



TOURETTE SYNDROME



TIC

An involuntary, sudden, rapid, recurrent, non-rhythmic, stereotyped motor or vocal involvement....



TIC

A movement or sounds a body makes that someone cannot control



TS is hereditary. This means that people with TS are born with it, just like you are born with blonde hair or blue eyes.



CAN I CATCH IT?

TS is NOT contagious.

The only way to get it
is to be born with it.



WHY DO PEOPLE HAVE TS?

No one is really sure what causes people to have TS. We do know that it is a misbalance of chemicals in their body. People with TS did NOT do anything wrong to deserve it.



We should never make fun of people for their differences, especially when it's something like TS that they cannot control. People with TS are just as normal as all of you!



WHY DO I ACT THIS WAY?

Because I can't control it

I have TOURETTE SYNDROME -
A medical condition

It causes me to make loud sounds, have twitches and say things that I don't mean. I can't help it any more than you can stop a sneeze or cough.

I am sorry if it bothers you---

It bothers me more.



You should not rely on the information in these materials as a substitute for consultations with qualified health care professionals who are familiar with individual medical conditions and needs. TSA strongly recommends that care and treatment decisions related to Tourette Syndrome and any other medical condition be made in consultation with a patient's physician or other qualified health care professionals who are familiar with the specific individual's health situation.



Jennifer Zwilling
Student and Advocate

**Jennifer Zwilling has
a Robertson Scholarship at Duke University
a passion for travel and political humor
a love for dark chocolate and Diet Coke
and Tourette Syndrome.**

Jennifer Zwilling has always been determined to help people and spread awareness about accepting differences. ((X)) She is currently attending Duke University, and plans to one day work with children. ((X)) Along with her brother, Eric, and sister, Amanda, Jen founded the Tourette Syndrome Youth Ambassador Program, which trains kids and teens to talk about TS. The program gives young people with TS, their siblings, friends and classmates the preparation they need to speak about TS before their peers. Jen has been honored and recognized for her accomplishments by the Do Something Brick Awards, Prudential's Spirit of Community Service Awards and *People Magazine*. ((X)) Jennifer also happens to have Tourette Syndrome – an often misdiagnosed and misunderstood neurological disorder that's a lot more common than you think. ((X)) You may know or have seen someone with TS symptoms – they sometimes make sudden, often strange, physical movements or vocal sounds that they just can't help. ((X)) People with TS are not psychologically impaired, less intelligent, obstinate or purposefully disruptive. And contrary to what you may have heard, fully 85 to 90 percent are not prone to using inappropriate language. ((X)) We're continuing to explore the causes of Tourette Syndrome and, hopefully, the day will come soon when we can find better treatments and the cure. ((X)) But until then, if you come across someone who has TS, please remember that, like Jennifer, that person also has so much more.





Aungeni Saxon
Student

**Aungeni Saxon has
a love and affection for animals
a flair for ice-skating, art and the violin
made her school honor roll every year
and Tourette Syndrome.**

Thirteen-year-old Aungeni Saxon is taking on the world with a positive attitude as she focuses on continuing to get straight A's and the perfect attendance record that will assure her a place in an academically challenging alternative high school which will help her toward her goal of one day attending Ohio State University. ((X)) She aspires to becoming a doctor, computer engineer or a lawyer. The possibilities for her future are endless. ((X)) She founded "Comfort For Pets," organizing her classmates to collect blankets, toys and pet food that are then donated to a local animal shelter. ((X)) Aungeni also happens to have Tourette Syndrome – an often misdiagnosed and misunderstood neurological disorder that's a lot more common than you think. ((X)) You may know or have seen someone with TS symptoms – they sometimes make sudden, often strange, physical movements or vocal sounds that they just can't help. ((X)) People with TS are not psychologically impaired, less intelligent, obstinate or purposefully disruptive. And contrary to what you may have heard, fully 85 to 90 percent are not prone to using inappropriate language. ((X)) We're continuing to explore the causes of Tourette Syndrome and, hopefully, the day will come soon when we can find better treatments and the cure. ((X)) But until then, if you come across someone who has TS, please remember that, like Aungeni, that person also has so much more.

 **tourette syndrome
association, inc.**



Brad Cohen

Teacher, author and motivational speaker

**Brad Cohen has
authored a best-selling book
won a Teacher of the Year Award
worked as a team mascot for MLB
and Tourette Syndrome.**

Brad Cohen is a second-grade teacher who was named Georgia's First Class Teacher of the Year for his outstanding educational skills and positive role model abilities. ((X)) He is the author of the award-winning book *Front of the Class: How Tourette Syndrome Made Me the Teacher I Never Had*. ((X)) He is a sought-after motivational speaker and a former "Homer" mascot for the Atlanta Braves. ((X)) Brad also happens to have Tourette Syndrome – an often misdiagnosed and misunderstood neurological disorder that's a lot more common than you think. ((X)) You may know or have seen someone with TS symptoms – they sometimes make sudden, often strange, physical movements or vocal sounds that they *just can't help*. ((X)) People with TS are not psychologically impaired, less intelligent, obstinate or purposefully disruptive. And contrary to what you may have heard, fully 85 to 90 percent are *not* prone to using inappropriate language. ((X)) We're continuing to explore the causes of Tourette Syndrome and, hopefully, the day will come soon when we can find better treatments and the cure. ((X)) But until then, if you come across someone who has TS, please remember that, like Brad, that person also has so much more.

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Stephen Michael McCall
Minister, Author and Motivational Speaker

**Stephen Michael McCall has
a notable career in the military
authored a children's book
a passion for travel
and Tourette Syndrome.**

Stephen Michael McCall wears three hats: Branch Chief in the Department of Defense, minister and graduate student. During his military service he received the Kosovo Campaign medal, among other Air Force honors. ((X)) He's an avid athlete who plays tennis, basketball and bowling. ((X)) Stephen has published his first book called "Tyrannosaurus Tic: A Boy's Adventures with Tourette Syndrome." He volunteers his time to speak in schools and communities, dedicated to raising awareness and promoting acceptance of those living with TS. He has quickly become an inspiration and role model to young and old alike. ((X)) Stephen also happens to have Tourette Syndrome — an often misdiagnosed and misunderstood neurological disorder that's a lot more common than you think. ((X)) You may know or have seen someone with TS symptoms — they sometimes make sudden, often strange, physical movements or vocal sounds that they just can't help. ((X)) People with TS are not psychologically impaired, less intelligent, obstinate or purposefully disruptive. And contrary to what you may have heard, fully 85 to 90 percent are not prone to using inappropriate language. ((X)) We're continuing to explore the causes of Tourette Syndrome and, hopefully, the day will come soon when we can find better treatments and the cure. ((X)) But until then, if you come across someone who has TS, please remember that, like Stephen, that person also has so much more.





Blair Abene
Miss Louisiana 2009

**Blair Abene has
competed in the 2009
Miss America Pageant
had the ability to sing in Italian
since the age of 5
an endless craving for sweet desserts
and Tourette Syndrome.**

Blair Abene has been competing in pageants since the age of 14 and won the title of Miss Teen Louisiana in 2002. ((X)) Her personal platform has always been promoting Tourette Syndrome awareness, aiming to educate those who don't know much about Tourette Syndrome and instilling self-confidence in those who struggle with the disorder on a daily basis. ((X)) Blair, who has made the President's List during all of her semesters, is currently finishing her undergraduate degree in Music-Vocal Performance with a minor in Mass Communications/Broadcast Journalism. She plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance. ((X)) Blair also happens to have Tourette Syndrome – an often misdiagnosed and misunderstood neurological disorder that's a lot more common than you think. ((X)) She has embraced the disorder that she once looked at as an obstacle, and turned it into a unique strength. ((X)) You may know or have seen someone with TS symptoms – they sometimes make sudden, often strange, physical movements or vocal sounds that they just can't help. ((X)) People with TS are not psychologically impaired, less intelligent, obstinate or purposefully disruptive. And contrary to what you may have heard, fully 85 to 90 percent are not prone to using inappropriate language. ((X)) We're continuing to explore the causes of Tourette Syndrome and, hopefully, the day will come soon when we can find better treatments and the cure. ((X)) But until then, if you come across someone who has TS, please remember that, like Blair, that person also has so much more.

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