LPA Mission Statement

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.

For More Information

Contact LPA

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Check out our website at
www.lpaonline.org

Dwarfism Awareness

A Community Outreach Program
Sponsored by Little People of America

LPA is a non-profit tax exempt 501(c)3 organization funded by individual donations. Contact LPA to help.
Dwarfism - Facts and Fiction

Bodies come in all shapes and sizes. There are about 400 different types of dwarfism. Each type of dwarfism is different than the other. Many types of dwarfism have some medical complications but most people have an average lifespan, being productive members of society.

Eighty percent of people with dwarfism have average-height parents and siblings. Some types of dwarfism are recessive (that is, carried within your genes even if you don’t know it), but many are simply a genetic change at conception. Dwarfism is usually a simple genetic change, it just happens to have very visible results.

A child with dwarfism is born 1 per 10,000 births - that’s 400 births per year in the United States. Very few doctors know very much about dwarfism. It is important to find a doctor who specializes in dwarfism for ongoing care, especially if there are any medical or orthopedic complications.

Dwarfism is a condition that affects bones and cartilage. Although there are exceptions, a person with dwarfism’s intelligence and abilities are typical of anyone else.

Mythbusters

People with dwarfism are not magical; they do not fly, nor are they leprechauns, elves, fairies or any other mythological creature. They are people - people whose bones happen to grow differently than yours. That is all.

People with dwarfism do not all know each other or look alike, nor are there towns where they all live together.

Terminology

Preferred terminology is a personal decision, but commonly accepted terms are - short stature, dwarfism, little person, dwarf. And we say “average-height” instead of “normal height”. People with dwarfism are different, yes, but not “abnormal”.

It is unfortunate that many little people are teased and stared at throughout their lives. People with dwarfism are often stared at because their bodies look different from that of an average sized person. Little people’s feelings are hurt when people stare and make fun of them. The one word that really hurts their feelings is “midget”.

In the 1800’s at the height of the ‘freak show” era, the term midget was used to describe short statured persons who were displayed for public amusement. In the post few decades, people have used the term in a hurtful manner. Keep in mind, that just like everyone else, people with dwarfism have a name and would rather be called by their name than by a label.

October is Dwarfism Awareness Month

Little People of America launched Dwarfism Awareness Month in 2009 in an effort to raise positive awareness and share information about the lives of people with dwarfism. Many people within the dwarfism community have done great things for Dwarfism Awareness Month, including getting local politicians to recognize October as Dwarfism Awareness Month, asking local businesses to sponsor awareness month activities, and raising money to support awareness causes.

What is LPA?

Little People of America (LPA) is a national non-profit organization that provides support and information to people of short stature and their families. LPA is the only dwarfism support organization that includes all 400+ forms of dwarfism.

There are an estimated 30,000 people with dwarfism in the United States, and 651,700 in the world. No other organization in the world provides more resources, support and information for people with dwarfism.