

Changing Lives Though Education!

Supporting Families

*"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*

*"PA-TSA 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*

*"It sounds so trite to say that PA-TSA 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 PA-TSA."
Joe Hollern
Grandfather, Allegheny County*

*"PA-TSA 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*

*"Growing up with a brother who has Tourette's has been a challenging , frustrating and difficult task. PA-TSA 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. PA-TSA removed a cloud of ignorance from my life and enabled me to understand, care for, and love my brother."
Josiah Beers
Brother, York County*

*"PA-TSA has allowed my child to be placed in an educational setting that is aiding her instead of hindering her development... Everyone at PA-TSA 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*

Supporting Clients

*"PA-TSA 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 Geyer, Client
20, Montgomery 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*

Supporting Schools

*"Through the years, I have had experience with various agencies involved with children and their disabilities. What sets PA-TSA 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*

*"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*

*"(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*



*Striving
to make the lives
of those touched by
Tourette Syndrome...
better!*



www.patsainc.org

The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc. (PA-TSA)

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?

Tourette Syndrome (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.

What does PA-TSA do?

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

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.

Programs and Services

- **Information packets** for families, educators, medical professionals and counselors.
- **Consultants** to accompany parents to school meetings so their child will receive the necessary accommodations needed to succeed.
- **Consultants** for adults in the workplace and the prison system.
- **Educator's in-service** focused on TS, its associated disorders, and how to cope with symptoms in the classroom.
- **Programs for children and teenagers** focused on accepting all people and their disabilities and differences.
- **Annual Family Camps** with informational sessions, allowing individuals affected by TS to share stories and provide collaborative support.

PA Tourette Syndrome Alliance is funded by grants from:



And the generosity of individuals, businesses, members of PA-TSA and the community through fundraisers.

PA-TSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.



PA Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.

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