

## What is dystonia?

Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder characterized by involuntary muscle contractions, which force certain parts of the body into abnormal, sometimes painful, movements or postures. This disorder can affect any part of the body including the arms and legs, trunk, neck, eyelids, face, or vocal cords, and can even impair speech. Dystonia is not fatal, but is a chronic disorder with often unpredictable prognoses.

While not widely known, Dystonia is the third most common movement disorder in America. It affects an estimated 500,000 people in the USA alone - more than muscular dystrophy, Huntington's disease or Lou Gehrig's disease. Furthermore, one third of all Dystonia patients are children. There is no known cure for the disorder, only some treatments for the symptoms it causes.

Tyler's Hope for a Dystonia Cure was created to passionately pursue solutions and a cure to the pain and limitations caused by DYT-1 Dystonia. The organization is inspired by the fearless energy, courage, and love for life exemplified daily by its namesake and his sister.

Our foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of Dystonia, and, ultimately, finding a cure for this cruel disorder.

*"Dystonia has a known location and known gene product in the human DNA sequence. It is not degenerative like Alzheimers and Parkinson's Disease and therefore, with investment of the proper resources a cure should be achieved."*

-Dr. Michael Okun, Co-Director of the Movement Disorders Center at Shands Hospital

## Our Mission.

## Research.

Since the founding of Tyler's Hope in 2006, Dystonia research has exploded with successes, including:

- Identification of the gene and protein that cause DYT-1 symptoms
- Publishing of a book on interdisciplinary Dystonia research
- Implementation of a Worldwide Dystonia Registry
- Establishment of the Center for Comprehensive Dystonia Care at the McKnight Brain Institute in Gainesville, FL

By continuing to fund, organize and promote successes like these in the coming years, Tyler's Hope will continue to be a driving force in Dystonia's defeat.



Just a few years ago, Tyler Staab was a healthy and active 7-year-old who enjoyed playing sports with his friends and family. That all changed in 2005 when Tyler was diagnosed with Dystonia, a neurological movement disorder. Tyler's normal life had transformed from a care-free childhood into a life defined by involuntary, and sometimes painful, muscle contractions.

A short while after his own diagnosis, Tyler's sister Samantha was also diagnosed with Dystonia. Throughout their battles with the disorder, both children have undergone Deep Brain Stimulation and many other forms of treatment in an attempt to alleviate their painful and debilitating symptoms.

Since their diagnoses, both Tyler and Sam have remained strong and hopeful for a cure.



## We need your help.

It is the goal and mission of Tyler's Hope for a Dystonia Cure Foundation to raise awareness of this disorder so no other child has to experience what Tyler went through in order to receive a diagnosis.

Tyler's Hope for a Dystonia Cure was established to advance research for a cure, discover effective treatments, and to promote education and awareness of this devastating disorder.

Send all donations to:

13351 progress blvd.  
Alachua, FL 32615

*Please make checks payable to  
Tyler's Hope for a Dystonia Cure*

Contact:

386.462.5220 x 302  
[www.tylershope.org](http://www.tylershope.org)  
[tylershope@intermed1.com](mailto:tylershope@intermed1.com)  
twitter: @tylershope

  
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*Join us in the fight.*

