**24 POWERFUL FACTS ABOUT HYDROCEPHALUS**

1. **FACT** - Hydrocephalus is a life changing, life threatening condition.
2. **FACT** - Anyone, at any age, can develop hydrocephalus.
3. **FACT** - Hydrocephalus can mean a lifetime of brain surgeries.   Dozens are common, more than 100 for a single patient is not unheard of.
4. **FACT** - There is no prevention for hydrocephalus – there is no cure. The only treatment requires brain surgery.
5. **FACT** - The most common surgical treatment for hydrocephalus is the implantation of a device called a shunt to drain fluid from the brain.
6. **FACT** - Head injuries, suffered by US military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are greatly increasing the numbers of Americans living with hydrocephalus.
7. **FACT** - On average, 8,000 babies are born with hydrocephalus annually in the U.S.
8. **FACT** - Over 36,000 shunt surgeries are performed annually
9. **FACT** - Accurately diagnosing adult hydrocephalus would save Medicare in excess of $184MM over five years
10. **FACT** – Although the technology has improved the basic treatment for hydrocephalus has not significantly changed since the 1950's.
11. **FACT** - The U.S. has yet to establish an accurate way of monitoring hydrocephalus cases.  Many more people may be living with the condition than is known.
12. **FACT** - A shunt is NOT a cure-- it's only a control—and in children shunts have a 50% failure rate in the first two years.
13. **FACT** - Early symptoms of shunt malfunction-- headache, fever, vomiting and irritability-- can be confused with many other childhood illnesses.
14. **FACT** - A hydrocephalus related shunt surgery is performed every 30 minutes
15. **FACT** - Over one million people in the US are currently living with hydrocephalus.
16. **FACT** --An estimated 375,000 older Americans are believed to have NPH, but often are misdiagnosed as having Alzheimer’s or dementia. If properly diagnosed and treated many could return to being fully functional.
17. **FACT** - Hydrocephalus is the most common brain disorder treated by a neurosurgeon
18. **FACT** - Medical costs for children with hydrocephalus totals more than $2 billion annually.
19. **FACT** - Last year the U.S. government spent $6.2 million on hydrocephalus research (contrasted with government expenditure of $100 million for autism and $200 million for Parkinson’s disease – although all three issues affect approximately the same number of Americans
20. **FACT** - The Hydrocephalus Association provides support and education to individuals, families and professionals dealing with the complex issues of this condition.
21. **FACT** - 60% of children with hydrocephalus will not live independently.
22. **FACT** - In 2009 the Hydrocephalus Association added funding research to its portfolio and is now the largest private funder of hydrocephalus research in the world.
23. **FACT** - The Hydrocephalus Association is the largest non-profit organization dedicated to hydrocephalus in the U.S.
24. **FACT** **- It’s time for a CURE!**