



**I would like to thank ACENA for awarding me the WCCE scholarship. The opportunity to attend the ninth world Congress on Conductive Education in Budapest, Hungary was truly an honor. As a presenter, I had the privilege of sharing information about the work I began in doing in February, 2016, developing and running support groups for individuals with cerebral palsy who attend the Center For Independence Through Conductive Education in Countryside, Illinois. I have been given the unique opportunity to be on the ground floor of this new program. As I stated in my presentation, it is so important to not only address the physical needs of children with disabilities but also to address the socio emotional needs that accompany living with a physical disability.**

**During these group sessions we address many important issues that are on the minds of these children and adolescents. As time goes on they are much more responsive and actually look forward to these group and individual sessions. There is something incredibly powerful about being able to share thoughts, feelings, and concerns about what it's like to live with a disability. We discuss how it is possible to lead a full and productive life. As I am a graduate of the Center for Independence myself I am able to relate to these individuals on a more personal level. They see that they too can have a bright future. I was able to attend the University of Illinois and I'm currently in graduate school completing my masters of social work.**

**The sessions are designed to be age-appropriate with topics that are relevant for their age group. We are also planning sibling support groups and parent support groups. I find that the benefit of my personal experience allows me to be seen as someone who has succeeded and I started exactly where these individuals are now.**

**One of the benefits of the world Congress was information being shared by many individuals from different disciplines. There was great opportunity for everyone in attendance to learn new and innovative techniques. The presentation I was a part of with my colleagues was well received. The hope is that centers around the world will implement this type of program for their students.**

**Again, thank you so very much for this wonderful opportunity.**

**Sincerely,  
Ani Hunt**