



tourette syndrome association of new jersey, inc.

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photo attached, see bottom page two for details

Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey Honors Senator Richard Codey and Mrs. Mary Jo Codey

Senator and Wife honored for Support of NJ's Tourette Syndrome Community

Somerville, NJ: Senator Richard Codey and his wife Mrs. Mary Jo Codey were honored last Wednesday night (May 16) for their humanitarian interest and support of New Jersey's Tourette Syndrome community and all persons dealing with mental health issues. Mrs. Codey attended the award ceremony and accepted the award dedicated to her and her husband.

Thirteen year-old Dean Roncati of Hawthorne, N.J., who has TS, presented the award to Mrs. Codey, saying, "It takes courage to live life with Tourettes. It also takes courage to be an outspoken supporter. The kids of New Jersey can not speak for themselves and rely on people like you (Mrs. Codey) and Senator Codey for help. On behalf of the Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey and all the people of the State of New Jersey who deal with Tourette Syndrome everyday, especially kids like me, please accept this award as a reminder of our enormous appreciation."

Faith Rice, Executive Director of The Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, Inc. (TSANJ), remarked, "Senator Codey has steadfastly supported our work; he has an understanding and empathy for New Jersey's Tourette Syndrome (TS) families and has always been accessible and willing to help," Rice added, "He has been like a guardian angel of sorts – always there when we really needed him,"

"Mrs. Codey, as an educator and a person who strongly advocates on behalf of persons with mental illness, is also keenly aware of the problems Tourette Syndrome children and adults have to deal with on a daily basis. She has shown great courage and tenacity in her efforts to promote awareness and understanding of the special needs of people dealing with mental health and neurological disorders," remarked Rice.

"It is our good fortune that we have been in a position to help NJ families living with Tourette Syndrome. As we've said before, New Jersey children and families affected by TS shouldn't have to go through this without hope or recourse. The state of New Jersey must remain a steadfast partner in this fight and deliver whatever help we can to Tourette Syndrome families. For our part, Mary Jo and I feel it has been a privilege and an honor to help and we will continue to do what we can for New Jersey's TS community," stated Senator Codey.

Some previous TSANJ honorees are: Tim Howard, former all-star goal keeper for the NY/NJ MetroStars, current goal keeper for Manchester United, Dr. Oliver Sacks, renowned neurologist and subject of the film “Awakenings” and Jean Driscoll, Boston Marathon qualifier and special Olympian.

The dinner also honored the 2006/2007 Student Scholarship winners, an award recognizing a student with TS who has a proven record of accomplishment and achievement despite the disorder. The awards went to: in first place, David Colognori, of Westwood, NJ, \$1000 scholarship; and, in second place, James Facey of Verona, NJ \$500 scholarship.

In addition, TSANJ’s award for 2006/2007 Educator of the Year, presented annually to a New Jersey public or private school educator who has made a significant contribution to the education and well-being of a student with Tourette Syndrome. This year’s award went to Michelle Hawkes, a Para-Professional from Brick Township, for her outstanding support of a high school sophomore dealing with Tourette Syndrome.

The Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, Inc., and its affiliate organization, the New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders, Inc., support the needs of families affected by Tourette Syndrome by offering family support services, medical, psychological and advocacy services for individuals with TS; educating the public, training medical professionals and New Jersey’s educational community; as well as spearheading scientific research projects, to assist in finding new treatments and, potentially, a cure for this devastating disorder.

There is currently no cure for TS.

TSANJ relies completely on membership, corporations, government, and foundations to fund its work.

For more information contact: Please contact Faith Rice or Lisa Rongo, at TSANJ, Phone: 908-575-7350. Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, Inc., 50 Division Street, Suite 205, Somerville, NJ 08876. , website: www.tsanj.org, email: info@tsanj.org

Photo attached: from left to right, Mrs. Mary Jo Codey, Dr. Jay Tischfield, Director, Rutgers University Cell and DNA Repository, Chairman, Dept., of Genetics, Rutgers University, and Faith Rice, Director of The Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, Inc.,(TSANJ).