



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020



WE ARE HERE TO HELP:

BY SHERRIE M. WIVELL

This year has been unusual to say the least! Our world has turned upside down and this added stress has made it difficult to do even the most mundane things. Our homes have become our schools and our workplaces and we use the internet constantly! From zoom meetings, online classrooms and ordering food/supplies from home. The changes have been really overwhelming.

At PATSA, all of our usual spring events were cancelled and we endeavored to reinvent how we communicate with families and schools. We were able to focus on a website redesign and increase our social media outreach. With the new school year in mind, we purchased a nonprofit subscription to Zoom for each of our consultants. They can provide support to you and your school through phone or Zoom. They can provide training for your school district through Zoom Webinar at no cost to your district. Whatever way your child is attending school, the students and Educators still need training. Contact us for help at 1-800-990-3300.

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"BACK TO SCHOOL" RESOURCES

Back to school this year is a bit different and probably highly stressful for each of you. Every district has their own plan and each family is doing their best to make sure their child is safe and also learning in the best way possible.

There are a multitude of helpful resources to assist you in making the best decisions for your family. We have pulled together a few of the best to help you prepare for this new school year.

[Helping children cope with change.](#)

[Tips for parents.](#)

[Face mask social story.](#)

[Keeping your child safe online.](#)

[Resources from New Jersey Center for TS.](#)

[Resources from TAA.](#)

In addition to these resources, PATSA also has resources on TS and our services for you and your school. Please feel free to share those resources with your school.

“

THE MIND THAT OPENS TO A NEW IDEA NEVER RETURNS TO ITS ORIGINAL SIZE

- Albert Einstein

PATSA Online Resource Links:

[Resources](#)

[Support for Schools](#)

[Support for Families](#)

[Support for Your Community](#)

INTERVIEW WITH VOLUNTEER: PATTY JOHN

**PATTY IS A FINANCIAL ADVISOR
AT HEFREN TILLOTSON**

“

1. How long have you been volunteering for PATSA? Geez, I'm not sure - maybe 5 years?

2. In what capacity do you volunteer & how did you get started? PATSA has had such a positive effect on my family, I couldn't wait to help spread the word. I speak about PATSA and Tourette Syndrome as much as possible, to Rotary clubs and other organizations. I volunteer as a member of the Speakers Bureau, worked as part of a team to co-ordinate fundraisers in the Pittsburgh area, and volunteer at camp and family retreat. I'm also a member of the Board.

3. What inspired you to volunteer for PATSA? My daughter was diagnosed with TS in the 80s. The neurologist told me she had TS, they could give her medication that would make her "zombie-like" (his words!) or do nothing. Then he sent us on our way. No information, no follow up, not even a pamphlet. That was pre internet, research was difficult. I had nowhere to turn- the only things I knew about Tourette Syndrome were from the negative depictions on TV shows.

I didn't know of co-morbidities - which would have been very helpful. It wasn't until my grandson was diagnosed that I learned so much. (And now another grandchild has been diagnosed.) Thanks to PATSA, we all know so much more. I want to be sure everyone who needs information and support has it available to them.

4. What is your favorite PATSA activity or event? I love camp. To see so many people, children and adults - with TS, doing their thing, having a blast, and just spending a whole weekend without a care in the world - it makes me proud to be a part of this organization. Camp provides speakers and presenters, creates learning experiences as well as bonding and friendships. And - family or friends are welcome.

5. Do you encourage others to volunteer, if so, why? We need to help spread understanding and acceptance of TS. We need to share compassion. This is such a misunderstood disorder, and the only way to change that is to keep talking!



Patty John and her daughter, Stephanie Disen

6. What successes have you seen with PATSA since you started volunteering? PATSA has grown larger and stronger, its presence has grown in many communities, and has made a footprint in the Pittsburgh area. We are always looking for new ways to touch members of the TS community -those who might not have the resources to find us. There are lots of families touched by TS and they could use the support of PATSA - we're working hard to let them know we're here!

7. What are your aspirations for PA-TSA moving forward? That we, as an organization continue with the mission, grow to a level that every person in PA with TS knows who we are and wants to be a part of and participate in all that PATSA has to offer. And that they all continue to educate others about Tourette Syndrome.



OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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**GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT
MAKING A DONATION.
ITS ABOUT MAKING
A DIFFERENCE.**

- Kathy Calvin

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Donors \$500 - \$1000

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want to acknowledge ALL donors.