

# CHASA

Children's Hemiplegia  
& Stroke Association

[www.chasa.org](http://www.chasa.org) ~ [www.KidsHaveStrokes.org](http://www.KidsHaveStrokes.org)

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DATE:** February 25, 2009

**HEADLINE:** May 2, 2009 declared Eighth Annual Childhood Stroke Awareness Day

**BODY:**

CHASA (Children's Hemiplegia and Stroke Association) announces that May 2, 2009 is the Eighth Annual Childhood Stroke Awareness Day. This day was founded by CHASA in 2002 as a grassroots effort of several families affiliated with CHASA. International Childhood Stroke Awareness Campaign Coordinator, Dawn Marie Perkins states, "Our first seven campaigns were a tremendous success; numerous states and multiple municipalities nationwide issued proclamations encouraging awareness of childhood stroke. In 2005 we received a commendation from Secretary Michael Leavitt of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Additionally, events have been held across the nation and around the world honoring childhood stroke survivors for many years now. Our goal is to further increase awareness this year and help raise funds for pediatric stroke research."

Childhood stroke occurs in approximately 1 in 4000 births each year, and more than 6 out of every 100,000 children suffer from stroke each year. A stroke may even occur before the child is born. The stroke may cause a variety of physical, mental, and behavioral disabilities.

CHASA Founder and President, Nancy Atwood applauds the efforts being made in communities across the country and overseas, "In proclaiming May 2, 2009 as Childhood Stroke Awareness Day, Elected Officials help many children. This is an important issue for many families, including my own. My daughter had a stroke near birth, and I know first hand that the general public knows little about this issue. I thank all of the wonderful volunteers who are working to raise awareness and to promote continued research into the signs, treatment and prevention of childhood stroke."

CHASA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that offers support and information for families of children who have hemiplegia, hemiparesis, and/or childhood stroke. CHASA's resources include local support groups, websites ([www.chasa.org](http://www.chasa.org) and [www.kidshavestrokes.org](http://www.kidshavestrokes.org)), online support, and an annual family retreat and medical conference. CHASA also awards research grants to scientists who focus on infant and childhood stroke research. Individuals wishing to receive further information may contact CHASA at: CHASA, 4101 W. Green Oaks, Suite 305, PMB 149, Arlington, TX 76016, telephone 817-492-4325.