

# TS Youth Ambassador Update

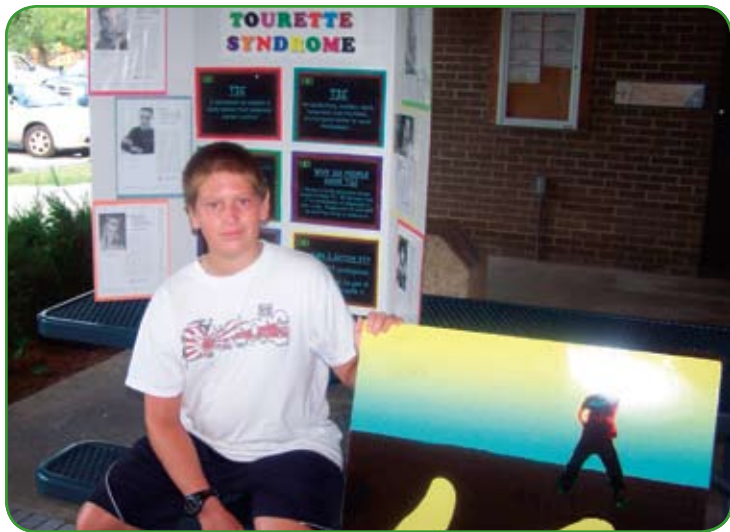
## Youth Ambassador Raises a Racquet for Increased Awareness

Jasper Bledsoe, 15, a TS Youth Ambassador, took to the courts on a sweltering summer day to raise funds for the TSA Youth Ambassador Program. The program trains kids and teens to speak at schools and civic organizations, spreading awareness and acceptance of people with Tourette Syndrome.

On August 2, Jasper and his Youth Ambassador board hosted a tennis tournament to raise funds for the Youth Ambassador Program. The city of Wilmington, North Carolina donated the use of city-owned tennis courts and Harris Teeter Grocery store supplied the much-needed water. Jeannie Gate and Cheryl Neil pitched in with check-in duties for the 12 women's doubles and 8 mixed doubles matches. The participants all received TSA Inspire wristbands.

"The TSA tournament was a great success," Jasper said. "We made a lot of money for a great cause and I got a little bit of awareness out to the public while having fun. Everyone enjoyed it and had an amazing time and they were all so friendly."

It was 102 degrees with the heat index so Jasper filled in for players who couldn't take the heat, proving that nothing stops a teen with TS.



*Jasper Bledsoe with awareness posters at a TS Youth Ambassador fundraiser in North Carolina.*

## More Youth Ambassador News...

Varsity soccer player David Firenze of Clay, New York has been especially busy since he received his Youth Ambassador Training. David made presentations at three schools in September and at the local Lion's Club. David also accompanied TSA Education Specialist Sue Conners at a special presentation for teachers in Upstate New York.

Holly Hitchcock of Tucson, Arizona addressed 272 students at Mountain View High School handling their questions with aplomb. She's also begun a hippotherapy (physical/occupational therapy using horses) program with TROT (Therapeutic Riders of Tucson). TROT hopes to develop a program for youngsters with TS.

## 2009 Tourette Syndrome Youth Ambassador Training

Apply now to participate in the TSA Youth Ambassador Program Training in Spring 2009. The program offers three days of comprehensive training for teen leaders (ages 14 through 19) in the Washington, D.C. or surrounding area. TSA will underwrite the cost of one teen per chapter (which includes hotel accommodations for the nights of the training with any additional nights at your own expense; airfare; training-sponsored meals for youth/parent team; training program materials and ground for related events). Items that are at attendees' own expense include non-conference sponsored meals and expenses for youth/parent team and airfare for parent/adult guardian.

Each teen must be partnered with their parent or guardian, who will also participate in the training. The training is also open to additional teams, at their own expense (including travel, hotel and program meals and materials), from TSA Chapters across the country.

The program is open to both teens with TS and those who do not have it. All participants must be committed to the goal of the Youth Ambassadors—promoting awareness, acceptance and understanding of Tourette Syndrome.

TSA Board Member Diane Mallah and her husband, Darryl, are sponsoring the training in memory of Diane's mother, Eleanor Wachter.

Applications will be available from local TSA Chapters starting December 1, 2008. Deadline for applications is February 15, 2009.