

Mental Health Parity Act Passes

The Mental Health Parity Act of 2008 passed Congress clearing the way for more equal treatment and coverage for those living with issues related to mental health. The law is designed to end health insurance discrimination against individuals with mental health conditions in employer-sponsored health plans. On October 3, by a vote of 268-148, bill HR1424 passed the House of Representatives requiring most health insurers to provide equal levels of coverage for physical and mental illness.

Under the bill, health insurers could not require larger co-payments or implement lower reimbursement caps for mental illnesses, if they choose to cover mental illnesses. In addition, the bill would require health insurers to cover all mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders listed in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* compiled by the *American Psychiatric Association*.

November 16 Members Take Part In Hoop-A-Paluzas Fundraiser

We are participating in Hoop-A-Paluzas day of fun and basketball to raise money for very worthy causes including NJCTS. Hoop-A-Paluzas, Inc. has donated to our school in-service program in the past and in 2009 will help fund Camp Bernie and a new South Jersey TS Family Retreat.



Team Tourette Syndrome's "Hoop Girls"

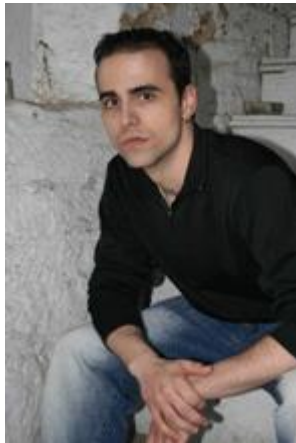
Please join the Hoop Girls on behalf of the 28,000 New Jersey kids with TS and pledge to support Team Tourette Syndrome. Visit www.hoopapaluzas.org to make a pledge to help us reach our fundraising goal. Once again, our Board members will be lacing up their sneakers and sinking some free-throws to raise money and awareness for TS.

Nov. 22 TS Presentation 2- 5 p.m. in Voorhees – Register Now!

Pediatric Neurologist Dr. Larry Brown from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia will discuss *State-of-the-art Treatments for Tourette Syndrome*. In addition, Dr. Jay Tischfield, Director-NJ Center for Tourette Syndrome TS Sharing Repository at Rutgers will present information on TS genetics research. **All TS families should plan to attend.** Virtua West Jersey Hospital, Voorhees. Registration is required. E-mail familystudy@biology.rutgers.edu or call 908-575-7350.

November 30 Member-initiated Fundraiser with TV's *Ghost Hunters*, Johnny Maestro & the Brooklyn Bridge and Steven Maglio...

Bruce Tango and his friends have planned an afternoon of all-star entertainment to benefit our organization featuring the cast of Sci Fi's *Ghost Hunters* (Dave Tango, Grant Wilson, Jason Hawes, Steve Gonsalves and Katt Williams), Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge and Steven Maglio's tribute to Frank Sinatra.



Dave Tango, Bruce's son, is a member of the TAPS Ghost Hunters team.

Dave has TS and both father and son have been friends to NJCTS. Together they shared their story and encouragement with all in attendance at Camp Bernie last June.

Tickets are \$75 per person and include dinner, doors open at noon and the show starts at 1 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield. Call Bruce at 908-256-4980, Michael Kenney at 908-232-6770 ext. 129 or Bernard Tracy at 732-381-0561 for tickets or purchase online at www.idealeventmanage.com.

Have you ever used an advocate?

Have you ever used an advocate to assist with educational issues? If so, and you were pleased, please provide their name and contact information to Sandy Romano (sromano@tsanj.org) for inclusion in our records and recommendation to other TS families.

College Life with TS

Do you have a TS college student in your family? Did your college or university make special accommodations or provide special support? If so, please let us know. We're putting together a recommendation list of higher learning facilities for parents of teenagers. Please e-mail your experiences to Sandy Romano (sromano@tsanj.org).

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information go to www.njcts.org or call 908-575-7350

- Nov. 6 & 7-** NJEA Convention – NJCTS Booth, Atlantic City (Closed to the public)
- Nov. 7-** Educator Workshop- Warren County Community College
Presenter: Robert Zambrano, Psy.D.
- Nov. 9-** Family2Family, South Jersey Regional Hospital Fitness Connection, Vineland
- Nov. 12-** NJCTS Board of Directors Meeting, Somerville (Session closed to the public)
- Nov. 14-** ASAH Convention, Atlantic City Workshop- In-service for Educators
Presenter: Janine Howley, MA (Workshop closed to the public)
- Nov. 18-** Monmouth/Ocean County Family Support Group
Wellness Center, Jersey Shore University Hospital, Neptune
- Nov. 22-** “State-of-the-Art Treatments for Tourette Syndrome” and “Tourette Syndrome Genetics Research”
2-5 p.m. Virtua West Jersey Hospital, Voorhees
Presenters: Pediatric Neurologist Dr. Larry Brown and Dr. Jay Tischfield, Director of the NJCTS Sharing Repository. To register e-mail: familystudy@biology.rutgers.edu or call 908-575-7350.
- Nov. 22-** New Jersey Society of Medical Assistants Annual Convention
Presenter: Robert Zambrano, Psy.D. (Convention closed to the public)
- Nov. 24-** Somerset/Hunterdon County Family Support Group
Somerset Medical Center, Somerville Room: C & D