

NJCTS NEWS

This Wednesday and Every Wednesday is TS Day. Get Involved. Get an Education. Get Help.

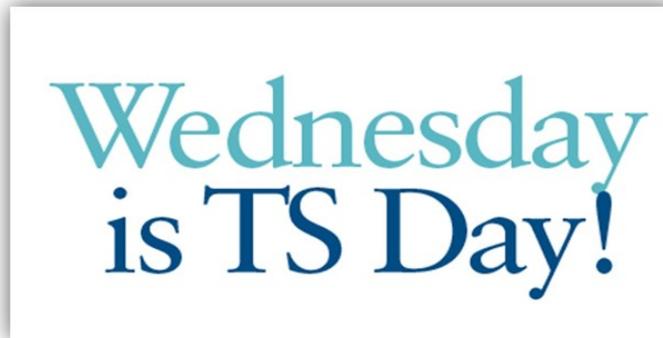
NJ Launches TS Awareness Campaign

By now you may have heard our big news... *Wednesday is TS Day* nationwide! Our long-time supporter Congressman Albio Sires, who was instrumental in establishing NJCTS in 2000, introduced a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives to bring awareness to Tourette Syndrome and our efforts here in New Jersey. To our surprise, Rep. Sires' resolution includes the declaration of a National TS Wednesday. We did not expect such recognition, and we would like to thank Rep. Sires and his staff for their continued support and advocacy on

"the first and only program of its kind in the nation, serving as the model for others"

behalf of individuals with Tourette Syndrome in New Jersey...and beyond.

Speaking to the House of Representatives, Rep. Sires said Tourette Syndrome is "a misunderstood disorder affecting an unknown number of people [because TS



This Wednesday and every Wednesday think about another way you can help someone with TS.

is] often misdiagnosed." He continued, by issuing a call for TS awareness and recognized the work of NJ Center for Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders as "the first and only program of its kind in the nation, serving as the model for others" across the country.

This awareness effort in Washington echoes the advocacy by New Jersey State Senator Kip Bateman to designate *Wednesday is TS Day!* throughout the Garden State. We are enormously grateful to Congressman Sires and his staff for surprising us with this fantastic news!

Join us in celebrating by helping to spread the word that *Wednesday is TS Day!*

We are asking New Jersey families, medical professionals and educators to take each Wednesday to spread the word about Tourette Syndrome any way they can - whether it's talking to a neighbor, organizing a Wednesday Walk for TS, or creating an online TS social network.

"The possibilities are limitless," said NJCTS Executive Director Faith Rice, "The families, doctors and teachers we work with are so creative, I know they're going to come up with some really fun and positive ways to show the public that TS is something we need to recognize and understand."

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HELP WANTED

Looking to make a difference this summer while having fun? NJCTS needs volunteers to facilitate *Wednesday is TS Day!* events at baseball games on July 30, August 6, 13, 20 and September 17; and on the Wildwood boardwalk on August 13th. If you're interested in manning tables, passing out literature and telling the world that *Wednesday is TS Day!*, please contact Nicole at nicolegreco.sml@gmail.com or call the NJCTS office at 908-575-7350.

Do you speak Spanish? If so, we need volunteers to take calls on our Helpline. For more information call the NJCTS office at 908-575-7350.

Real-Life Ghost Stories at Camp Bernie



New Jersey Native Dave Tango has TS.

Dave Tango of Sci-Fi Network's *Ghost Hunters* has some pretty hair-raising stories to tell. He's an investigator with The Atlantic Paranormal Society (TAPS) and works to communicate with ghosts, spirits and other things that go bump in the night. But it's his own stories of dealing with Tourette Syndrome that captivated the audience at Camp Bernie.

Dave, who was diagnosed with TS as a child, overcame many obstacles and shared some of his coping strategies. He was joined by his father, Bruce, and together their words of encouragement to kids negotiating life with TS and associated disorders resonated with the dozens of families in attendance.

After an exhaustive Q & A session (after all, how many kids get a chance to pick the brain of a real-life Ghostbuster?), Dave graciously signed autographs and visited with many of our member families.

Dave's special visit was just one of the many highlights of this year's annual weekend at Camp Bernie, June 6-8. New Jersey State Senator Leonard Lance (R-23) stopped by to discuss his support for TSANJ and NJCTS.

Pediatric Neuropsychologist Beverly Tignor, PhD, ABPP; Chiropractic Neurologist Vincent Kiechlin, DC, DACNB; and elementary school teacher Karen Reuther shared presentations on alternative therapies for dealing with TS. Education consultant Sandy Romano was on hand to help parents understand the special education process, Julie Swenson shared some yoga techniques for focus and Junior Bass Pro Dan Swenson took everybody fishing!

For the past three years NJCTS has been providing children with TS and associated neurological disorders a camp experience for confidence building, family workshops and the opportunity to play without the stigma attached to this misunderstood condition. The activities are designed to foster a spirit of cooperation, understanding and self-esteem.



Gone fishin' at Camp Bernie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/25/08	Educator Workshop Mercer County College, Presenter Cheryl Ludwig	7:00 p.m.
9/26/08	Educator Workshop Raritan Valley Community College, Presenter Julie Swenson, M.Ed. Course #: CRN11626 AH402-01	9:00 a.m.
10/04/08	Educator Workshop Brookdale Community College, Presenter Janine Howley, MA	9:00 a.m.

LEARN ABOUT OUR

Wednesday Webinar Series

Visit: www.njcts.org for helpful information on this exciting new learning opportunity for families and professionals

NJCTS Honored for Conquering Stigma

New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome is the proud recipient of the first New Jersey Governor’s Council on Mental Health Stigma Ambassador Award for health care.

The Ambassador Award recognizes organizations that have made significant contributions to reduce the stigma society attaches to mental health disorders.

Celina Gray, executive director of the Governor’s Council on Mental Health Stigma, describes NJCTS as a group that works hard to

promote “education, advocacy, research and creating new options for treatment. They are empowering students and families across New Jersey to break down stigma.”

“We believe empowering children and families to advocate for themselves will help demystify this disorder and foster an environment of greater understanding, tolerance and action on behalf of the mental health community at large,” said NJCTS Executive Director Faith Rice.



The award was presented in Trenton on May 22, to NJCTS Executive Director Faith Rice and Dr. Gary Heiman of Rutgers University.

Teachers and Students Making a Difference



From left: Dr. Steven Ritz, Austin Guerra and CJ Ratshin

Nine youngsters took the stage to declare Wednesday is TS Day at the 6th annual Tourette Syndrome Recognition Dinner on May 28th. WFAN radio personality Craig Carton followed by imploring the audience to do their part to commemorate this very important public awareness campaign. While we all can do something each Wednesday, some very special teachers were honored for making *everyday* TS Day in their classrooms.

Debbie Adams, a third grade teacher from Riverview Elementary School in Denville; Carissa Campanella, a first grade teacher from Deane Porter Elementary School in Rumson; and Kerri McCaffrey from Mountain View Middle School in Mendham

each received the 2008 “NJCTS Teacher of the Year” award. The distinction is earned by teachers “who make a significant difference in the life of a child with TS.”

Two very special students were honored at the dinner as recipients of this year’s annual scholarship. Christopher Ratshin of Toms River, a graduate of Monsignor Donovan High School received a \$1,000 scholarship and will be attending Villanova University in the fall. Austin Guerra of Randolph, a graduate of The Hudson School received a \$500 scholarship and recognition for painting “Tourette on Canvas.” He will be attending Parsons School of Design in the fall.



McCaffrey

Campanella

Adams





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NJ Center for Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders is a collaboration among TSANJ, Rutgers University and health professionals across New Jersey.



NJCTS Hits Home Run for TS Day!

Wednesday is TS Day at the ballpark! NJCTS is teaming up with some of New Jersey’s finest minor league baseball teams to spread the word about Tourette Syndrome. Take your friends and family out to the ballgame and be sure to wear your Wednesday is TS Day! T-shirts, pass out some flyers and cheer really loudly when you hear our Wednesday is TS Day announcements.

Wednesday is TS Day! in Newark on July 30th as the Newark Bears will recognize NJCTS. Tickets are available for this game through the NJCTS office by calling 908-575-7350. (All other game tickets must be purchased from the team’s box office) Let’s make this a very special TS Wednesday at Eagles & Bears Riverfront Stadium in Newark!

July 30 th	Newark Bears	5:05 p.m.
August 6 th	Camden Riversharks	7:05 p.m.
August 13 th	Atlantic City Surf	7:05 p.m.
August 20 th	Trenton Thunder	7:05 p.m.
Sept. 17 th	Somerset Patriots	6:35 p.m.



These are very family-friendly events, so bring the kids and grandparents and enjoy a great game for a great cause. Oh, and don’t forget to wear your Wednesday is TS Day! T-shirt...and if you don’t have one order one through the office. See you at the ballpark!

