

THE DSG News

PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME - VALUED AND INCLUDED

August 2016

Affiliate of the National
Down Syndrome Congress
and the National Down
Syndrome Society

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E D O W N S Y N D R O M E G U I L D O F D A L L A S

Let's Get Ready to Walk! 2016 Buddy Walk®

Online registration begins this month! The Buddy Walk® is an incredible day of celebration with family and friends to raise awareness, raise funds, and raise hope of a better world for all people with Down syndrome. Your family and friends will enjoy a fun afternoon that includes a one-mile walk, bounce houses, rock climbing wall, and food trucks, as well as some new additions this year.

Being a part of a Buddy Walk® team is a wonderful experience, which culminates in participating in the one-mile walk along with thousands of other participants. Last year, we had over 200 teams and raised over \$350,000 to support the programs and services offered by the organization throughout the year. We hope to exceed last year's success, and we need your help.

Begin organizing your Buddy Walk® team now to raise money and promote our goals of awareness, acceptance, and inclusion of people



with Down syndrome. It is easy to form a Buddy Walk® team by visiting our website at www.downsyndromedallas.org.

Simply select *Buddy Walk®* from the *Events* tab to begin your registration and fundraising. If you have any questions or need assistance registering your team, please contact the DSG office at (214) 267-1374.

Corporate sponsorships are also an important part of our effort. If you, your company, or anyone you know is interested in sponsorship opportunities for the 2016 Buddy Walk®, please contact Jennifer Ford at (214) 267-1374 or jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org.

Moms Night Out

Friday, September 23, 2016
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Down Syndrome Guild
1702 N. Collins Blvd., Suite 170
Richardson, TX 75080

Moms of individuals with Down syndrome of any age are invited to join us for a night of Bunco while enjoying the company of other moms. A catered dinner will be provided. Please feel free to bring additional beverages of your choice. Space is limited and RSVP is required to Samantha Escherich at (214) 267-1374 or samantha@downsyndromedallas.org **no later than Friday, September 16, 2016.**

GREAT WAY TO HONOR LOVED ONES

Club 21

is a Down Syndrome Guild program to honor a loved one: matching the numeral of the important chromosome that affects our children.

In honor of Caleb Jones.

From: Kristine Rudell

A gift to the Down Syndrome Guild to honor loved ones is a tangible way to recognize their lives, celebrate holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, new homes, or any number of occasions.

A gift in honor of a friend or relative is a thoughtful and caring way to express sympathy while sharing concern for an important cause. Upon receiving a memorial or honorarium gift, the DSG will notify the family or individual of your thoughtfulness and send you, the donor, a letter of receipt.

Interested in making a *Club 21* donation? Contact Jennifer Ford at (214) 267-1374 ext. 1 or e-mail jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org.

Executive Director's Message by Jennifer Ford

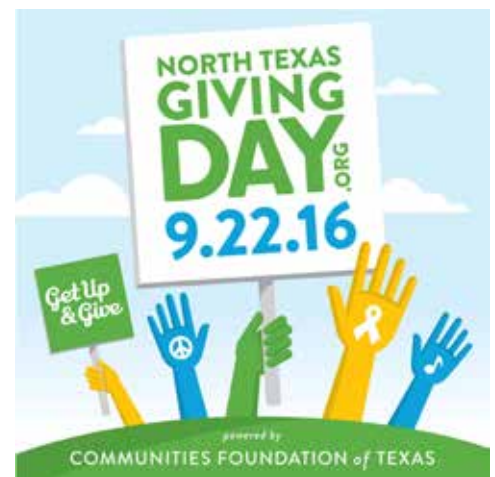
Winston Churchill is often credited for the quote "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." In light of recent events and divisiveness across the nation, it seems that more and more citizens are seeking ways to come together and give back to their communities in a positive manner. While there are many opportunities both large and small in our communities everyday, I want to highlight a specific day in North Texas that consistently brings members of our community together to give back to thousands of organizations right in our own backyards.

North Texas Giving Day is an online giving event for people across the nation (and the world!) to come together to raise as much money as possible for North Texas nonprofits on one day: **September 22, 2016**. Donations \$25 to \$50,000 made between 6:00 am and midnight on **September 22, 2016**, will be multiplied by \$2.5 million in bonus funds and prizes. Every nonprofit receiving a donation on this day receives a portion of the bonus funds, which increases the value of every dollar donated. In seven years, North Texas Giving Day has pumped more than \$119 million into the North Texas community. In 2015, \$33 million was raised through more than 118,000 gifts benefiting 2,020 nonprofits organizations that seek to enhance the North Texas community each and every day.

In addition to the Buddy Walk® and our annual Golf Classic, funds raised through North Texas Giving day allow

the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas to offer free educational and social opportunities for members of all ages throughout the year. These funds allow us to educate and provide resources to medical professionals, educators, potential employers, and community leaders about Down syndrome. These funds allow us to reach out to new and expectant families and surround them with a supportive community of fellow parents and advocates. These funds allow us to make North Texas a better community for both people with and without Down syndrome.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."- Gandhi. Give back to North Texas and the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas on **September 22, 2016**. Contributions will be accepted from 6:00 am to midnight on one day only (**September 22, 2016**) at <https://northtexasgivingday.org/npo/down-syndrome-guild-of-dallas>. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support of our organization and all people with Down syndrome.



New Parent Meeting for Families with Children Ages 0-2 Years Old

Sunday, September 18, 2016

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas

1702 N. Collins Blvd., Suite 170

Richardson, TX 75080

Families with children ages 0-2 with Down syndrome are invited to join us as we gather information, meet new friends, and share resources. Light snacks and childcare will be provided. Childcare space is limited and families must RSVP to Samantha Escherich at samantha@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374 **no later than Wednesday, September 14, 2016. When making a reservation, please include the number of children needing childcare, their names, ages, dietary restrictions, and any additional information you think would be helpful to our childcare workers.**

DSG Ambassador & Calendar Model Search Update!

Thank you to all of our candidates who have already submitted applications for our 2017 DSG Ambassador & Calendar Model Search! Due to feedback and suggestions from our membership, we are updating our program to more effectively highlight our community. As a result, we will no longer be compiling a printed calendar but rather focusing on showcasing our Ambassadors through online print materials, our website, the DSG newsletter and DSG sponsored events. Each of our 12 Ambassadors will be assigned a specific month to be featured, share their personal story, and promote inclusion within our North Texas community.

We are asking each Ambassador to commit to the following:

- 2017 Ambassador Photo Shoot
- Portrait to be displayed at events and at the DSG office

- Captain a 2017 Buddy Walk® Team raising no less than \$1000/team
- Sell no less than 25 golf raffle tickets
- Attend any DSG sponsored events in your featured month deemed appropriate by the DSG
- Share your story with the DSG for publication in the DSG newsletter, website, and other social media outlets

If you have already submitted your application, you need only to email you are still interested in participating in our updated program as outlined above. If you did not previously submit an application and are now interested in doing so, please visit our website at www.downsyndromedallas.org. **The deadline to submit your application is August 31, 2016.** We look forward to showcasing our member stories. Please join us as we create innovative ways to inspire and educate others.



Meet & Greet Dinner with Tim Harris for Self Advocates Ages 18 and Older

Friday, September 30, 2016

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Down Syndrome Guild

1702 N. Collins Blvd., Suite 170

Richardson, TX 75080

Self advocates ages 18 and older are invited to join us for dinner and a meet and greet with restaurateur, inspirational speaker, and social change advocate, Tim Harris. Tim will share his impactful life story with plenty of time for questions and photos. Please RSVP with the name of the adult joining and any food allergies to Samantha Escherich at samantha@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374 **no later than Friday, September 16, 2016.**

Due to space constraints, this event is limited to adults with Down syndrome. Parents and self advocates may also hear Tim present at the 2016 Learning Together, Focusing on Possibilities Fall Conference on Saturday, October 1. Complete details can be found on pages 4-5 of this publication.

2016 Learning Together, Focusing on Possibilities Fall Conference

Saturday, October 1, 2016 . Collin College Spring Creek Campus . 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Each year, the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas' annual conference brings together members of the community to learn from our collective accomplishments and the expertise of professionals. This conference serves as a platform to share research and evidence-based information from specialists in their respective fields, as it relates to Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities. You'll experience first class presenters and hands on sessions full of information you can take back to your homes, businesses, and classrooms.

Who Should Attend?

Parents, educators, medical professionals, service providers, direct care staff, and advocates are all encouraged to attend. Our goal is to provide attendees with practical information and tools to help individuals with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities of any age be independent and lead productive, fulfilling lives.

Resource Fair

The conference also provides a great opportunity to network with fellow participants and to shop the resource fair for products and information that will help support people with intellectual disabilities both at home and at school.

Registration

To register for this year's conference, please visit our website at <http://>

downsyndromedallas.org/fall-conference or complete and return the enclosed registration brochure. The fee is \$50 for individuals and \$15 for self advocates and includes lunch, handouts, and refreshments.

Presenters and Sessions

Michael Remus, Co-founder at *Possibilities, Inc.* and Director of *Student Services at Sedona-Oak Creek Unified School District*

Keynote 1: Are We There Yet with Inclusive Practices after 40 Years? - This keynote will hopefully recharge people to keep advocating for more inclusive practices knowing we have an uphill battle not only in our schools but at the federal and state level with implementing the law that was passed in 1975. Are we there yet? Not yet but we must keep striving to move the system ahead.

Strategies for Supporting Positive Behaviors in the Inclusive Classroom - This session will deal with all the issues that can cause behavior issues in the classroom and how we must address the root cause for a behavior. Unless we get to the root of the behavior discipline and behavior plans are not going to work as we would not be treating the root cause.

A Community of Practice for Inclusive Education - This session will deal with all the audiences needed to support inclusive practices and

how to obtain their buy-in for moving a school system to more inclusive practices. Strategies for each audience will be provided and the participants can take and create their own activities to use in their own school district to move towards more inclusive practices.

Stump the Director - This session will be geared for participants to bring any legal questions and issues they are facing with their school district to see if they can stump the director. Participants can come and ask any questions they have about what they are dealing with so the director can answer their questions and give them suggestions and/or recommendations on how to move past the barriers facing them.

Tim Harris, *Restaurateur, inspirational speaker, and social change advocate, Tim's Big Heart Foundation*

Keynote 2: Seven Steps to an Awesome Life - Tim Harris will be speaking on living life to the fullest using the seven steps he integrates into his daily life and how he stays so positive.

Tim Harris and Lori Fierro, *Tim's Big Heart Foundation*

Living an Independent Life Successfully - Tim will discuss the steps he has taken to live independently as a young adult. He will discuss challenges he has faced and how he has worked to overcome these challenges and the people who have helped him along the way. There will also be a time for questions and answers with Tim and Lori.

DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF DALLAS
FALL CONFERENCE
FEES

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT
www.downsyndromedallas.org
STARTING AUGUST 1, 2016

Fees include lunch, refreshments and handouts.

	PRICE
INDIVIDUAL:	\$50
SELF ADVOCATE:	\$15

*Limited confidential financial assistance available for
DSG members. For information call 214.267.1374*

I have enclosed check(s), payable to the Down Syndrome
Guild of Dallas in the amount of \$ _____

I have enclosed cash in the amount of \$ _____

Please charge \$ _____ to my:

VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

SIGNATURE

CHILDCARE IS NOT PROVIDED.

MAIL FORM & PAYMENT TO:

Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas
1702 North Collins Blvd., Suite 170
Richardson, TX 75080

For additional conference information please contact
214.267.1374

Download additional registration forms at
www.downsyndromedallas.org

Collin Campus Map

2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX 75074



Hotel Information

Nearby hotels include

Hilton Garden Inn Dallas/Allen

705 Central Expressway South, Allen, Texas 75013
214.547.1700

Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel

900 E. Lookout Drive, Richardson, Texas 75082
972.367.2000

Courtyard by Marriott Dallas Allen

210 E. Stacy Rd., Allen, TX, 75002
214.383.1151



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
OF DALLAS

1702 NORTH COLLINS BLVD., SUITE 170
RICHARDSON, TX 75080
214.267.1374 | FAX 972.234.2510
www.downsyndromedallas.org

FALL CONFERENCE
2016

Learning Together,
Focusing on Possibilities



OCTOBER 1, 2016

COLLIN COLLEGE SPRING CREEK CAMPUS –
CONFERENCE CENTER
2800 E. SPRING CREEK PARKWAY
PLANO, TX 75074

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
CHARLES H. PHIPPS FAMILY FOUNDATION.

DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
OF DALLAS

Conference Overview

Each year, the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas' annual conference brings together members of the community to learn from our collective accomplishments and the expertise of professionals. This conference serves as a platform to share cutting-edge developments and information from specialists in their respective fields, as it relates to Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities. You'll experience first class presenters and hands on sessions full of information you can take back to your homes, businesses and classrooms and use immediately including:

- Inclusion
- Accommodations and modifications
- Independent living
- Behavior
- Post high school transitions
- Self help skills
- Grade to grade transitions
- ENT manifestations
- Employment

Who should attend?

Parents, educators, medical professionals, service providers, direct care staff, and advocates are all encouraged to attend. Our goal is to provide attendees with practical information and tools to help individuals with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities be independent and lead productive, fulfilling lives.

Resource Fair

The conference also provides a great opportunity to network with fellow participants and to shop the resource fair for products and information that will help support people with intellectual disabilities both at home and at school. Be sure to stop by the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas table to find out more about our programs and resources available.

A G E N D A

Continuing Education Units provided for Social Workers
Certificate of Attendance provided for Educators and Professionals

8:00 a.m. Registration & Coffee

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Keynote

KEYNOTE: Michael Remus - Are We There Yet with Inclusive Practices after 40 Years?
Tim Harris - Seven Steps to an Awesome Life

10:30 a.m. Breakout I

SESSION 1: Michael Remus - A Community of Practice for Inclusive Education
SESSION 2: Julie Harmon - Accommodations and Modification to the Curriculum: Ensuring Meaningful Participation in General Education Classrooms
SESSION 3: Tim Harris and Lori Fierro - Living an Independent Life Successfully

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Breakout II

SESSION 4: Michael Remus - Strategies for Supporting Positive Behaviors in the Inclusive Classroom
SESSION 5: Julie Harmon - Transition: Life After High School
SESSION 6: Kari Zerbe - Self Help Skills in the Early Childhood Years to Create Independence

2:45 p.m. Refreshment Break

3:00 p.m. Breakout III

SESSION 7: Michael Remus - Stump the Director
SESSION 8: Julie Harmon - Transition – Grade-to-Grade, School-to-School: Planning for Success
SESSION 9: Gretchen Champion - ENT Manifestations of Down Syndrome
SESSION 10: Ruth Thompson and Mary Ann Pyron - Employer Panel

4:30 p.m. Conference Closes

View speaker bios and session descriptions online at www.downsyndromedallas.org

DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF DALLAS FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT
www.downsyndromedallas.org

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

ALTERNATE PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- PARENT / FAMILY
 PROFESSIONAL
 THERAPIST
 EDUCATOR
 SELF ADVOCATE
 OTHER

SESSIONS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:

(Please choose one session in each breakout)

- Breakout I**
 SESSION 1
 SESSION 2
 SESSION 3
Breakout II
 SESSION 4
 SESSION 5
 SESSION 6

- Breakout III**
 SESSION 7
 SESSION 8
 SESSION 9
 SESSION 10

Julie Harmon, *Director of Parent Services, PEAK Parent Center, Colorado Springs, CO*

Accommodations and Modification to the Curriculum: Ensuring Meaningful Participation in General Education Classrooms - In this fun, hands-on workshop, families and educators will explore real examples of accommodations (changes in how a student learns and shows what he/she knows) and modifications (changes in what a student learns) for students with disabilities! Participants of this workshop will: learn about the role of accommodations and modifications and the differences between each, explore various tools and strategies that can assist teachers and parents, and will learn how to include individualized accommodations and modifications on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This session will also explore Universal Design for Learning as a strategy to design curriculum that is accessible to all students!

Transition: Life After High School - Transition is not a one time event, it's a process. And, when it comes to helping support young people with disabilities to enter adulthood, there are unique and important things for students, families, educators, and community members to take into consideration. In this workshop, participants will explore

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals that relate to transition to adulthood, independent living, employment, self advocacy, community resources and more! Transitioning from high school to the adult world brings about tremendous opportunity. This session will help keep a vision of possibilities alive as young people with disabilities are being supported to move from high school to the adult world!

Transition – Grade-to-Grade, School-to-School: Planning for Success - Families and educators should not have to “reinvent the wheel” every time a student changes grades or schools! In this productive workshop, effective transition processes will be explored from preschool through high school! Participants will learn how to collect and share key information so school teams can build on the existing successes and strengths of the student!

Gretchen Champion, *MD, The Ear, Nose & Throat Centers of Texas*

ENT Manifestations of Down Syndrome - A review of the ear, nose and throat issues in children and adults with Down Syndrome including hearing loss, eustachian tube dysfunction, ear infections, sinusitis, sleep apnea and airway obstruction.

Kari Zerbe, *Chairman of the Board, Rise School of Dallas*

Self Help Skills in the Early Childhood Years to Create Independence - This session will cover effective strategies in the areas of adaptive/self help skills that will better promote and increase independence in young children. We will discuss being successful and realistic while mastering skills.

Ruth Thompson, *Founder and President at HUGS Café & Mary Ann Pyron*, *Blake's Snow Shack*

Employer Panel - This session will focus on the opportunities and challenges associated with employment for people with intellectual disabilities. Panelists will share their personal entrepreneurial experiences with ample time for question and answer.

Special thanks to the Charles H. Phipps Family Foundation for their support of the 2016 Learning Together, Focusing on Possibilities Fall Conference.



Outstanding Educator of the Year Award Nominations

Each year, the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas recognizes individuals and/or teams working with students with Down syndrome in an inclusive educational setting, public or private. Experience, education, and community involvement, as well as teaching philosophy, are all criteria that the Award Committee will consider. Past winners have included teachers, transition specialists, speech therapists, paraprofessionals, and others working at all grade levels.

Any Down Syndrome Guild member may nominate their favorite educator by going to our website at <http://downsyndromedallas.org/fall-conference> and downloading a nomination form. **Deadline for nominations is Monday August 29, 2016.** The winner will be recognized at the *Learning Together, Focusing on Possibilities* Fall Conference on October 1, 2016. Members may also contact Jennifer Ford at jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374 to request a form.

Wet Zone for New Parents with Children Ages 0-4

Saturday, August 13, 2016
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Wet Zone Waterpark (Rowlett)
5304 Main St.
Rowlett, TX 75088

New Parents with a child with Down syndrome ages 0-4 and their immediate family members, (parents and siblings), are invited to join us for some fun in the sun at Wet Zone Water

Park in Rowlett. Your day includes all day entrance to all the water park features and a picnic lunch in our own reserved pavilion. Space is limited and RSVP with the number of adults and children is required to Samantha Escherich at (214) 267-1374 or samantha@downsyndromedallas.org no later than **Wednesday, August 10, 2016.**

Perot Museum for Teens Ages 13-17

Saturday, September 24, 2016
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Perot Museum
2201 N. Field Street
Dallas, Texas 75201-1704

Teens ages 13-17 are invited to join peers for an afternoon of discovery and fun. Teens will explore 11 permanent

exhibit halls while exercising their brains through hands-on activities, interactive kiosks, and educational games. Please RSVP with the name of the teen joining to Samantha Escherich at samantha@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374 **no later than Friday, September 2, 2016.**

Miss Paula's Music Therapy was a Hit for Both Parents and their Children



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Presented by
Renee Roy Hill,
MS, CCC-SLP

Register now at TalkTools.com/Workshops!

Course Description

TalkTools' innovative tactile-sensory approach to speech therapy uses therapy tools to train and transition muscle movements for speech production. Learn how 40 highly motivating motor activities can be used to improve phonation, resonance, and speech clarity. Interactive, hands-on demonstrations will focus on therapeutically sound techniques to develop oral-motor movements for improved speech clarity. Muscles of the abdomen, velum, jaw, lips, and tongue will be discussed within the parameters of movements necessary for speech production. Developmentally appropriate motor movements for speech are therapeutically targeted using highly motivating techniques appropriate for children and adults.

Learning Outcomes

1. Appropriately assess oral placement/feeding/speech problems based on muscle systems.
2. Integrate hierarchies for motor dissociation and grading (jaw-lips-tongue).
3. Plan programs of therapeutic intervention to address physiological and motor-based speech disorders.
4. Appropriately apply at least 10 new therapy techniques.
5. Learn to use oral placement techniques to improve individual speech clarity and production.

Earn 1.2 CEUs!

"Eye opening, full of techniques I can use immediately in my practice."



RENEE ROY HILL, MS, CCC-SLP has provided therapeutic assessments and program planning for adults and children with oral placement, feeding and motor speech deficits for over 17 years. She is the owner of Crossroads Therapy Clinic in New Braunfels, TX and a member of the TalkTools® speakers bureau. Renee has been an invited speaker for ASHA state conventions and has received specialized training in speech/oral-motor/feeding therapy, Apraxia, sensory processing disorders, Hanen Courses, NDT training, TAMO therapy and PROMPT. She is the creator of the TalkTools® Schedule Board Kit, co-author of Ice Sticks, and author of the TalkTools® Apraxia Program.

Speaker Disclosure: Financial Disclosure: Renee Roy Hill is the Owner of Crossroads Therapy Clinic. She is a member of the TalkTools® speakers bureau and receives speaker honorarium. She is author of products published by TalkTools® and receives royalties. Non-Financial Disclosure: She has no relevant nonfinancial relationships to disclose. Content Disclosure: This presentation will focus on treatment methods related to the use of TalkTools® OPT resources. Other similar treatment approaches will receive little or no coverage during this lecture.



TALKTOOLS is approved by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) to provide continuing education activities in occupational therapy. The 2-day programs are offered for 1.2 CEUs, while 1-day programs are offered for 0.6 CEUs. The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA.

888-529-2879



This course is offered for 1.2 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).

1702 N. COLLINS BLVD.
SUITE 170
RICHARDSON, TX 75080

Return Service Requested

(214) 267-1374

www.downsyndromedallas.org

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PRESIDENT: LYNN CAMPBELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JENNIFER FORD
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING: SAMANTHA ESCHERICH

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DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF DALLAS



MISSION STATEMENT: THE DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF DALLAS PROVIDES ACCURATE AND CURRENT INFORMATION, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY.

VISION STATEMENT: PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME - VALUED AND INCLUDED.

ARE YOU MOVING? DON'T FORGET TO PROVIDE US WITH YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS BY CALLING THE OFFICE AT 214.267.1374 OR SEND US AN E-MAIL AT JENNIFER@DOWNSYNDROMEDALLAS.ORG.

Down Syndrome Guild Calendar of Events

August 6

Breakfast for Dinner for Self
Advocates Ages 18 and Older
and
Hawaiian Falls Day for Youth
and Teen Families Ages 5-17

August 8-12

iCan Shine Bike Camp

August 13

Wet Zone for New Parents
with Children Ages 0-4