

**Biosketch:**

Cathy Power is a preschool teacher and musician living in Houston, TX. She did not know that she had the CMT2A gene until she was in her thirties when she began having some numbness in her foot. Cathy suspected it was CMT right away. CMT goes way back in her family and stories from the 1800s have been passed down about "dead foot disease" and "the wilders". Cathy's great-grandmother's last name was Wilder and "the wilders" are what her family call it when they had tremors in their hands. The family did not really discover that the real name for this disease was Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease until Cathy's cousin was diagnosed at age seven. For Cathy, CMT means that tremors sometimes make it impossible to button tiny buttons for the children in her class, it means that she has to limit her time on her feet, it means that a routine trip to the grocery store can leave her exhausted and in pain and she worries that it means she will eventually no longer be able to do the very physical job that she loves - being a Montessori toddler teacher. Cathy hopes that raising awareness about CMT will bring funding and research. She hopes that one day we will have a cure.