Disabilities Information & Resources

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Autism
Autism Spectrum Group Support Group
Sponsored by The Arc of Smith County, meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Autism Response Team building, 120 E. South Town from 6:00—7:30 pm. The emphasis is on support, encouragement and education, including guest speakers. Free child care is provided. For more information contact the Arc @ 903-597-0995 or rhondab@arcofsmithcounty.org

Autism Society of America
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 300
Bethesda, MD 20814-3067
800-328-8476 / 301-657-0881
Website: www.autism-society.org

ASA is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families and the professionals with whom they interact. The Society and its chapters share a common mission of providing information and education, and supporting research and advocating for programs and services for the autism community.

Autism Research Institute
4182 Adams Avenue
San Diego, CA 92116
Phone 619-281-7165
Website: www.autism.com/

Researches the causes of autism as well as methods of preventing, diagnosing, and treating it and other severe behavioral disorders of childhood.

The Center for AAC & Autism
P.O. Box 1317
Wooster, OH 44691
330-202-5800 (local or international toll line)
866-998-1726 (toll free US)
Website: www.aacandautism.com

The Center for AAC & Autism believes that every child has the desire and the ability to communicate despite physical and neurological challenges. By providing specialized clinical training to health care professionals, teachers, and parents... empowering clients and families with education, resources, and information... and supporting clinical research, our aim is to give all children the ability to speak their mind and heart and become engaged in their world.

Brain Injury
Neurorestorative Speciality Services at UTHCT
11937 US Hwy 271
Tyler, TX 75708
800-743-6802
Website: www.neurorestorative.com

"NeuroRestorative® Specialty Services at UTHSCT is a highly structured specialized restorative and behavioral program for individuals recovering from acquired brain injuries. Our interdisciplinary team of clinical specialists delivers functionally oriented, post-acute treatment in progressive inpatient and residential environments.

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Tyler Field Office
3800 Paluxy Dr., Ste. 325
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 534-2070
The Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services program helps persons with spinal cord and brain injuries receive intensive therapies to increase independence.

Brain Injury Resource Center
Website: www.headinjury.com/

The place to find links to information on brain injury. While it was designed primarily for traumatic brain injury it contains information relevant to many types of brain injuries. Items in this library will help you to
identify and pursue your goals as they relate to brain injury.

It was designed to empower you to identify services, and resources specific to your particular needs and objectives. Additionally, it will help you to formulate, evaluate and implement, goal directed action plans.

**Cancer**

**National Cancer Institute**
BG 9609 MSC 9760
9609 Medical Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-9760
1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)
Website: [www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/childhoodcancers](http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/childhoodcancers)

**American Cancer Society**
1301 S. Broadway Ave.
Tyler, TX 75701
903-597-1348
Website: [www.cancer.org/cancer/cancerinchildren/](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancerinchildren/)

**Cerebral Palsy**

**United Cerebral Palsy Association, Inc**
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036-5602
202-776-0406
800-872-5827
TTY: (202) 973-7197
E-mail: ucpnati@ucpa.org
Web Address: [www.ucpn.org](http://www.ucpn.org)

The mission of United Cerebral Palsy is to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with disabilities through an affiliate network.

UCP affiliates serve more than 170,000 children and adults with disabilities and their families every day providing services such as housing, therapy, assistive technology training, early intervention programs, individual and family support, social and recreation programs, community living, state and local referrals, employment assistance and advocacy. Each affiliate offers a range of services tailored to its community's needs.

**Cystic Fibrosis**

**Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**
Northeast Texas Chapter -- Tyler Branch
305 S Broadway Ave Ste 1000
Tyler, TX 75702-7384
903-597-6237
Email: [tyler-tx@cff.org](mailto:tyler-tx@cff.org)

- Scientific pioneers, blazing new trails in CF research;
- Fund-raisers, securing the money needed to support our efforts;
- Advocates, keeping CF a top priority in government, industry and research;
- Investors, funding drug discovery and development;
- Caregivers, linking patients and families to specialized CF care; and
- Family, offering support, information and resources.

**Diabetes**

**American Diabetes Association**
1701 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, VA 22311
1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383)
Website: [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)

For diabetes-related questions or to request a diabetes information packet, email [AskADA@diabetes.org](mailto:AskADA@diabetes.org).

ADA provides diabetes research, information and advocacy. The mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

- funds research,
- publishes scientific findings,
- provides information and other services to people with diabetes, their families, health professionals and the public,
- advocaties for scientific research and for the rights of people with diabetes.

Visit their store for a variety of cookbooks, meal planners, self-care guides and other educational materials to assist you in managing diabetes.

**Down Syndrome**

**The Arc of Tyler / Smith County**
5520 Old Bullard Rd, Suite 111
Tyler, TX 75703
903-597-0995
Website: [www.arcofsmithcounty.org](http://www.arcofsmithcounty.org)

**Longview Area Down Syndrome Support Group**
LADSSG
6 Thorntree
This organization is an NDSS affiliate.

National Down Syndrome Congress
1605 Chantilly Drive, Suite 250
Atlanta, GA 30324
(404) 633-1555
(800) 232-6372
E-mail: ndsc@charitiesusa.com
Web address: www.ndsccenter.org

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)
Also see “Education” section

The Andrews Center
1722 W. Front St.
Tyler, TX 75702
(903) 597-5067
Website: www.andrewscenter.com

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Tyler Field Office
3800 Paluxy Dr., Ste. 325
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 534-2070
Email: DARS.Inquiries@dars.state.tx.us
Services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing:
(800) 628-5115 or TTY 1-866-581-9328

Deafness Resource Specialists (DRS)
CSD of Texas
1530 SSW Loop 323, #120
Tyler, TX 75701
903-534-1222 office
888-313-7851 toll free
Website: www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/specialistpgm.shtml

The DARS, Division for Rehabilitative Services, Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) works in partnership with people who are deaf or hard of hearing to eliminate societal and communication barriers to improve equal access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. DHHS advocates for people of all ages who are deaf or hard of hearing to enable them to express their freedoms, participate in society to their individual potential, and reduce their isolation regardless of location, socio-economic status, or degree of disability.

Epilepsy
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Smith County
130 Shelley Dr.
Tyler, TX, United States
(903) 581-5935
Individual and Family Social Services

Epilepsy Foundation
8301 Professional Place
Landover, MD 20785
(800) 213-5821
(301) 459-3700
Website: www.epilepsyfoundation.org

Dedicated to the welfare of the over 3 million people with epilepsy in the U.S. and their families. To ensure people with seizures are able to participate in all life experiences; and to prevent, control and cure epilepsy through research, education, advocacy and services. Programs include activities in schools designed to educate about epilepsy -- with the goal to eliminate stigma and discrimination in our lifetimes.

Hearing Impairment
Tyler ISD
Special Education
P.O. Box 2035
Tyler, TX 75710
903-262-1034

Educational programs are available for children ages 0-22 who are deaf, visually impaired or both. Educational programs are available for children ages 3-22 with all other handicaps. Related services include: physical therapy, speech therapy, transportation, occupational therapy, adaptive physical education, orientation mobility training, psychological services. Special education programs are available on most campuses, as well as at Boshears Center.

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Tyler Field Office
3800 Paluxy Dr., Ste. 325
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 534-2070
Email: DARS.Inquiries@dars.state.tx.us

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Heart Condition
American Heart Association
1125 Judson Road, #150
Longview, TX 75601
phone: (903) 323-8800

American Heart Association
National Center
7272 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, TX 75231
1-800-AHA-USA-1
or 1-800-242-8721
Website: www.americanheart.org
**Intellectual Disabilities**

**The Andrews Center**  
5520 Old Bullard Rd, Suite 111  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 597-5067  
Website: [www.andrewscenter.com](http://www.andrewscenter.com)  
*Home & Community Based Services (HCS)*  
*Group Homes*  
*Adult Day Training (ADT)*  
*Sheltered Workshop*  
*Supported Employment*

**The Arc of Tyler / Smith County**  
810 Vine Heights  
Tyler, TX 75701  
903-597-0995  
Website: [www.arcofsmithcounty.org](http://www.arcofsmithcounty.org)

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**Juvenile Arthritis**  
**The Arthritis Foundation**  
North Texas Region  
4300 MacArthur, Suite 245  
Dallas, TX 75209-6524  
Phone: 214.826.4361  
Toll Free Phone: 800.442.6653  
Email: info.ntx@arthritis.org  
Website: [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)

The Texas Juvenile Arthritis Program offers information and referral, support and education, school info, scholarships to the American Juvenile Arthritis Conference, and other fun activities for children and their families. To get your free copy of Kids Get Arthritis Too Newsletter, please call 1-800-442-6653.

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**Learning Disabilities**

**Tyler ISD**  
Special Education  
P.O. Box 2035  
Tyler, TX 75710  
903-262-1034  

*People Share (support group)*  
*Emergency Services*  
*Outpatient Clinics*

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**National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Public Inquiries**

Office of Communications  
6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 8184, MSC 9663  
Bethesda, MD 20892-0663  
301-443-4513 or 1-866-615-NIMH (6464), toll free  
E-mail: nimhinfo@nih.gov

NIMH is the lead Federal agency for research on mental and behavioral disorders.  

**Anxiety Disorders Association of America (ADAA)**  
Website: [www.adaa.org](http://www.adaa.org)

ADAA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the prevention, treatment and cure of anxiety disorders and to improve the lives of all people who suffer from them.

Since 1980, they disseminate information, linking people who need treatment with those who can provide it and advocating for cost effective treatments. The association is made up of professionals who conduct research and treat anxiety disorders and individuals who have a personal or general interest in learning more about such disorders.

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**Muscular Dystrophy**

Muscular Dystrophy Association  
3800 Paluxy Drive, Suite 535  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 534-2984  
Email: [tyler@mdausa.org](mailto:tyler@mdausa.org)  
Website: [www.mdausa.org](http://www.mdausa.org)

Medical services, braces, summer camps for all ages with learning disabilities can be successful at school, at work, in relationships, and in the community -- given the right opportunities.
Neurological Disorders
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Brain Resources And Information Network (BRAIN)
P.O. Box 5801
Bethesda, MD 20824
301-496-5751
800-352-9424
Website: [www.ninds.nih.gov](http://www.ninds.nih.gov)

Easter Seals
230 W. Monroe St., Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60606-4802
312-762-6200
800 221-6827
Website: [www.easter-seals.org](http://www.easter-seals.org)

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
Anxiety Disorders Association of America (ADAA)
Phone: (240) 485-1001
Website: [www.adaa.org](http://www.adaa.org)
ADAA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the prevention, treatment and cure of anxiety disorders and to improve the lives of all people who suffer from them.

Since 1980, they disseminate information, linking people who need treatment with those who can provide it and advocating for cost effective treatments. The association is made up of professionals who conduct research and treat anxiety disorders and individuals who have a personal or general interest in learning more about such disorders.

Physical Disabilities
Department of State Health Services
(Cotton Belt Bldg)
1517 W. Front St.
Tyler, TX 75701
Medical Social Workers:
903-533-5255
903-533-5249
903-533-5231
*Personal Care Services (PCS)
*Texas Health Steps
*Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)
*Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP)
*Comprehensive Care Program (CCP)
*Community Living & Support Services (CLASS)

Prader-Willi Syndrome
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association
5700 Midnight Pass Road, Suite 6
Sarasota, FL 34242
Phone: 800-926-4797
Web Site: [http://www.pwsausa.org](http://www.pwsausa.org)
E-Mail: national@pwsausa.org

Rare Disorders
National Organization for Rare Disorders, Inc. (NORD)
55 Kenosia Avenue
PO Box 1968
Danbury, CT 06813-1968
(203) 744-0100
Tollfree: (800) 999-6673 (voicemail only)
TDD Number: (203) 797-9590
Website: [www.rarediseases.org](http://www.rarediseases.org)

NORD funds research for rare diseases and has the following information on its website:

- **Index of Rare Diseases**
  This is the list of diseases currently covered in the Rare Disease Database.

- **Rare Disease Database**
  Search this database for reports on more than 1,150 diseases.

- **Index of Organizations**
  This is the list of organizations in NORD’s Organizational Database.

- **Organizational Database**
  Read about more than 2,000 patient organizations and other sources of help.

If you have questions related to providing care or accessing services for someone with a rare disease, write to: RN@rarediseases.org

If you have a question related to genetic testing or the inheritance patterns of diseases, write to: genetic_counselor@rarediseases.org

Respiratory Conditions

UT Health Northeast
Pulmonary Clinic
Heart & Lung Center
11937 US Highway 271
Tyler, TX 75708-3154
(903) 877-7777
[www.uthct.edu/patientcare/clinical/heartandlung/](http://www.uthct.edu/patientcare/clinical/heartandlung/)

American Lung Association
61 Broadway, 6th Floor
NY, NY 10006
Website: [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org)
212-315-8700
To speak to a lung health professional, contact the ALA Lung Help Line at 1-800-548-8252.

The mission of ALA is to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. It fights lung disease in all its forms, with special emphasis on asthma, tobacco control and environmental health.

Rett Syndrome
International Rett Syndrome Association
9121 Piscataway Road, Suite 2B
Clinton, MD 20735
301-856-3334
800-818-7388
[www.rettsyndrome.org](http://www.rettsyndrome.org)
Spina Bifida

Spina Bifida Association
SBA of North Texas
Carol Barrett - Office Manager
705 Ave. B, Suite 409
Garland, TX 75040
Phone: 972-238-8755
Email: sbnothtexas@aol.com
Website: www.spinabifidaassociation.org/site/c.evKRI7OXIoJ8H/ b.8028963/k.BE67/Home.htm

The mission of SBA is to promote the prevention of spina bifida and to enhance the lives of all affected. It serves the 70,000 adults and children who live with spina bifida. Since 1973, SBA has served as the nation's only voluntary health agency dedicated to enhancing the lives of those with spina bifida and those whose lives they touch. Through its network of 57 chapters, SBA has a presence in more than 125 communities nationwide and serves thousands of people each year.

Tourette’s Syndrome

Tyler/Longview Area TS Support Group Meeting
Denise Rite, Support Group Leader
P.O. Box 132295
Tyler, TX 75713
Email: tourettetyler@gmail.com
903-330-5036

Tourette Syndrome Association of Texas
3919 River Forest Drive
Richmond, TX 77406
Phone: 281-238-8096
Toll free: 1-866-896-8484
Email: Tourettetexas@aol.com
Website: www.tourettetexas.org

Services & Programs:
- Medical Assistance
- Camp du Ballon Rouge
- Advocacy & Consulting
- Family Events & Activities
- Youth Ambassador Program
- Scholarships
- Direct Client Services
- Support Groups & Meetings
- Education & In-Service

Visual Impairment

Dept of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services, Blind Services (DARS)
1121 ESE Loop 323, Bldg 1, Suite 106
(Toll Free)
Tyler, TX 75701
903-581-9945

Services for people who are blind or visually impaired:
(800) 628-5115 or TTY 1-866-581-9328

Children’s Program age 0-21
Visual aids, medical, vocational training - all ages
Vocational training - age 14+

Rett Syndrome Research Foundation
5600 Devitt Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45246
513-874-3020
www.rsrf.org

Tyler ISD
Special Education
P.O. Box 2035
Tyler, TX 75710
903-262-1034

Educational programs are available for children ages 0-22 who are deaf, visually impaired or both. Educational programs are available for children ages 3-22 with all other handicaps. Related services include: physical therapy, speech therapy, transportation, occupational therapy, adaptive physical education, orientation mobility training, psychological services. Special education programs available on most campuses, as well as at St. Louis School.

Texas Association for Parents of the Visually Impaired, Inc. (TAPVI)
12801 Midway RD Suite 212
PMB 231
Dallas, TX 75244
866-998-2784
email: info@tapvi.org

TAPVI is a state-wide organization serving families of children who are visually impaired or blind, including those who have multiple disabilities.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness
(formerly National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation)
Executive Plaza One, Suite 800
11350 McCormick Road
Hunt Valley, MD 21031-1014
(1-800) 683-5555 (Toll Free)
(410) 785-1414; (410) 785-9687 (TT)
Web Address: www.blindness.org

Begun in 1971, FFB funds research that will provide preventions, treatments and cures for people affected by retinitis pigmentosa (RP), macular degeneration, Usher syndrome, and the entire spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases. It provides information for patients, families and professionals. Over 30 volunteer-led groups across the US raise funds, increase public awareness, and provide support to their communities.

FFB Texas - Gulf Coast Chapter
David T. Cleveland, Contact
830 Myrtlea Lane
Houston, TX 77079-3615
Phone: 713-465-9577
Email: davidtcleveland@yahoo.com

Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
1100 W. 45th St.
Austin, TX 78756
Switchboard: (512) 454-8631
Toll Free Recording Number: 1-800-872-5273
TDD (512) 206-9451

A special public school established by the Texas Legislature to provide specialized and intense services which focus on the unique learning needs of students with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities.