



LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA
Empowerment • Awareness • Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2020

CONTACT:

Mark Povinelli or Michelle Kraus

Little People of America

917-374-4576

**LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA RECOGNIZES OCTOBER AS
NATIONAL DWARFISM AWARENESS MONTH**

In 2011 Little People of America declared that October would be National Dwarfism Awareness Month. Little People of America (LPA) is a national support organization for people with dwarfism and their families. LPA provides peer, parent and medical support and advocacy for the dwarfism community.

LPA began in 1957 with actor Billy Barty and 20 short-statured friends. The first LPA meeting was monumental for a group of people who were severely mislabeled and misunderstood by society.

Today, Little People of America is a thriving international organization providing much needed support, education, educational scholarships, and community outreach and support. Collectively, we are social workers, teachers, doctors, students, advocates, engineers, musicians, parents, and business owners. We are neighbors, friends, classmates, peers, and co-workers.

Since the declaration, LPA has taken the opportunity to enlist its community in raising positive awareness around dwarfism, address common misconceptions, and increase opportunities for people with dwarfism around the country.

“Dwarfism Awareness Month allows us to spread awareness about Little People’s inclusion and acceptance in and with the greater disability community. I am proud to be a Little Person. I am equally proud to be aligned with 61 million other Americans who live with a difference and a disability. We are an incredibly powerful community when we work together.” says Mark Povinelli, LPA President and a person with dwarfism.

More about LPA and dwarfism:

- There are over 400 distinct forms of dwarfism and skeletal dysplasia.
- People with dwarfism are generally not taller than 4' 10" at adult height. The typical height range is 2'8" to 4'5".
- Eighty percent of people with dwarfism have average-height parents and siblings.
- Skeletal Dysplasias affect bone growth and varies from condition to condition, and with the severity of that condition in each individual. The majority of LPs enjoy normal intelligence, normal life spans, and reasonably good health. There are an estimated 30,000 people in the United States and 651,000 internationally with a type of dwarfism.
- In July 2009 the word "midget" was declared inappropriate and **offensive**. Preferable terms are: average-height, having dwarfism, short stature, little person, lp, and the medical terminology use of dwarf. A person's name is always the most preferred.
- LPA advocates for its community towards achieving ultimate quality of life rather than growth velocity. We continue to work with the medical community towards this goal for our physical and mental health.

- LPA has 8000 members across the United States and includes 70 chapters active in all 50 states.
- LPA hosts an annual national conference each July which draws more than 2500 attendees for a week of activities, including educational and medical workshops, sports, and social networking and events.

For more information about National Dwarfism Awareness Month, please visit www.lpaonline.org or call 1-888-LPA-2001. Events supporting National Dwarfism Awareness Month will be occurring throughout the United States all during the month. Contact the chapter in your area, or the Chapter President or District Director listed on the website.

The National Dwarfism Awareness Month program is dedicated to increasing public knowledge about people with dwarfism.

LPA's MISSION: LPA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with dwarfism throughout their lives while celebrating with great pride Little People's contribution to social diversity. LPA strives to bring solutions and global awareness to the prominent issues affecting individuals of short stature and their families.

The LPA National Office Headquarters is located in Sonoma, CA.

You may also contact Deb Himsel, Executive Director at Debhimsel.lpa@gmail.com or (888) LPA-2001.