Kiley

Board of Directors, Previous Member

I had the honor of knowing Sherry through our work together on the WASTP board. As our founding president, Sherry had unmatched energy, innovation, and incredible dedication. She was the guiding force that helped a group of professionals bring a shared vision to reality. I deeply admired Sherry not only for her dedication and professionalism, but for the heart and integrity she brought to everything she did.

Sherry was instrumental in the development of WASTP's legal and financial infrastructure. She led the development of board committees and strategic initiatives. Sherry had a deep commitment to the sand therapy community and was invested in bringing quality training, research, and standards of practice to professionals.

Sherry brought ideas, passion, and a genuine desire to make a difference. She listened with empathy, spoke with clarity and kindness, and led with quiet strength. Her presence elevated our work and reminded us why we do what we do. Her commitment to sand therapy was an inspiration to everyone around her.

While we will all grieve the loss of Sherry, her impact on this world will remain forever. Sherry's legacy will continue to thrive through her many contributions to her clients, colleagues, and the sand therapy field.

Sabrina Thakur

Past-President, WASTP

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