



Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Day

Mental health disorders affect millions of Americans each year. According to the Harris County Mental Health Needs Council, 740,000 people live with mental illness in Harris County. Depression and bipolar disorder are the two most commonly diagnosed mental illnesses facing Houstonians today.

In response to this critical need, the **Depressive Manic Depressive Association - Greater Houston** formed in 1979 with the goal of providing free and confidential support for those impacted by depression and bipolar disorder. In 2003, it reformed under a new name of **Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Greater Houston (DBSA)**, led by Gary Levering, a dedicated and enthusiastic participant. Mr. Levering utilized his personal experience and strong community connections to recruit and build the initial **DBSA** board of directors, a board that is still very strong and active today.

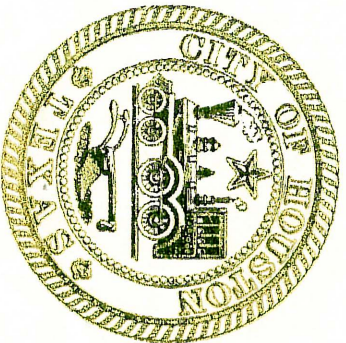
Through the years, **DBSA** has grown from six to more than 70 weekly support groups in and around the greater Houston area. Today, the Houston organization is the largest of the nation's 400 **DBSA** chapters, serving thousands of Houstonians annually, including some of the area's most vulnerable populations, including seniors, adolescents, veterans and the incarcerated.

The City of Houston commends the **Depression Bipolar Support Alliance - Greater Houston** for its commitment to health and wellness of the community and extends best wishes for continued success.

Therefore, I, Annise D. Parker, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby proclaim July 19, 2011, as,

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Day

in Houston, Texas.



In Witness Whereof, I have heretunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 14th day of July, 2011.

Annise D. Parker
Mayor of the City of Houston