

VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 1 WINTER 2024

# PATSA 4 KIDS

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



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## CONNECTIONS

BY SHERRIE M. WIVELL

For many, our TS Family Camp is the first time they ever meet someone else close to their age who also has Tourette syndrome. In addition to camp, there are other ways to meet with and talk to others who have TS. Here are a few popular options:

Families can join in on a virtual or in-person support group. Right now we have two and they are both held the second Wednesday of each month. One is in Western PA in-person and the other is virtual.

Attend another PATSA event, each year we have several:

- Can't Sit Still Run, Carnegie PA April 28, 2024
- Day at the Capital, Harrisburg, April 30, 2024
- TS Family Camp, Quarryville, PA June 7-9, 2024
- Tic Connection events--fall of 2024
- Pumpkin Run 5K, Oaks, PA near Halloween.
- Virtual Retreat, next winter.

Follow our social media pages, available links posted at the top of our website at [www.patsainc.org](http://www.patsainc.org).

# TELL IT LIKE IT IS

## INTERVIEW WITH MAGNUS LEWIS

**1. If you could tell your younger self something, what would it be?**

Everything will be okay. The troubles I had in school or with people who didn't understand will eventually pass and life will work out for the best. As I grew up I realized that as long as I did my job and did it well, my TS didn't matter to anybody.

**2. Can you name some of your tics?** The tics I have, I've had for many years. They include mouth stretching, blinking, nose scrunching, humming, rolling my shoulders and neck stretching.

**3. Have PATSA programs and services helped you or your family?** I attended PATSA summer camp and fall retreat for many years until life took over and I moved away from PA. Summer camp was always a favorite and showed me that there are so many others out there just like me. Over 10 years after my first summer camp in 2012, I am still friends with some I met that weekend!

**4. Has TS helped you in your education, employment or anything?** Never judge a book by its cover. Never look down on somebody who may be struggling. Even when you think you have it bad, somebody has it worse.

**5. Anything else you want to share with other young people about TS or your experiences?** You can do anything you want in life. I'm grateful to have the best job in the world and I never let TS get in the way of achieving my dream and living my best life!



**Magnus is 23 years old and works as a career fireman. In January of 2024 he was promoted to Firefighter 1st Class!**

The views of the interviewee do not reflect the views of the PATSA. Every individual experiences different tics, severity and co-morbid conditions. The above article represents the views and experiences of the interviewee alone.

# TS CAN'T HOLD US BACK



**AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY IN DECEMBER 2023, MAGGIE, WHO IS IN KINDERGARTEN, WON A CHARACTER AWARD FOR THE WHOLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL! COMPASSION IS HER JAM.**

Submit your stories and accomplishments for our next newsletter!

Send pic and info to [sherrie@patsainc.org](mailto:sherrie@patsainc.org)

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE ALL THAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED!**

**IN SEPTEMBER 2023, EFE COMPLETED HIS FIRST SOLO FLIGHT!**







# VOLUNTEER

## Junior Youth Mentor for Camp

Work alongside our seasoned Camp Youth Mentors offering assistance and gaining leadership skills. Limited positions are available for teens and young adults between the ages of 17-20. Up to 5 Junior Youth Mentors will be selected each year. Application submission begins in winter 2024. Please be on the look-out for the application directions via email, the PATSA website, and Facebook.

## Youth Representative to the Board of Directors

One Youth Board Representative is appointed each year for a term of June-June. If you are between the ages of 16-18 (must be 16 by June 1st of 2024) and will be a high school student during the term of June 2024 - June 2025, then you may submit an application. Our Youth Board Rep helps to bring the ideas of youth who are served by our programs to the Board of Directors.

Develop leadership skills by attending monthly committee meetings, four board meetings during the year and other special events. Our committee meetings and board meetings are held primarily by Zoom. Application is sent out via email, posted on our Facebook page and website each spring. Consider applying!

## Lots of ways to help!



Find volunteer opportunities on our website at [www.patsainc.org](http://www.patsainc.org)

**"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." Ronald Reagan**