



LITTLE PEOPLE OF MANITOBA

Spring Newsletter 2011

DWARFISM AWARENESS MONTH IN MANITOBA -OCTOBER 2010-

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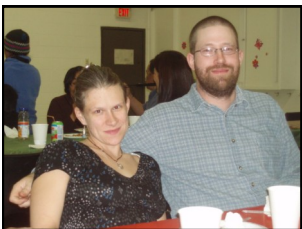
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WELCOME TO THE GROUP



Isaiah Anand & family

CONGRATS ON THE ARRIVAL OF BABY JONATHAN!



Terri & Dana Clark

October was little People Awareness Month. On September 24, 2010 there were letters sent to all the radio stations in Winnipeg as well as the Winnipeg Free Press and the Winnipeg Sun that stated:

“October is Little People Awareness Month. The Little People of Manitoba (LPM) is an organization that provides support and camaraderie for little people, who are individuals and families impacted by dwarfism. The LPM is requesting your help to raise awareness about the prominent issues affecting little people. Many Manitobans are unaware of the condition and the daily challenges we face, and are unclear about acceptable terms to use for the condition. We feel that a radio interview with parents and individuals from our support group is a broad and effective approach to help promote awareness about dwarfism and our organization.

Through community, school, and workplace workshops and events, educational resources and our awareness program, LPM have seen positive results reflected in the lives of our members.

For more information on the Little People of Manitoba

organization, check out our website www.lpmanitoba.ca.”

In the middle of October the Winnipeg Free Press had contacted Connie Magalhaes to have an interview. On October 21, 2010 the Winnipeg Free Press had an article titled Little is known about Little People and subtitled Organization trying to create awareness. To read the article go to: <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/little-is-known-about-little-people-105418178.html>

Sarah Manteuffel was in the University of Winnipeg newspaper called the Uniter and her article attracted many university goers. It was as follows:

“Have you ever walked into a room and had everyone stare at you? Have you ever walked through campus and known that every person you passed had taken note of your presence? I know for a fact that if you have ever seen me before, you could probably pick me out from a crowd without even knowing my name. Why is that? It is because I am a little person.

October is Dwarfism Awareness Month. As made aware by a fellow peer’s article in the last Uniter issue, October is an extremely busy month for awareness and charitable

organizations. Many go unnoticed however, that does not make any campaign less important. Dwarfism is a subject that many have heard of or seen on TV, yet don’t actually know much about. That is why starting last year, the Little People of America Organization began the awareness campaign to bring knowledge and understanding to those in the world who are unaware or interested in the people affected by life with dwarfism.

The first question I usually get by those who approach me is “why are you so small?” And the answer is simple. I was born that way. Dwarfism is caused by a genetic mutation on the 4th chromosome, which happens before birth. Most little people (around 75%) are born to average height parents, where a dwarf is born every 1 in 30 000 births. The other 25% are born to one or both parents being Little People. However, a little person can give birth to an average height child.

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DWARFISM AWARENESS MONTH (CON...D)

That is probably why you haven't seen many of us on a day-to-day basis. There are approximately 651 700 little people across the globe. We're few and far between.

Since there are so few little people in this world, it can be difficult to do simple activities as an average height person would, as the world has not been built to accommodate adults of short stature. But this never is an issue. I can be a very determined person. As long as I'm provided with a stool or a helping hand when needed, I can do anything. Cars can be modified so that little people can drive, clothes can be tailored so they fit properly, and many businesses have been modified to accommodate those with disabilities. If I need help, I ask. If I don't, I'll do it myself.

You may be wondering, what is the difference between a Dwarf and a Little Person? Is the term Midget appropriate? The term "midget" has come into disfavour amongst the LP community as it is considered offensive. The term dates back to the height of the "freak show" era in the late 19th Century and was applied to those of short stature who were displayed for public amusement. Many little people view the term as an unnecessary label placed upon them to point them out in a crowd.

So, to be politically correct, little person is proper terminology for someone with this condition. Dwarfism is the medical term. For example, I am an Achondroplastic *Dwarf*. There are over 200 different types of dwarfism, with Achondroplasia being the most common. However, we prefer not to be labeled, and just be called by our names.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2010?

Last year was an incredible year for the Little People of Manitoba. We began the year with an addition of three new members to our group. Terri Clark and her husband Dana Clark from Morden Manitoba, Brenden Antigoar from Nunuvut and his mother Athena and Brenda Culbreth-Sevcik from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

On May 27, 2010 the Little People of Manitoba were invited to attend the Manitoba Child Care Association conference and Matt Roloff was the keynote speaker. We had the opportunity to have a picture with him after the presentation.

On June 26, 2010 we had the End of School Year BBQ which was suppose to have been at Assiniboine Park, but due to weather conditions we had it at the Magalhaes house.

In September one of our youngest members, Sam Adam, started kindergarten and Sarah and I were asked by Jodean (Sam's mom) to speak to Sam's class individually and the school as a whole not just about being little, but also about being attentive to the fact

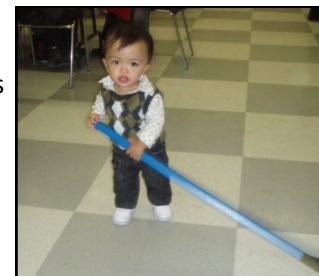


that even though we are little, we can still do things that everyone else can do, just in a different way sometimes. We also talked about how our bones are weaker and take longer to heal so just because we're small people shouldn't pick us up or play rough because it could be very dangerous. We also spoke about individuality as well as teasing and bullying.

On December 3, 2010 the United Nations Educational Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had heard about the LPM on the radio and requested members of the LPM to do a presentation at University of Winnipeg in which Fred Penner was the keynote speaker. Sarah and Connie attended as representatives of the LPM. They ran two 45 minute sessions with kids of all ages in high school. The presentation included why LP's are so small, the chances of having a little person, terminology, the history of little people, obstacles we have to overcome, high school experiences and who we are now. The presentation was very successful. Both Sarah and Connie have been asked return and do another presentation with UNESCO that will be on April 15, 2011.

On December 4, 2010 the LPM Christmas party was held at the Crescentwood Community Centre and yet another successful year. A big welcome to our new family the Andan family. Isaiah is a little person and is 2 yrs old now. He comes from a big family that care very much about him. He has 5 older brothers and sisters.

Welcome Isaiah!!



LPM CHRISTMAS PARTY



WHAT'S TO COME IN 2011?

At the Annual General Meeting it was decided that due to the great turnouts for the Summer BBQ and the Christmas Party, the LPM will be having those same events again this year. The BBQ is scheduled for June 25, 2011 at the Hanuschuks 2145 Bricker Avenue (East St. Paul) weather pending. The Christmas Party is scheduled for December 3, 2011 at the Crescentwood Community Club.

It was also discussed at the meeting that October being Dwarfism Awareness Month, we would try to contact TV stations this time and possibly get interviews done with Breakfast Television, SHAW TV, and other local tv stations and set up interviews with a number of members from our group. Please notify Connie conniemagalhaes@gmail.com or Sarah sarahmaria96@gmail.com if you are interested in doing an interview.

LITTLE PEOPLE OF MANITOBA UPCOMING EVENTS...

Little People of Manitoba's - End of School Year BBQ

Date: Saturday, June 25, 2011

Time: 5:00pm -8:30pm

Location: Hanuschuk's
2145 Bricker Avenue

(everyone will be contacted prior to event)

LITTLE PEOPLE OF CANADA UPCOMING EVENTS...

Little People of Saskatchewan

Still To Be Determined

For more information contact Heidi at:

twohothurleyz@hotmail.com

Little People of Ontario - Medical Conference

Medical conference:

Friday April 15th -

Sunday April 17th

Quality Inn in Oshawa Ontario.

Dr. Mendoza from Sick Children's Hospital and Dr. Ford

from Sunnybrook attending

Health Sciences Centre

Our next event will be our annual picnic in the summer. For more information and registration contact:

LPO President,

Susan Berzins

mollysue@rogers.com

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We're on the Web
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Helping people of Short Stature



HISTORY OF LITTLE PEOPLE

Part of knowing who we are is knowing the history of little people.

In some olden day societies dwarfs have served as favourites, jesters, or entertainers in the courts of sovereigns and were an important part in the households of important people. Household dwarfs also were kept by the early pharaohs of Egypt. They played no part in Classical Greece but flourished in imperial Rome. Even slave children were sometimes stunted to increase their price. Household dwarfs were known in medieval Europe, and during the Renaissance. Their reputation increased and individual dwarfs became famous. Isabella d'Este (a leading lady of the Italian Renaissance) designed part of her palace for dwarfs and remembered two in her will. You may find paintings such as "Las Ninhas" from the painter Diego Velázquez who painted the appearance of the dwarfs of the court of Philip IV of Spain.

The tsars and noblemen of Russia also used to keep numerous dwarfs in their households. Elaborate dwarf weddings were cele-

brated in the royal courts. In the 20th century due to World Wars there was no employment for little people and so they had to find means to survive as midget entertainers. That's also when there was a sport created called midget tossing and I think the name of the sport speaks for itself. In June 2003 there was a Legislative Act in Canada that banned midget tossing because it was so dangerous and so inappropriate. In the 70's there was a sport called midget wrestling that even though was a source entertainment, many little people wrestlers have severe back problems and are now in wheel chairs due to this sport. So you can see through the centuries, little people went from being important figures, to being degraded, and now becoming more accepted in society.



"Las Ninhas" by Diego Velázquez

MOULTON TIRED OF BEING CALLED 'LITTLE' BY CLASSMATES

Haylie Mouton is like any other seventh grader at Forked Island/E.Broussard Elementary with the exception of her height. She stands two-feet, eight inches tall, which makes her a dwarf. Throughout the school year, she got tired of being called "little Hailey" by her friends at the school. She knows she is small and does not have to be reminded of it every day. "If someone would walk by and say, 'hello, little Haylie.' I would not tell them anything. I would ignore them." One day at school, she wrote in her daily journal that she does not like to be teased about being small. Her teacher read it and wanted to stop the teasing. So, what Mouton did was go to every classroom at FIEB and speak her mind. She told the students, while she is small, she is also a normal 13 year old. The school's Junior Beta Club came up with an idea to make everyone aware of little people. The first-ever womanless pageant to

help raise money for the Little People's of America (LPA) was a big hit at Forked Island/E. Broussard Elementary. The pageant was held by the school's Jr. Beta Club to raise money for LPA. When the night was over, a total of \$1,572.55 was raised. The school held the fund-raiser because of Seventh Grader Haylie Mouton who is a little person. Mouton also increased awareness about people with short stature and their families by giving a wonderful speech and making posters. LPA was informally started in 1957 when Billy Barty called upon people of short stature to join him in a get-together in Reno, Nevada. That original meeting of 21 people grew into Little People of America, a group which as of 2010 has more than 6,800 members. Since the pageant and speaking to her classmates, Mouton does not get teased anymore.