



tourette syndrome  
association, inc.

of the  
great plains

## Family Learning Retreat

The Tourette Syndrome Association of the Great Plains is having a Tourette Syndrome Family Learning Retreat at Camp Eagle and Camp Cedars in Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska on July 10-12 2009. This is welcome to the whole family. It includes activities for the kids, educational speakers for the adults, and plenty of social time to make friends with other families dealing with Tourette Syndrome.

Registration deadline is June 15, 2009, and the cost is \$75 per person. Limited financial assistance available. For more information visit [www.gptourettesupport.org](http://www.gptourettesupport.org) or call 402-933-6261.

Children must attend the retreat with at least one adult. We encourage siblings to attend. Our activities are geared for children ages 5-17.

If you would like to volunteer as a retreat counselor. We are looking for adults 18 and older interested in working youth during our summer Family Learning Retreat. Parents will be at the retreat, but counselors are needed to help with activities while the parents are in learning sessions. Volunteers are needed on July 11, 2009. If interested e-mail [anna@gptourette-support.org](mailto:anna@gptourette-support.org) or call 402-933-6261.



### Tourette Syndrome Association of the Great Plains

June 2009

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Story Ideas?

[brian@gptourettesupport.org](mailto:brian@gptourettesupport.org)

## Congratulations!!! Madeleine Sharp Winner

The contest that I entered was the “Why I Want to Go to College” 7th Annual Essay contest. This contest was sponsored by the Nebraska State Treasurer and the Omaha Royals. For the contest, participants had to write about why they wanted to go to college and what their dreams and goals were for the future. I wrote about how I wanted to become a veterinarian and I wanted to go to college to get a good education. For the essay contest, I won 2nd place for Nebraska’s 2nd Congressional District. The prize was a certificate and 500 dollars towards my Nebraska 529 plan for my future college plans. - Maddie Sharp

## 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 \$3,000. Our Silver Sponsorship Level includes signage is \$1,500. Hole Sponsorship includes signage on one of eighteen holes is \$200. A flag prize is \$50 minimum or an equivalent gift.

For more information or to be a sponsor call Ted Morrissey at 402-614-8880 or 402-681-2329. Or 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

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 June 9 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](http://www.gptourettesupport.org) or call our support line at 402-933-6261 or email [support@gptourettesupport.org](mailto:support@gptourettesupport.org).

There is also childcare available so the adults can discuss various topics. We occasionally have a speaker or video. Our next meeting we plan on showing a video called *A Conversation with Jim Eisenreich* again, for those who missed it. Please come if you can make it!

# Share Your Tourette Story

My name is Chris Mason. I am a member of a Tourette's Syndrome support group in Northern California. I am writing a book similar to those in the "Chicken Soup For The Soul" series. This book will include a compilation of people's stories about living with Tourette's Syndrome. People of all ages are invited to share their stories.

80% of the profits made from the sales of this book, will be dispersed evenly amongst the people, whose stories I use. Although, all writers will be paid, the purpose of this book is not to make money. It is to inform people about Tourette's Syndrome. So many people are misinformed about this disease and it has to stop. This is a way to clear up misconceptions about it. This book will also give hope to thousands of people, who suffer from this disease. It will help them see that their lives are not over, just because they have Tourette's.

The reason why I am giving back 80% of the profits, to people whose stories are included in the book, is to entice people to tell their stories. If they just want to tell their story, and don't care about the money, then great. If making money is a motivating factor to writing your story, then that's okay too. I don't care what a person's reasons are for writing their story. I want to hear it. - [cmason@astound.net](mailto:cmason@astound.net)

# Johns Hopkins Institute Tourette Syndrome Study

We are conducting studies of the dopamine receptor and transporter in TS and of the serotonin receptor and transporter in TS.

For each study we seek to recruit adults aged 18 to 70 with and without TS and with and without OCD.

The study of the dopamine system has both two-scan and four scan versions. (1) In order to estimate the concentrations of intrasynaptic dopamine during the basal resting tonic state, people will be given saline before a scan to estimate the density of dopamine receptors in the brain. (2) In order to estimate the concentrations of intrasynaptic dopamine during the excited phasic state, people will be given amphetamine before a scan to estimate the density of dopamine receptors in the brain.

(3) People will be given a different concentration of the radiotracer for dopamine receptors in order to estimate the receptor density (Bmax) of dopamine receptors. (4) People will also be given a radiotracer to estimate the density of the dopamine transporters.

The two scan dopamine study takes 3 to 4 days. The four scan dopamine study takes 5 or so days.

The study of the serotonin system has two scans. (1) In order to estimate the density of the serotonin transporter, people will be given a radiotracer for the serotonin transporter. (2) In order to estimate the density of the serotonin receptor, people will be given a radiotracer for the serotonin receptor

The two scan serotonin study takes 3 to 4 days.

For more information

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# Volunteer Opportunities Front of the Class on DVD

## **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.

## **Retreat Counselors**

We are looking for adults (18 or over) interested in working with youth during our summer Family Learning Retreat. Parents will be at the retreat, but counselors are needed to help with activities while parents are in learning sessions. Volunteers are needed for July 11, 2009

## **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](mailto:brian@gptourettesupport.org).

## TSA of the Great Plains is a Nebraska Chapter

The Tourette Syndrome Association of the Great Plains is now a chapter incorporated in Nebraska, We are still waiting to hear from Iowa. We still welcome people from Iowa, to our support groups and business meetings.

Our next Support Group Meeting is June 9th 2009  
Our next Business Meeting is June 16th 2009  
Both at 6:30 PM

At:  
West Hills Church  
3015 South 82nd Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68124



**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/>

# Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month May 15- June 15

**BAYSIDE, NEW YORK TSA - May 15, 2009** - From May 15 to June 15, the Tourette Syndrome Association (TSA)—the only national, voluntary health organization for people with Tourette Syndrome (TS)—joins the hundreds of thousands of families affected by TS to help raise awareness of this baffling disorder during National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month.

Marked by involuntary body movements and vocal sounds called “tics,” it is estimated that some 200,000 Americans have the disorder, with millions more manifesting associated conditions. National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month, which was first established by TSA in 1997, provides an opportunity for the TSA, its chapters and others in the TS community to educate the public about this much misunderstood and misdiagnosed condition.

Throughout the month, local TSA chapters across the country will work to raise awareness, increase education and reduce stigma associated with TS. One such event is Government Relations Awareness Week from May 25 to June 1. During this week, TSA encourages its chapters and families to hold district meetings not just with elected officials, but also with community leaders to raise local, state and federal elected officials’ awareness of issues impacting families living with Tourette Syndrome.



Tourette Syndrome of the Great Plains, Inc.  
Nebraska • Iowa

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## Support Group

### *Support Group Leader*

Brian Moore

<http://www.gptourettesupport.org>

Support Line: 402-933-6261

[support@gptourettesupport.org](mailto:support@gptourettesupport.org)

