

TSA Youth Ambassador Update

Awards, a Video Project, the Next Ambassador Training and More...

TSA Youth Ambassador founder Jen Zwilling was inducted into the Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame on February 7, 2010 as a recipient of the Next Generation Award for her work in creating the TSA Youth Ambassadors Program and for her continuing efforts to expand awareness of Tourette Syndrome.

"All of us at TSA are proud of Jen's accomplishments and thrilled that she is being recognized for her hard work and how she has inspired other young people across the country to become TSA Youth Ambassadors," Judit Ungar, TSA President stated.



Hunter Lindberg

Another TSA Youth Ambassador is receiving the 'Yes I Can Award.' On April 23, 16-year-old Hunter Lindberg will travel to Nashville for the national award ceremony. The 'Yes I Can Awards,' created by the Council for Exceptional Children, honor the extraordinary accomplishments of children

with disabilities. Hunter became a YA when he was in the seventh grade and has since made many presentations to a variety of groups including the school employees at Eastside Elementary School in Rock Island, TN, eight dentists and hygienists in Ootelwah, TN and to Hunter's congressional representative Zac Wamp. Hunter and his mom Jennifer hosted an awareness booth and fundraiser at the Trinity Fall Festival in Hixon, TN. Hunter uses humor to help communicate his message of awareness and tolerance.

Ariel Small is taking his Youth Ambassador experiences and making a documentary. "After meeting and talking with parents of and children with TS, I realized that my story and the fact that I have not allowed myself to be defined by my TS gave them so much hope for their future. This inspired the idea of doing a documentary following my year as a Youth Ambassador and a year of my life. The goal of the documentary is to change peoples' perceptions of TS and to inspire children who are struggling with it and to educate. Education is really the answer to misconception and ignorance. My work as a Youth Ambassador has enriched my life so much! It has shown me that one person can truly make a difference," Ariel said.

Inside TSA looks forward to keeping readers posted on the progress of Ariel's documentary and on the efforts of all the members of the TSA Youth Ambassadors. ABC7 News interviewed Ariel in January, which was broadcast in the Chicago, Indiana and Michigan region.

Other YA News...

Kevin Kardon made a presentation to 30 education students at the University of Georgia on September 21 and was a panel



Ariel Small

member discussing cyber bullying for the CyberSafety Symposium at Clark Middle School in Athens, GA; Isabella Constantino made two presentations at an elementary school in Baldwinsville, NY where she addressed both faculty and 5th graders; Devon Rennoldson spoke at an AARP meeting and has addressed Rotary Club meetings; Aaron Buncher presented to teens, parents and school administrators at the Mountain View High School in Stafford County, VA; and Zach Pezzillo made a presentation to 27 nursing students and one instructor at the University of Hawaii School of Nursing in Kahului, HI.

The Third TSA Youth Ambassador Training

New ambassador/parent teams will be trained at the third TSA Youth Ambassador Training in April. This will be held prior to the start of the TSA national conference. ●

To learn more about local Youth Ambassador activities or invite a Youth Ambassador to speak at your school or organization's event, contact your local TSA Chapter. To find the Chapter nearest you, visit: <http://www.tsa-usa.org/TSANatlLocal/Chapters/usachapters.html>.

Help Our Scientists Help You

As these trying economic times continue, it is now more important than ever to support the dedicated world class scientists who are so diligently working toward finding the cause, better treatments and a cure for TS. If you have not yet made your tax deductible contribution to TSA's latest Research Appeal, now is the time to do so. Last year you received the latest TSA Research Award Program update that shows how the dollars are used. Your gift at any level is vital in making it possible for our investigators to continue their critical TS research. On their behalf, we gratefully take this opportunity to express their appreciation for your kindness and generosity.