**DALLAS TWST MEETING SUMMARY FOR 2/23/22**

The Dallas TWST group met on Wed. Feb. 23, 2022. It was scheduled to be a movie night. Unfortunately, only 1 teen attended along with 1 slp, 2 graduate students in the Com D. program at UTD, and 1 parent of a young adult who stutters (these 4 adults were attending as TWST chapter leaders or chapter leaders in training).

The evening began with introductions during which everyone was to introduce themselves and to tell their favorite thing about Valentine’s Day OR the nicest thing they have seen someone do for a loved one on Valentine’s Day. After the Introductions, the Icebreaker required everyone to tell which movie they could most easily “survive” in, if they had to live the rest of their life inside a movie. This was really interesting as people revealed their choices for movies and explained why they chose the movie they chose.

Then, the video for the evening, *Transcending Stuttering: The Inside Story*, was shown. It lasted a little less than 30 minutes. This video follows 7 individuals who stutter and shows video clips and short segments of interviews with each of them as they grow older. Many began in the film as children and were followed well into adulthood. This video was chosen for several reasons. It shows people who stutter talking honestly and openly about their experiences with stuttering over time and shows how each individual found a way to achieve their life goals either because of or in spite of stuttering. Another factor influencing the choice of this video is the fact that some “darker” moments in these individuals’ lives are discussed but they each find ways to overcome the hardships and come out of these experiences all the stronger for having gone through them. Some of these darker moments end up serving as “turning points” for some of the individuals in the video. Several of the teens in our group need to see this and realize that things will get better and easier as they get older and this video clearly illustrates this.

After the video, we all discussed our impressions of the film and there were a few questions that the teen who attended was asked to see how his experiences correlated with some of the experiences of the people in the video. Since this teen is older and has attended many TWST meetings, he was comfortable answering these questions as well as he could. The chapter leaders agreed that this video would be worth showing again at a future meeting when more of our younger teens are present.

Submitted by Tricia Krauss-Lehrman