



LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA
Empowerment • Awareness • Community

To: Media
From: Little People of America (LPA)
Re: Dwarfism Awareness Month

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **October 1, 2022**

LPA Promotes Dwarfism Awareness Month

Sonoma, CA – Every October Little People of America is honored to take part in Dwarfism Awareness/Pride month. Each year since its inception in 2011 LPA has supported honoring the diverse, beautiful, extraordinary lives of its community of individuals living with dwarfism.

In 1957 in a hotel in Reno, Nevada, actor Billy Barty, and 20 of his friends with dwarfism held their first ever LPA meeting. This was a remarkable event that permanently shifted the trajectory of LP lives to allow for a greater understanding of the often misunderstood and stereotypical perceptions of our community. Through continued outreach in the communities at a local and national level, LPA has helped further our members inclusion and advancement.

Fast forward to 2022, Little People of America is an international advocacy organization that continues to provide support, education, and networking opportunities for a diverse group of individuals with dwarfism and their family members.

Dwarfism Awareness Month is ostensibly an opportunity to promote and educate society on the vast diversity of our community but truly is a dedicated time for us to celebrate and indulge in our Dwarf Pride and the value we bring to the world we rightfully exist in. – Mark Povinelli, President

This year LPA has a number of opportunities for you to participate in DAM!

Please visit our Facebook page and follow us as we journey through this year's Dwarfism Pride Month together and support our community of LPs. You might just learn something you hadn't before!

<https://www.facebook.com/LittlePeopleofAmerica/>



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More about LPA and dwarfism:

- There are over 250-300 distinct forms of dwarfism and short statured skeletal dysplasia.
- People with dwarfism are generally not taller than 4' 10" at adult height. The typical height range is between 2'8" to 4'5".
- Eighty percent of people with dwarfism have average-height parents and siblings.
- Skeletal Dysplasia affects bone growth and varies from condition to condition, and with the severity of that condition in each individual. There are an estimated 65,000 people in the United States and 1,400,000 internationally with some form of dwarfism.
- In July 2009 the word "midget" was declared inappropriate and offensive. Preferable terms include: having dwarfism, short-stature, little person, lp, and the medical terminology use of dwarf. A person's name is always the most preferred term.
- 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 nearly 8000 members across the United States and includes 70 chapters active in all 50 states, including Washington D.C.
- LPA hosts an annual national conference each July which draws more than 2000 attendees for a week of activities, including educational and medical workshops, sports, and both professional and social networking and events.