

Second Annual Fun With TOURETTES 'Tic'Nic 2009

The Tourette Syndrome Association of the Great Plains is having it's Second Annual Fun With TOURETTES 'Tic'Nic 2009 at Arrowhead Park in Neola, IA. The Date is September 26th 2009. We will provide the meat, you are welcome to bring your favorite dish. There will be an optional campout with a small fee.

Last year was loads of fun with pot luck meals, hamburgers, hot dogs and S'Mores. We had activities for the kids While the adults, enjoyed getting to know each other.

For further information visit gptourettesupport.org.

We have a free E d u c a t i o n a l InService for Schools

The Tourette Syndrome Association has an educational inservice to eductate schools on Tourette Syndrome. If you are able to set something up with a school or you are a school interested in the InService. Please e-mail brian@gptourttessupport.org or call Brian at 402-660-7246 or Anna at 712-485-2016 or 402-689-5913.

**Tourette Syndrome Association
of the Great Plains**
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Story Ideas?
brian@gptourettesupport.org

Tee Off For Tourette 2009

The Tourette Syndrome Association of the Great Plains is having a golf scramble and silent auction at Tregaron Golf Course in Bellevue, Nebraska it is September 19 2009. Shotgun starts at 8:30 A.M. and Lunch is Provided.

Tregaron Golf Course
13909 Glengarry Circle
Bellevue, NE 68123

We are also looking for sponsors for this event. Our Gold Sponsorship Level includes prominent signage is \$1,500. Our Silver Sponsorship Level includes signage is \$750. Hole Sponsorship includes signage on one of eighteen holes is \$75-150. A flag prize is \$50 minimum or an equivalent gift. We are also looking for Silent Auction Items

For more information or to be a sponsor call Anna Killpack at 712-485-2016 or 402-689-5913.

If you would like to help with Tee Off For Tourette, we need assistance with registration, prizes, silent auction and other tasks.



Support Group Tuesday Volunteer Opportunities

The Tourette Syndrome Association of the Great Plains Support Group meets every second Tuesday of every month at West Hills Church in Omaha, NE.

West Hills Church
3015 South 82 Avenue
Omaha, NE 68124

Our next meeting is September 8th 2009. Come meet new friends and families dealing with Tourette Syndrome. We are always welcoming new members.

To get there take Interstate 80 to the 84th Street exit and head North on 84th Street. Turn right on Hascall Street and go a block East. You're there, it is the church with the big triangular windows. Also South of 82nd and West Center Road. Use the west entrance and follow the signs down to the Junior High Room.

For more information go to www.gptourettesupport.org or call our support line at 402-933-6261 or email support@gptourettesupport.org.

There is also childcare available so the adults can discuss various topics. We occasionally have a speaker or video. Please come if you can make it!

In September we will have Karen Felderman, an Occupational Therapist at Childrens Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

TSA of the Great Plains are Nebraska and Iowa Chapters

The Tourette Syndrome Association of the Great Plains is now a chapter incorporated in Nebraska and Iowa.

Board Of Directors and Committee Members

We need motivated individuals to serve on the Board of Directors and/or committees. The Board meets on the third Tuesday of every month in Omaha, Nebraska. Some special skills we are looking for are financial planning, fund raising, public speaking, and education.

Support Group Speakers

We are constantly looking for speakers to help families through our support group. If you have knowledge of Tourette Syndrome, medications, stress relief methods, disability law, special education, other topics, and you would like to present to families.

Golf Tournament Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help with our annual golf tournament to be held on September 19, 2009. Assistance is needed with registration, prizes, silent auction, etc

Please contact Brian Moore at 402-660-7246. or e-mail brian@gptourettesupport.org.

Tourette Syndrome of the Great Plains, Inc.
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<http://www.gptourettesupport.org>
Support Line:402-933-6261
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Drumming Echoes By Matt Giordano

You are most likely aware of my being featured in the PBS NOVA show, the BBC documentary and Dr. Oliver Sack's book, Musicophilia. This major national exposure can be an opportunity for your chapter to have a Fundraiser or to schedule events.

I am enclosing information regarding Fund Raisers and services that I can provide. Additionally, you may be interested in promoting events in your area for Tourette Awareness. Over the past two years, I have presented to over 2,000 students and been involved in many professional conferences around the country and Canada. Human service agencies have contracted with me as a presenter for fundraising events.

I would like to discuss with you the possibilities that I could provide for your chapter members. Here are some options:

1. A Fundraising presentation with drumming performance and audience drum circle.

Discussed in an informative and engaging manner:

- my experiences of growing up with TS with the related disorders of OCD, ADD, LD, and significantly difficult behavior issues
- successful parenting strategies
- struggles & strategies regarding school and teen issues
- issues related to being an adult with TS
- Q&A

Your suggestions for topics are welcome.

My presentations have been advertised and attended by people from all walks of life. They are attended by parents, educators, mental health providers, disability agency professionals, and social workers, who support people with a wide variety of disabilities (ADD, Autism spectrum, OCD, anxiety, Tourette syndrome, Downs Syndrome, etc.)

2. School presentations in your area (Professional and anti-bullying assemblies for students)

3. Musical Event with youngsters such as Drum Circle; Presentation in 1 hr. and time for Q&A

To help cover the initial cost, you might want to consider contacting Service Organization such as Rotary, Moose/Lion Clubs, Men's, Women's clubs, Art Counsels as well as

banks, large businesses, stores, etc. Also some state disability agencies provide a one-time grant of \$500 - \$1000 for such events. Check with Mark Levine at National for other ideas for donations.

Front of the Class on DVD



BAYSIDE NEW YORK TSA: The national Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc. is very excited to announce the official DVD release of the Hallmark Hall of Fame TV presentation of Front of the Class, the true story of a young man's struggles with and triumph over Tourette Syndrome (TS) to become an award winning teacher.

The DVD is available exclusively at Hallmark Gold Crown Stores nationwide. If the store nearest you does not have the DVD in stock, they will be able to order it for you. Unfortunately, the DVD is not available for online purchase or from the TSA online store.

Nearly 12 million people watched the CBS premiere of Front of the Class on December 7, 2008, based on Brad Cohen's award winning book, Front of the Class: How Tourette Syndrome Made Me the Teacher I Never Had. This poignant film is an accurate and inspiring depiction of this much misunderstood neurological disorder. The adult Brad is played by Jimmy Wolk (The Spiral Project) and young Brad is played by Dominic Scott Kay (Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End). Patricia Heaton (Everybody Loves Raymond) and Treat Williams (Everwood) play Brad's parents.

TSA highly encourages all schools across the country to include this film as part of their curriculum to help students learn not only about TS, but also an understanding and acceptance of all those with any disability. To that end, TSA has created an accompanying Teacher's Guide for educators to utilize in their classrooms. This valuable Teacher's Guide is available from TSA, at no charge, here. <http://www.tsa-usa.org/>