

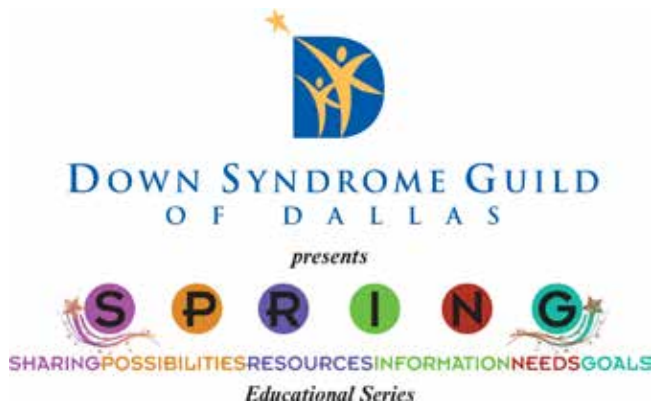
THE DSG News

PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME – VALUED AND INCLUDED

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

November 2016

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



Save the Date!
January 21, February 18,
April 8 & May 6

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

***Free workshops on reading and literacy,
kindergarten and PPCD preparation,
individualized education plans, friendship
building, advocacy, and more.***

***Registration and complete series schedule
coming soon to [http://downsyndromedallas.org/
spring-education-series](http://downsyndromedallas.org/spring-education-series).***

Cookies with Santa for Families with Children Ages 0-12

Saturday, December 10, 2016
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Fellowship Bible Church
9330 N Central Expy
Dallas, TX 75231

The Down Syndrome Guild invites families of children with Down syndrome ages 0-12 to join us for cookies and pictures with Santa. Children will have the opportunity to decorate gingerbread man cookies and have their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. This holiday event is free of charge to all Down Syndrome Guild members and their *immediate* family. Space is limited, so participants *must RSVP* with the number of adults and children to Samantha Escherich at samantha@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374 *no later than Friday, December 2, 2016.*

President's Message *by Lynn Campbell*

The Guild's Fall Education Conference on October 1st was a wonderful day for parents, educators, & therapists to come together to gather new information, share experiences, and be encouraged.

The vision of the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas is People with Down syndrome - valued and included. One of our key note speakers, Michael Remus, Director of Student Support Services for the Sedona Creek and Cottonwood Oak School Districts in Northern Arizona, shares our vision and provided excellent information with parents and educators about how to make the vision a reality. His passion for building all communities to be inclusive for every individual was evident throughout the day in all of the sessions which he presented. With his permission, I would like to share key points from his presentation.

1. Inclusive education is an attitude, not a place. The focus is on giving every student the help s/he needs in the least restrictive environment.

2. ALL students need some small group time, not just students with special needs.

3. Inclusive practices in schools do not have to result in extra expenses for the school district. When students are served in general education classrooms with supports, school districts can save money. Some of the savings can be used to provide paraprofessionals to help deliver those services in the general education classroom.

4. Build relationships with school personnel.

5. Create a partnership attitude with school personnel. Provide educators with information and resources they may not have.

6. If your vision for your child is to be included in a general education classroom as a citizen of the class like all of the other students, indicate that vision to the school. Communicate clearly your beliefs and values for your child.

7. Put questions and concerns you have in writing prior to meetings with your child's education team.

8. When considering a student's goals,

- ask if s/he growing and learning
- don't just focus on complying with minimum standards
- keep your long-range vision for the student in mind. Ask yourself how the goals will help the student achieve the long-range goals after they finish school.

9. If there is disagreement on goals and/or placement, ask for data from the school supporting the school's recommendations.

10. At school meetings, ask teachers for data to see progress.

Other speakers included Tim Harris, self-advocate and inspiring speaker sharing his "Seven Steps to an Awesome Life" as well as Tim and his life coach, Lori Fierro, presenting on "Living an Independent Life Successfully." Julie Harmon, the new Inclusion Coordinator at the University of Colorado-Colorado

Springs and former Director of Parent Services at PEAK Parent Center, and who is also the proud parent of two sons with Down syndrome, ages 24 and 16, presented sessions on accommodations and modifications to the curriculum and transitions grade-to-grade and after high school. The employer panel of Ruth Thompson, Founder and President of Hugs Cafe, Inc. and Mary Ann Pyron and Blake Pyron, self-advocate owner of Blake's Snow Shack, provided information on training and employment for adults with special needs and how to start a successful business. The dedication and perseverance of these individuals was amazing.

We are thankful for these excellent speakers, as well as the parents (and grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings), educators, and therapists who came together to give their expertise, share their journeys, and give of their time to participate in the mission of the DSG to provide accurate and current information, resources and support for people with Down syndrome, their families, and the community.

We are thankful for each of you, for your involvement with the DSG and your willingness to help others along the way. Wishing you a month of thankfulness!

Dads' Night Out Steak 101 Class at Local Yocal Farm to Market

Saturday, November 11, 2016
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Local Yocal Farm to Market
213 N Tennessee St.
McKinney, TX 75069

Love steak? Then join us for Steak 101 - an education in all things beefy with Local Yocal's highly entertaining owner, Matt Hamilton, in Historic Downtown McKinney. Steak 101 is divided into 3 segments: (1) Meat Industry Discussion, (2) The Beef Carcass and Steak Cuts, and (3) Grilling & Sampling! You'll get the inside story about beef; certification programs, meat

grading, cattle raising, grilling, and much more. Learn about the difference between Wagyu vs. Angus, naturally-raised vs. grass-fed, and rare vs. ruined. Visit the cutting room to see what makes each steak special, and then enjoy a delicious tasting of 17+ fine beef cuts! Bring your appetite, and BYOB! Dads of individuals with Down syndrome of any age are welcome.

Space is limited and RSVP is required to Samantha Escherich at (214) 267-1374 or samantha@downsyndrome.org or dallas.org no later than Monday, November 7, 2016.

Save the Date! Herb's Paint & Body Down Syndrome Guild Golf Classic

HERB'S PAINT & BODY
DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
GOLF CLASSIC

New Place,
New Date
...Mark Your
Calendar

Monday, May 22, 2017 • Dallas Athletic Country Club

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 loving memory of Betty
Eaves "Gran Betty".*

From: Cheryl Diann

*In honor of Joseph Cano with
love from India!*

From: Jean Kingery

*In loving memory of
Gregory Elder.*

*From: Angie Elder, Terri Elder-
Travis & Family, and Kathy
Elder-Graben & Family*

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



White Elephant Holiday Party for Adults 18 and Older

Saturday, December 17, 2016
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Down Syndrome Guild
1702 N. Collins Blvd. Suite 170
Richardson, TX 75080

Everyone loves a good holiday party! Self advocates ages 18 and older are invited to wear their tackiest holiday apparel and join us for lunch and a gift exchange. Please bring a \$15.00, wrapped, unisex gift in order to play the game. We ask that no food items are brought as gifts because of allergies. **Participants must RSVP to Samantha Escherich at samantha@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374 ext. 2 no later than Friday, December 9, 2016. Happy holidays!**

Teens Explored Fun Exhibits at the Perot Museum



Instructor-Led Playgroup for Ages 0-4

Mondays, September 12 -
December 12, 2016
9:00 am - 10:00 am
*The Connection Station
Children's Language
Development Center
105 S. Butler Drive
Allen, TX 75013*

Join other families with children ages 0-4 with Down syndrome for an instructor-led playgroup that aims to promote motor and social skills. Siblings of any age are also welcome to attend. The class will be taught by Wendy McLean, PT, C/NDT. Wendy graduated from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center physical therapy program and has completed 227 hours of advanced holistic pediatric clinical training to earn her certification as

a Neuro-Developmental Treatment (NDT) therapist. Wendy has extensive experience helping children and adults with developmental and neurological challenges through early childhood intervention programs, schools, and outpatient clinic setting. She is a certified clinical instructor for PT students through the American Physical Therapy Association and has also been trained in the use of Adaptive Yoga, Emotional Regulation Techniques, and Infant Massage.

Participants must RSVP to Samantha Escherich at samantha@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374 with parent name, child with Down syndrome name and age, and sibling name and age.



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
OF DALLAS

GRUPO DE FAMILIAS UNIDAS

19 DE NOVIEMBRE

3-5 PM

REUNION DE

GRUPO DE

FAMILIAS

UNIDAS

**GRUPO DE
FAMILIAS UNIDAS**

Ven a conocer y
reunirte con otros
padres que tienen
hijos con
syndrome de Down

Las reuniones son
en Español!

Toda la familia es
bienvenida

Familias Hispanas
Unidas para ayudar
a nuestros hijos

**DOWN SYNDROME
GUILD OF DALLAS**

1702 N. Collins Blvd.
Suite 170
Richardson, TX 75080

19 de noviembre
de 2016

3-5 pm

2016 DSG Outstanding Educator of the Year



Each year the DSG selects an Outstanding Educator, someone who goes above and beyond in their capacities to educate children with Down syndrome. The Outstanding Educator nominees this year represented classroom teachers, principals, and school districts who made significant positive impacts on students with Down syndrome. One exceptional

nominee was presented with the DSG of Dallas Outstanding Educator of the Year Award at our Fall Education Conference on October 1, 2016. Congratulations to Shannon Bazbaz at Wilma Fisher Elementary School in Frisco ISD. Ms. Bazbaz and Wilma Fisher Elementary School were both awarded grants to further their impact on the students in their district.

Self Advocates Had a Blast Meeting Tim Harris



Holiday and Year-End Giving

Whether you are searching for that perfect holiday gift or simply interested in making a year-end charitable contribution, a gift to the Down Syndrome Guild is a wonderful way to give back to the community. Your tax deductible contribution will help support the mission of the DSG by allowing us to continue providing accurate and current information, resources, and support for people with Down syndrome, their families, and the community.

To make a holiday or year-end contribution to the Down Syndrome Guild, please visit our website at www.downsyndromedallas.org and click the *Donate Now!* link in the upper right corner of your screen.

Please contact the DSG office at (214) 267-1374 or e-mail jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org if you have any questions or need assistance with your giving.

One-on-One Volunteer Training

Saturday, December 3, 2016
10:00 am - 11:00 or
Saturday, January 7, 2017

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

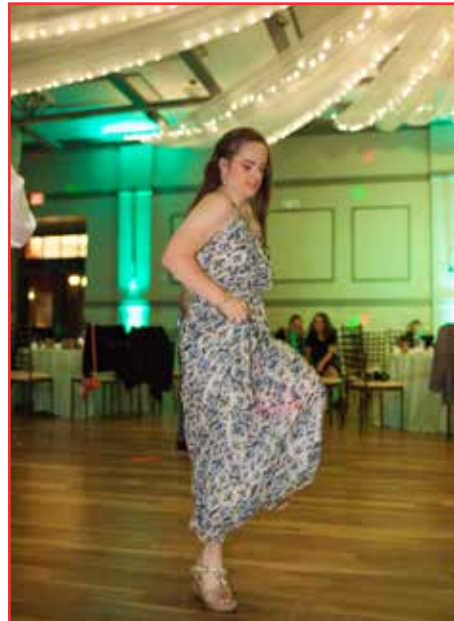
Down Syndrome Guild
1702 N. Collins Blvd. Suite 170
Richardson, TX 75080

One-on-one volunteers serve as peer buddies at various events (i.e. the zoo, a baseball game, movie) with teens and adults with Down syndrome. Volunteers will form ongoing relationships with self-advocates and also support staff in making sure the event goes smoothly and as planned.

All one-on-one volunteers are required to complete this mandatory training in order to volunteer for the Guild at ongoing event. This training will cover what Down syndrome is, what the role of a volunteer is, filling out paperwork, completing a background check, and playing some fun games!

Interested volunteers may contact Samantha Escherich at (214) 267-1374 or samantha@downsyndromedallas.org for more information and to sign up for training.

IMPCT Gala for Self Advocates Ages 18 & Older



Holiday Treats for Teens Ages 13-17

Saturday, December 10, 2016
 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
 Down Syndrome Guild
 1702 N. Collins Blvd. Suite 170
 Richardson, TX 75080

Teens ages 13-17 are invited to join peers for an afternoon of holiday treats,

including a festive movie, holiday cookies, and hot cocoa. **Please RSVP with the name of the teen joining us to Samantha Escherich at samantha@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374 no later than Friday, December 2, 2016.**

Inclusive Schools Week



December 5-9, 2016, is Inclusive Schools Week, an annual event sponsored by the Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) and Stetson & Associates. Since its inception in 2001, Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population. The Week also provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children.

We would like to hear your stories to encourage others. Please send your comments and stories to Jennifer at jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org.

For more information, go to <http://inclusiveschools.org/inclusive-schools-week/>. You will find a wealth of information and free Inclusive Schools Network materials that schools and communities used in planning past celebrations and that you can use to promote awareness about the importance of inclusive education year-round in your school and your community.

Game Night for Teens Ages 13-17

Saturday, November 19, 2016
 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
 Down Syndrome Guild
 1702 N. Collins Blvd. Suite 170
 Richardson, TX 75080

Teens ages 13-17 are invited to join peers for a night full of fun, games, and snacks. Have your game face ready to learn and teach new and exciting games. If you don't love games but like hanging out with friends and munching on snacks, you are welcome too! **Please RSVP with the name of the teen joining us to Samantha Escherich at samantha@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374 no later than Friday, November 11, 2016.**

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

Return Service Requested

(214) 267-1374

www.downsyndromedallas.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DALLASDSG.

PRESIDENT: LYNN CAMPBELL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JENNIFER FORD

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING: SAMANTHA ESCHERICH

DOWN SYNDROME CLINIC EVERY THURSDAY
AND FRIDAY AT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER.

CALL (214) 456-2357

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

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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

November 11
Dads' Night Out

November 19
Teen Game Night
Grupo de Familias Unidas