

Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, Inc.

26 West High Street

Somerville, New Jersey 08876

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HelpLine: 732-972-4459 Website: www.tsanj.org

Volume 3, Issue 1
TSANJ Newsletter

Newsletter Date:
First Quarter 2003

The Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey (TSANJ) is a non-profit organization whose membership includes individuals with Tourette Syndrome, their families, friends and interested professionals. It is the New Jersey chapter of the National Tourette Syndrome Association.

The Mission of TSANJ is to support the needs of families with TS, to advocate for individuals with TS and to educate the public and professionals on TS. TSANJ was reorganized in 1994 to better meet those objectives.

TSANJ Childrens Scholarship Award

Through the generosity of its donors, the Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey has established and is now accepting applications for its 2003 TSANJ Scholarship Award. The award will go to a New Jersey high school senior (private or public) diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, who will be attending a college or trade school in the Fall.

The recipient will be chosen on the basis of his or her academic record, recommendations and an essay or talents as demonstrated by means of an audio or

videotape. The purpose of this award is to both recognize a student with TS who has accomplished despite the disorder and to serve as encouragement for furthering his or her education or training.

This is our third annual scholarship offering and we are hopeful of continuing its funding in perpetuity through the generosity of interested parties.

Announcements and applications have been sent to all NJ high school principals and information is posted to our website. Student



applications along with other appropriate information must be received at the TSANJ office by April 30, 2003. Winners will be announced in late May. If you would like a scholarship application and details on how to apply for this award, please contact our office at 908 575 7350 or visit our website at <www.tsanj.org>.

TSANJ Calendar

Family Support Group - Southern Ocean County Hospital	March 6
TSANJ Board of Directors Meeting	March 12
Family Support Group—JFK Hospital Neuroscience Center	March 13
NJ Cares About Bullying Conference - Rutgers University	March 17
TSANJ Kids Support Group - North Brunswick High School (Sign up sheet is attached to this mailing.)	March 23
Family Support Group - Somerset Medical Center	March 24
Family Support Group - Morristown Memorial Hospital	April 3
Educators Workshop: TS & Associated Disorders Middlesex County College—Edison	April 3

Social Skills Workshops and Family Counseling

Starting this month, the Rutgers University/TSANJ Partnership Program will be offering several new 10-week social skills workshops for children with TS. Children will be grouped according to sex and age. While the children's workshop is being conducted, a support group will be facilitated for their parents. So come join us - it will be time well invested for everyone!

Individual and family counseling are also offered as part of the Rutgers University/TSANJ Partnership Program. Please call 732 445 7795 for information on workshops or to discuss counseling.

Statewide Educators Workshops on Tourette Syndrome

In addition to our Rutgers University Partnership, TSANJ has established relationships with community colleges across the state to conduct professional development courses for teachers, school nurses and other school personnel. These workshops entitled Tourette Syndrome: An Educators Workshop, are three hours long and award three professional development credits to teachers who attend. Following is an overview of this offering:

"Designed to teach educators about Tourette Syndrome and its associated disorders such as ADHD and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Anxiety, depression, difficulties in fine/visual motor skills, sensory defensiveness, auditory processing and other learning disabilities are also addressed. School related issues are empha-

sized. The criteria for diagnosis/clinical assessment of Tourette Syndrome is explained, along with current medical interventions. The course enables educators to recognize students' difficulties as well as their strengths and potential. Accommodations regarding instruction and testing are discussed as well as classification, the 504 plan and the IEP."

Please make your child's school aware of this professional development opportunity. For course schedules, see the calendar provided with this newsletter. For additional information call TSANJ at 908 575 7350 or visit our website <www.tsanj.org>.

TSANJ Calendar

Educators Workshop: TS & Associated Disorders—Raritan Valley College	April 4
Family Support Group - West Jersey Hospital	April 7
Educators Workshop: TS & Associated Disorders Ocean County College	April 8
Family Support Group - Valley Hospital	April 9
TSANJ Board of Directors Meeting	April 9
Educators Workshop: TS & Associated Disorders—Richard Stockton College Pomona	April 24
TS Inservice Volunteer and Parent Training Workshop—Richard Stockton College (sign up sheet attached to this mailing)	April 25
TS & Associated Disorders Presentation NJ State Social Workers Conference—Atlantic City	April 27
Deadline for TSANJ Children's Scholarship Applications	April 30
TSANJ Annual Fundraising Dinner Johnson & Johnson World Headquarters—New Brunswick	May 8

Family, Adult and Childrens Support Groups

TSANJ operates support groups in partnership with the following New Jersey hospitals:

Somerset Medical Center - Somerville
JFK Hospital Neuroscience Center - Edison
Valley Hospital - Ridgewood
Morristown Memorial Hospital - Morristown
Southern Ocean County Hospital - Manahawkin
West Jersey Hospital - Cherry Hill
Robert Wood Johnson Hospital - New Brunswick

Family Support Groups are usually held in the evening. Children's and Adult Support Groups meet on Sunday afternoons. See the calendar attached to this newsletter and visit <www.tsanj.org> for additional information.

TSANJ Calendar

Family Support Group— Southern Ocean County Hospital	May 7
Educators Workshop: TS & Associated Disorders- Mercer County College	May 9
TSANJ Board of Directors Meeting	May 14
Family Support Group - Somerset Medical Center	May 26

Volunteers Needed - We can't do it without your help!

School Inservice and College Workshop Volunteers
HelpLine Volunteers
Support Groups Volunteers
Fundraising Volunteers
Newsletter Editor

Any talent you have will be put to good use in continuing these and other important programs here in New Jersey. So please call us today at 908 575 7350.

TSANJ Annual Fundraising Dinner

This year's fundraising dinner will be hosted on May 8 by Johnson & Johnson at their World Headquarters facility in New Brunswick. Invitations and opportunities for sponsorship will be in the mail shortly. Please plan to attend this important fundraiser. Also please make contact with corporations and others to ask for their financial support. Proceeds from this event will be used to continue TS services, support and awareness activities for the thousands of families affected by TS here in New Jersey. Please help us to help you. Call 908 575 7350 for additional information.



Bullying Awareness and Prevention

TSANJ has received an invitation to attend the upcoming "New Jersey Cares About Bullying" state-wide conference. Sponsored by the New Jersey State Office of Bias Crime and Community Relations, the full day conference will be held on Monday, March 17, 2003, at Rutgers University's Busch Campus Center in Piscataway. We have reserved seats in TSANJ's name. If you are interested in attending, please contact us at 908 575 7350. Seating is limited.

The New Jersey Cares About Bullying Campaign is designed to promote awareness of the serious

problem of bullying among young people and to support the anti-bullying legislation signed by Governor James McGreevey on September 6, 2002. The campaign will involve activities centered on the issue of bullying throughout the 2003-2004 calendar year.

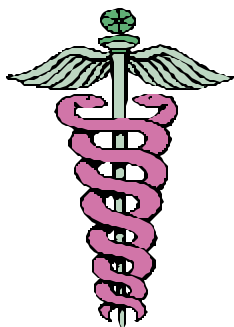
"The key to ending bullying is to make all people - young and adult alike - aware of how bullying impacts the lives of both victims and of those who behave as bullies. The campaign's goal therefore is to change behaviors and shape school and community cultures."

TSANJ is also a member of the

newly formed New Jersey Coalition for Bullying Awareness and Prevention. Other coalition members include: New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Assn, Overlook Hospital, New Jersey State Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, New Jersey State Bar Foundation, New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians and more. If you are interested in working with us on this program, please call the TS office.

New Jersey Physicians Referral List (PRL)

TSANJ's PRL is truly a work in progress. When we came together as an organization about seven years ago, our PRL consisted of six names. Many of hours have gone into developing the PRL as a resource for our New Jersey families and today we have 118 doctors and 29 social workers and psychologists on the TSANJ PRL. Through the years we have polled our member families asking them to complete questionnaires on doctors, therapists and other professionals they use to manage TS within their families. We have

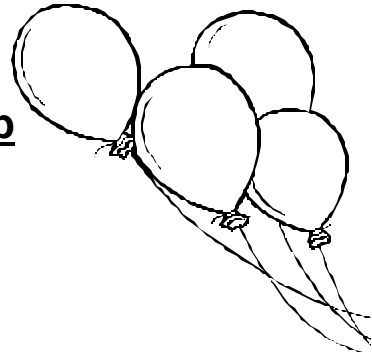


written to Medical Staff offices at every hospital in New Jersey asking them to identify affiliated medical professionals with expertise in TS and associated disorders. Comprehensive questionnaires were developed and sent to more than 500 MD's and therapists and follow up phone calls have been made to each doctor to ensure his/her input was received. (It was equally important for us to determine who was not interested in treating TS patients so that they were not included in future

solicitations.) This year we will again contact hospitals and TSANJ families for their recommendations on additional providers. If you can recommend a qualified professional with expertise and interest in treating Tourette Syndrome patients or if you need help finding a doctor, please call us at 908 575 7350, 732 972 4459 or email NJTSA@aol.com.



March 23
The Kids' Support Group



**Announcing our Spring
Event**

We invite your family to join us for an afternoon of activities, games and contests and an opportunity to meet and make new friends.

When: March 23, 2003

Time: 1 – 4 pm

Where: North Brunswick Twp. High School
Raider Road
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Light snacks and beverages will be served.

Please return the completed bottom portion of this form by **March 14, 2003** to: Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, 26 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

For further information, call 908-575-7350



Family Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Number of Adults attending: _____

Names and ages of children attending

Friday
April 25, 2003

Tourette Syndrome Inservice Volunteer
and
Parent Training Workshop

Where: Richard Stockton College
Pomona, New Jersey

When: 4:00 – 7:00 PM

This session is an introduction to our school in-service program for interested volunteers and parents of kids with Tourette Syndrome. There is no fee to attend this workshop.

Our presenter is Sue Conners. Sue works for the National Tourette Syndrome Association. Her background is in education and advocacy. Sue also has Tourette Syndrome.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Don't miss this opportunity to increase your knowledge of strategies for helping students with TS.

Return this form by **April 1, 2003** to:

Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, Inc., 26 West High Street,
Somerville, New Jersey 08876 – For additional information call 908-575-7350