



CHASA to Celebrate Childhood Stroke Awareness Month

ARLINGTON, TX (August 5, 2009) – The Children's Hemiplegia and Stroke Association (CHASA), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving lives of children and families affected by pediatric stroke and other causes of hemiplegia, has announced that a series of awareness and fundraising efforts will take place throughout May 2010, as members celebrate Childhood Stroke Awareness Month.

In past years, CHASA events have been held across the country on the first Saturday in May, but for 2010, volunteers are invited to hold fundraisers and awareness events at any time during the month of May. During Childhood Stroke Awareness Month, CHASA hopes to increase awareness of pediatric strokes and raise money for programs designed to help little stroke survivors and their families.

"Since CHASA has grown to almost 1,600 families, and families across the country and around the world want to honor their childhood stroke survivors, we decided it was time to expand Childhood Stroke Awareness Day into Childhood Stroke Awareness Month." said Nancy Atwood, President of CHASA and mother of a 15-year-old perinatal stroke survivor. Atwood added, "I applaud all of the wonderful volunteers who work to raise awareness and promote continued research into the causes, early diagnosis, and treatment of childhood stroke and related disabilities."

Childhood stroke occurs in approximately 1 in 4,000 infants and 2.3 in 100,000 children (ages 1 month to 19 years) each year. Children frequently have significant long-term disabilities after a perinatal stroke, including cognitive and sensory impairments, epilepsy, visual and behavioral difficulties, and cerebral palsy. Early identification and treatment is key to success for little stroke survivors.

About CHASA

CHASA is a 501 (c)(3) organization that provides support, education, and advocacy for children and families affected by pediatric stroke and hemiplegic cerebral palsy. Whether through discussion groups, educational fact sheets, or parent to parent connections, CHASA has helped, and continues to help, children and families through the overwhelming and complex world that occurs after a child suffers a stroke. For more information, visit www.chasa.org or www.KidsHaveStrokes.org.

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