



October 2026

Welcome to Dwarfism Advocacy Month 2026

Every year, more people find their way to Little People of America (LPA).

Our membership continues to increase. New families find us and tell us how grateful they are to have found this community. People leave our conferences and regionals telling us they had the the most incredible time. Every year our membership comes together and confirms how valuable being in community can be for people of all ages.

That tells us something important.

Community matters. Belonging matters. Connection and joy matter. LPA matters.

And perhaps that is more important to remember this year than ever.

As LPA looks ahead, we do so with honesty about the uncertainties before us: the long-term impact of medical interventions is still unfolding, organizational structures are changing, and our community is facing unprecedented economic and social pressures. Even in this shifting landscape, we remain grounded in who we are and why we exist.

We are living in a time when messaging can too often feel like: *fit in, stay quiet, don't be different, don't challenge oppression, and don't make others uncomfortable*. LPA refuses to let that messaging take root within our organization nor have it diminish the value of dwarfism identity and dwarf pride.

Instead, we want our community to come together. We want people to advocate for themselves and for one another. We want little people to feel comfortable and confident in their bodies and identities, while having the freedom to make the choices that are right for themselves and their families.

Above all, when someone finds LPA, we want them to know one thing with absolute certainty, you belong here. You are valued here, AND you never have to deny who you are to be part of this community.

This year's theme for Dwarfism Advocacy Month is: Don't deny. Embrace.

And in many ways, that takes us right back to the vision Billy Barty had when he founded this organization nearly seven decades ago. Billy did not create Little People of America to separate us. He created it to bring us together. Billy built bridges of access to come together and nearly 70 years later, LPA is committed to reinforcing those bridges for the next 70 years.



At a time when people with dwarfism were often isolated from one another, Billy envisioned something different, he envisioned a community where people could find each other, regardless of diagnosis, background, belief or experience.

His vision remains at the core of who we are.

We honor Billy's legacy every time we bring people together. Every time we educate the public. Every time we advocate for change. Every time we challenge stereotypes and every time we increase understanding and work tirelessly to dismantle the barriers that still exist for people with dwarfism.

And we honor it by continuing to make room for one another.

Because we don't all have to agree. Choose treatment or don't. Advocate loudly or quietly. Make the decisions that are right for you and your family. Embrace dwarfism in whatever way feels authentic to you. There is room here for all of it. There is room here for difference.

Embracing who we are does not mean rejecting progress, opportunity, medicine or personal choice. And embracing progress should never require someone to deny who they are.

That is the patchwork and magic of this community, that different diagnoses, generations, experiences, opinions and choices, are brought together by something more meaningful.

Our responsibility is not to pull at those seams when we disagree. To tear a part when we make different choices. It is to keep making the patchwork of our beautiful, broad, all encompassing community bigger.

Nearly seven decades later, people are still finding Little People of America. They are still joining. They are still showing up. They are still finding friendship, support, advocacy and joy. They are still finding their people.

Still finding that magic that is Little People of America.

That tells us Billy's vision wasn't just right for 1957.

It is still very much alive today.

And it is ours to carry forward.

Be who you are. Come as you are. But be here. Now.

Don't deny. Embrace.

Now go forth and give a DAM!

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