

THE PENNSYLVANIA TOURETTE SYNDROME ALLIANCE (PATSA)

is a non-profit organization that promotes awareness and acceptance, provides education, and assists families, schools and communities while advocating for individuals with TS in Pennsylvania.

WHAT IS TOURETTE SYNDROME (TS)?

TS is an inherited, neurological disorder characterized by tics - involuntary, rapid, sudden movements or vocalizations that occur repeatedly in the same way.

Symptoms include:

Both multiple motor and one or more vocal tics present at some time during the illness although not necessarily at the same time.

The occurrence of tics many times a day (usually in bouts) nearly every day or intermittently through a span of more than one year.

Periodic changes in the number, frequency, type and location of the tics, and waxing and waning of their severity. Symptoms can sometimes disappear for weeks or months at a time.

Onset of symptoms is before the age of 18 and most people are diagnosed between the ages of 7 and 10.

Tourette Syndrome can be a very complex disorder. There are several conditions that tend to accompany the diagnosis of TS. These include ADD/ADHD, OCD (Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder), Sensory Processing Disorder, learning disabilities and handwriting difficulties. These added diagnoses can make survival in school, the workplace and society even more difficult.

WHAT DOES PATSA DO?

The services provided by PATSA are focused on increasing understanding of the disorder and providing proven accommodations and strategies so the individual with TS can succeed.



PA Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.
18 High St. #68, Hanover, PA 17331 and
700 Washington Ave. #456, Bridgeville, PA 15017
717-337-1134 • 800-990-3300 • info@patsainc.org

WWW.PATSAINC.ORG

PA Tourette Syndrome Alliance (PATSA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. Funded by the generosity of individuals, businesses, members of PATSA and the community through fundraisers and through state grants.

MAKING THE LIVES OF THOSE TOUCHED BY TOURETTE SYNDROME BETTER!



Changing Lives Through Education!



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Information for families, educators, medical professionals and community members.
- Consultants to assist families in meeting with their schools to explain how TS affects education and to assist their child in gaining necessary accommodations to succeed.
- Consultants to assist adults with workplace, insurance and judicial issues.
- Training programs to help Educators, Peers, Healthcare Personnel and community members to better understand, accept and accommodate individuals diagnosed with TS and associated disorders.
- Annual Family Camp and Family Retreat brings families together for parent/caregiver workshops, kids activities and family social events. Providing collaborative support and opportunity to create lifelong friendships.

“PATSA is a wonderful organization. They have helped me greatly with any problems that have come up and with giving me the opportunity to help other families diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome. The organization is run efficiently by many brilliant people who are always there to help others in need”

Jay G., Client, Montgomery County

“(Our consultant) was very thorough and knowledgeable. She provided us with a wealth of information both general and specific to our child here at school. She provided us with manageable strategies and different perspectives to think of when analyzing all aspects of his challenges.”

School Personnel, South Butler County School District

“PATSA helped us learn how (to) accentuate the positive. As a family we are provided with resources to teach those around us how to accept our child. Some of Kevin’s characteristics are hard to deal with but we certainly enjoy some of the different ways Kevin views life. Thank you for helping our family through difficult times.”

Wendi Riddle, Mother, Venango County

“The organization’s advocates are wonderful, (they are there) to speak to teachers or (to) provide a phone hug on days that your child is having a bad tic day.”

Terri Meinert, Mother, Butler County

“PATSA has been an invaluable resource and tireless advocate for my son. The Alliance has helped these kids feel more confident and less alone in the world.”

Charlie Tocci, Father, Cumberland County

“PATSA has allowed my child to be placed in an educational setting that is aiding her instead of hindering her development... Everyone at PATSA has been nothing but kind and sympathetic to our plight, and we think of them as part of our family.”

Dorothy Watson, Mother, Adams County

“Growing up with a brother who has Tourette’s has been a challenging, frustrating and difficult task. PATSA has been a godsend to my family. Their professional and personal care has led us to create an incredibly improved environment to help aid in the growth and development of my brother as a person. PATSA removed a cloud of ignorance from my life and enabled me to understand, care for, and love my brother.”

Josiah Beers, Brother, York County

“Thank you for driving that long distance on such a miserable day to come and help me. It’s almost 4 weeks into school now and I really am having a great time, for once, I can finally say I enjoy going to school. I currently have no grades lower than an 82. I think I am doing very well, and I don’t think I would be if it wasn’t for your kindness.”

Joe B., Client 14, Schuylkill County

“I came away with an increased awareness of the complexity of the disorder, some management strategies.....much more confidence that we can do it!.....a new respect for people (children) dealing with TS.”

*School Personnel
Shaler Area School District*

“It sounds so trite to say that PATSA came to Pittsburgh and saved the day. Our consultant could have ridden a white horse as she soon became our hero with the effective manner in which she worked with the school. The presentation that she made to the teachers and Alex’s ninth grade classmates was top notch and extremely effective. Alex is now into his fifth month of school and is doing quite well academically and socially, both of which are due in great part to the good work of PATSA.”

Joe Hollern, Grandfather, Allegheny County



“Through the years, I have had experience with various agencies involved with children and their disabilities. What sets PATSA apart, is that they came to our school, and were dedicated to ensuring that we had a full understanding of both the child and the exceptionality - not just a list of accommodations. We are grateful for the insight and assistance.”

Jay Fuller, LD Teacher, South Western High School