

# THE DSG News

PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME – VALUED AND INCLUDED

July/August 2017

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! 2017 Buddy Walk®

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, 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 \$325,000 to support the programs and services offered by the organization throughout the year. We hope to exceed last year's success, but 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. Online registration is anticipated to



open in the month of July at [www.downsyndromedallas.org](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org), so please watch your e-mail and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DSGDallas/> for the latest Buddy Walk® updates and announcements. 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 2017 Buddy Walk®, please contact Jennifer Ford at 214.267.1374 or [jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org).

## In the Community

Did you know that the DSG website features an *In the Community* page that highlights a multitude of opportunities and resources for families in the DFW community? To access the *In the Community* page, simply visit our website at [www.downsyndromedallas.org](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org) and hover over the *Resources* tab. From there, you will be able to select *In the Community* and access a wide variety of seminars, resource fairs, camps, educational resources, recreational activities, and so much more being offered by others in the community. We are always adding to this list of valuable resources, so please feel free to contact us at 214.267.1374 if you have a resource or opportunity that you feel would be valuable to other members.

**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.*

***Congratulations on you 50th Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Howard Wasserman!***

*From: John Labba and Elaine Weiss*

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](mailto:jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org).

***President's Message*** *By Lynn Campbell*

The DSG's 4 SPRING series events were well-attended with many participants indicating how the information presented and opportunity to share information with each other were very helpful. Did you know that SPRING is our acronym for "Sharing Possibilities Resources Information Needs & Goals"? That is just what I observed at our recent series, parents and professional sharing expertise, tips, and challenges, encouraging each other along the way. While most come for the information presented by a speaker, they walk away with much more, as they meet some ahead of them in their journey, some in the same boat, so to speak, and some they want to help along the way. I heard, "I didn't know what I didn't know" and the session information, Q & A, and sharing during the breaks and after the session ended left participants with new knowledge and added support. If you haven't taken advantage of the opportunities to attend the SPRING series in the past, you may want to consider doing so next Spring.

The Board of Directors met to develop our strategic plan for the next year. Thank you to those who completed the membership survey! The goals and objectives set were based on the feedback from the survey. We strive to provide quality programming for all age groups, for self-advocates as well as for caregivers and families. New ideas and information about programming, education, legislation, health, financial planning, housing and jobs are constantly being discussed and reviewed

in order for the DSG to best serve our community. This summer we rolled out our new programming structure. Week-long camps and semester programs provide opportunities for skill development, learning and structure in the summer months. Registration for the Fall semester activities will be available soon.

Here we are in the middle of summer. We are thankful for the opportunity to attend the NDSC Conference in Sacramento July 20 - 23rd. This convention draws participants and speakers from around the country to speak on just about every topic of importance to people with Down syndrome and their families. We look forward to sharing feedback from this year's participants in our next newsletter. Speaking of the Fall Conference, please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 9th for this day-long conference covering topics of interest to every age group. You have probably received a save-the-date in the mail.

The DSG is made up of people with Down syndrome, their families and professionals dedicated to the vision of valuing and including people with Down syndrome. We serve to support and encourage one another as we navigate through the ages and stages of life. Thank you to all of you who attend events, share with each other, and contribute to the DSG with your time and resources. Collectively, each one of you helps drive and energize our organization.

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

*Sunday, September 17, 2017*

*2:00 pm - 4:00 pm*

*Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas*

*1702 N. Collins Blvd. Suite 170*

*Richardson, TX 75080*

*DSG Member Cost: Free*

Join other new parents (with children ages 0-2 with Down syndrome) as we gather information, meet new friends, and share resources. There will be ample time for Q&A as well as opportunities to connect with other families. Light snacks and childcare will be provided.

**Childcare space is limited and registration is required. Online registration opens at [www.downsyndromedallas.org/new-expectant-parents](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/new-expectant-parents) on Monday, July 17, 2017. Registration closes Monday, September 11, 2017. Have questions? Please contact Samantha Escherich at 214.267.1374 or [samantha@downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:samantha@downsyndromedallas.org).**

## Wet Zone for New Parents with Children Ages 0-4

**S**aturday, August 5, 2017

*11:00 am - 6:00 pm*

*Must check in by noon for DSG reduced rates*

*Wet Zone Waterpark (Rowlett)*

*5304 Main St.*

*Rowlett, TX 75088*

*DSG Member Cost: \$10 each for siblings and parents; child with Down syndrome is free*

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 registration is required. Online registration opens at [www.downsyndromedallas.org/new-expectant-parents](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/new-expectant-parents) on Monday, July 17, 2017. Registration closes Monday, July 31, 2017. Have questions? Please contact Samantha Escherich at 214.267.1374 or [samantha@downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:samantha@downsyndromedallas.org).**

*Please note that this event is valued at over \$20 per person and offered to DSG Members for a reduced rate of \$10 per family member. Children with Down syndrome are no additional charge.*

## Mommy & Me for New Parents with Children Ages 0-4

**P**lease visit our website at [www.downsyndromedallas.org/new-expectant-parents](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/new-expectant-parents)

for updated date, time, and registration details as they become available.

*Jewish Community Center  
7900 Northaven Road  
Dallas, TX 75230*

*DSG Member Cost: \$25*

The Down Syndrome Guild invites caregivers of children with Down syndrome ages 0 to 4 years old to this fun learning experience. The class will be taught by Cynthia Casper. Cynthia is a master teacher with a degree in Early Childhood Education who has over 20 years experience teaching preschool children. Mornings will include music, art, free play, movement activities, informal parenting discussions, as well as joining together with other children for an outdoor playground experience.

**Space is limited and registration is required. Online registration opens at [www.downsyndromedallas.org/new-expectant-parents](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/new-expectant-parents) in mid to late July. Have questions? Please contact Samantha Escherich at 214.267.1374 or [samantha@downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:samantha@downsyndromedallas.org).**

*Please note that this event is valued at over \$100 per family and offered to DSG Members for a reduced rate of \$25 for the semester.*

## 2017 Learning Together, Focusing on Possibilities Fall Conference

### Saturday, September 9, 2017 . Collin College Spring Creek Campus

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

**Stacy Taylor, MA, B.C.B.A.,**

*President Advance Behavior & Learning and Advance Learning Academy, Orlando, FL*

#### **Keynote: The Basics of Behavior**

- Behavior can be frustrating and confusing, but the good news is that there is a science of learning and behavior that can help you better address any behavioral concerns you have no matter what age or stage your child is in. It is important to understand the basics of behavior because once you do, you can apply them to a variety of situations in your child's life.

#### **Early Intervention Tips and Tricks -**

Families who have infants and toddlers with a disability are often confused about how to best promote early learning and development at home. We know that this is a critical period of time, but what can you really do with a baby? Well... LOTS! Come and find out strategies that early interventionists use so you can help get your little one off to a great start.

#### **Developing & Implementing**

**Behavior Plans like a Boss** - What do you do when problem behaviors occur? Are these behaviors dysfunctional? Absolutely not! Participants will learn how to find the function in what many consider "dysfunctional" behavior. We will discuss prevention and effective consequences. These principles and strategies are best practices in the science

of learning and behavior and they are exactly what you need to understand in order to help develop and implement an effective plan for your child.

#### **Innovative Effective Teaching**

**Strategies** - Learning is not one size fits all and teaching shouldn't be either. It's important to meet your child where he is and find ways to motivate him to be excited about learning. Participants will learn new ways to help their child learn some familiar skills. When teaching is a fun, engaging, positive experience, our children will want to be there with us, participating and learning will happen.

**Julie Harmon, Inclusion Coordinator,**  
*University of Colorado Colorado Springs*

**Inclusive College Opportunities- Options from Around the Country** - College inclusion is offering academic, social, and career opportunities for many students with Down syndrome across the country and in July 2016 Colorado legislators passed the Inclusive Higher Education Act, Colorado now has three different college inclusion opportunities. Come and learn about the legislative work needed to make this dream a reality and how supports and services can make college inclusion work.

**Solving The Mystery of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)** - This practical, hands-on session will de-mystify the IEP process, teach ways of becoming an effective communicator and explore communication skills that can open doors to total IEP team membership. Participants will be guided through three main stages of the IEP: preparing for the

IEP meeting, the content of the IEP, and implementation and follow up of the IEP.

***You Got A Friend in Me*** - This interactive session will explore strategies to assist children in developing meaningful friendships and the key elements of friendship facilitation. We will also gain some insights about friendships from Buzz and Woody, of Toy Story fame.

**Natalie Hale**, Award winning author, parent, and innovative educator, *Special Reads for Special Needs*

***Whole Child Reading: a Brain-Based, High Interest Approach that Works for All Ages*** - Attendees will be led through an effective plan to teach reading to learners of any age with Down syndrome. Reading success is achieved through "Going in through the heart and teaching to the brain," and the most effective methods, materials, and motivation guidelines will be covered.

***Make-and-Take Personal Books and Modified Trade Books*** - Attendees will be led through creating a Personal Book for their learner, and will be helped to modify a "trade book" (popular book) specific to that learner's interest. Attendees must bring a trade book for modifying. All other materials are provided.

**Daniel Stein**, founder of *Special Strong*, and **Tara**

**Boring**, *Functional Nutritionist*

***Fitness & Nutrition for a Healthy Life***

- On the fitness side, attendees will learn functional exercises for the special needs population that strengthen the core and help reduce meltdowns. On the nutrition side, attendees will learn about the "brain-gut" connection and get strategies to implement in their own homes. In addition, attendees will hear real stories about how some of our own clients with special needs have overcome depression, meltdowns, bloating, digestive problems, and more!

**Chris & Bennett McKee, Kari & Brandt Urban, and Kelly & Alana Drablos**

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

*Special thanks to the Charles H. Phipps Family Foundation for their support of the 2017 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 21, 2017.** Winners will be recognized at the *Learning Together, Focusing on Possibilities* Fall Conference on September 9, 2017. Members may also contact Jennifer Ford at [jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org) or 214.267.1374 to request a form.



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF DALLAS  
FALL CONFERENCE  
FEES

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT  
[www.downsyndromedallas.org](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org)  
STARTING JULY 3, 2017

*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](http://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](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org)

FALL CONFERENCE  
2017

Learning Together,  
Focusing on Possibilities



SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

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
- Early intervention techniques
- Behavior
- Friendships
- Innovative and effective teaching strategies
- Reading
- IEP planning
- Post secondary education options
- Nutrition
- Employment options

## 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: Stacy Taylor – The Basics of Behavior

**10:30 a.m. Breakout I**

SESSION 1: Stacy Taylor – Early Intervention Tips and Tricks

SESSION 2: Julie Harmon – Inclusive College Opportunities-Options from Around the Country

SESSION 3: Natalie Hale – Whole Child Reading: a Brain-Based, High Interest Approach that Works for All Ages

**12:00 p.m. Lunch**

**1:15 p.m. Breakout II**

SESSION 4: Stacy Taylor – Developing & Implementing Behavior Plans like a Boss

SESSION 5: Julie Harmon – Solving The Mystery of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

SESSION 6: Natalie Hale – Whole Child Reading: a Brain-Based, High Interest Approach that Works for All Ages (*Repeat from Breakout I*)

SESSION 7: Daniel Stein & Tara Boring – Fitness & Nutrition for a Healthy Life

**2:45 p.m. Refreshment Break**

**3:00 p.m. Breakout III**

SESSION 8: Stacy Taylor – Innovative Effective Teaching Strategies

SESSION 9: Julie Harmon – You Got A Friend in Me

SESSION 10: Natalie Hale – Make-and-Take Personal Books and Modified Trade Books

SESSION 11: Chris & Bennett McKee, Kari & Brandt Urban, and Kelly & Alana Drablos – Employment Panel

**4:30 p.m. Conference Closes**

View speaker bios and session descriptions online at [www.downsyndromedallas.org](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org)

## DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF DALLAS FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT  
[www.downsyndromedallas.org](http://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
- SESSION 7

#### Breakout III

- SESSION 8
- SESSION 9
- SESSION 10
- SESSION 11

## Fitness Class for Self Advocates Ages 18 and Older

**T**uesdays, September 12 -  
November 14, 2017  
10:30 am - 11:30 am

DSG Office

1702 N. Collins Blvd. Suite 170

Richardson, TX 75080

DSG Member Cost: \$25

The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas is excited to partner with Special Strong for Adult Fitness Class! Special Strong will be facilitating a special needs fitness class that will focus on core musculature strength and stabilization, muscular endurance, balance, coordination and flexibility. Adults will learn that these exercises can improve strength, behavior, moods, social interactions and their confidence!

**Space is limited and registration is required. Online registration opens at [www.downsyndromedallas.org/adults](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/adults) on Monday, July 17, 2017. Registration closes Friday, September 1, 2017. Have questions? Please contact Samantha Escherich at 214.267.1374 or [samantha@downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:samantha@downsyndromedallas.org).**

*Please note that this event is valued at over \$150 per person and offered to DSG Members for a reduced rate of \$25 for the semester.*

## Ambassador Spotlight - Jaxon



Jaxon's family's journey with Down syndrome began at 30 weeks when they were informed that he had both Down syndrome and AV canal defect. At this time, his family knew very little about Down syndrome and was anxious about the concept of open heart surgery. When Jaxon was three weeks old, his mother and grandmother attended their first new parent meeting and were able to connect with others who had young children with Down syndrome. Shortly after, Jaxon's mom, Marissa, also became connected with a local Facebook group of parents who had children of similar age with Down syndrome. Since Marissa had never met another person with Down syndrome before having her son, the relationships and connections made through the local Down syndrome associations and social media group were invaluable to their journey and sparked a huge passion for education and advocacy.

Jaxon's mom soon found herself researching everything from highly rated specialists and therapists to the best schools, events, and more across

the DFW metroplex. During this time, Marissa also expressed finding peace and excitement of have a beautiful little boy with an extra chromosome. Today, Jaxon's mom and his family are incredible advocates for not only him, but others with Down syndrome, heart defects, and other disabilities. Marissa expressed that Jaxon has opened doors to worlds she never even knew existed.



She often finds herself reaching out and connecting to new and expectant parents both locally and outside of the DFW area. Jaxon also has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/jaxsjourneys](http://www.facebook.com/jaxsjourneys) where his mom shares health updates, milestones, challenges, and their daily life in order educate others about the joys of raising a child with Down syndrome. Marissa described what a blessing it was to them to have such a wonderful community level of support and how she looks forward to many more years of providing that support to others by sharing their journey.

The DSG is so proud to recognize Jaxon and his family as the DSG Self Advocate Ambassadors for July 2017 and look forward to their continued involvement in the community.



## Ambassador Spotlight - Rebecca



Rebecca is a happy and social two year old who loves spending time with her mom, dad, and older siblings. In a little over two years, Rebecca has already made a huge impact on her family and the community as a whole.

The Down Syndrome Guild first met Rebecca and her family when she was just a few months old at one of our first Grupo de Familia Unidas meetings. Like many new families, they were a little overwhelmed, didn't know a lot about Down syndrome, and were seeking opportunities to connect with others in the community who had a child with Down syndrome. It didn't take them long before they were the ones reaching out and comforting new families and telling others about their precious Rebecca and the joys of having a child with Down syndrome. They made and sold bows and other accessories to raise funds for Down syndrome awareness. They started a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/downsyndromerebecca321/>

[facebook.com/downsyndromerebecca321/](https://www.facebook.com/downsyndromerebecca321/)

dedicated to sharing their everyday experiences raising a daughter with Down syndrome. The family has also participated and volunteered at numerous events offered by the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas such as the Buddy Walk®, Grupo de Familia Unidas, Emler Swim Class, Mommy & Me, and a wide variety of other social and



educational events aimed at enhancing the lives of people with Down syndrome. Rebecca's mother, Marixa, also has a strong passion for advocacy and serves as an invaluable resource for other Spanish speaking families both in the United States and abroad.

The Down Syndrome Guild is honored to have Rebecca and her family represent the DSG as our Self Advocate Ambassadors for August 2017.

## 2nd Annual Gala for Self-Advocates Ages 18 and Older

Friday, August 18, 2017  
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
event 1013

1013 E 15th St  
Plano, TX 75074  
DSG Member Cost: \$10  
per person

We are so excited to be hosting our second annual Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas Gala for our self-advocates ages 18 and older! This year, the theme will be Some Southern Fair! Decorations and the theme will be based off the book, *Charlotte's Web*, however we ask attendees dress in formal attire. Adults will eat a fantastic catered dinner, enjoy the photo booth, make new friends, and dance the night away. Dates are welcome and invited. Please register online for further information.

**Space is limited and registration is required. Online registration opens at [www.downsyndromedallas.org/adults](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/adults) on Monday, July 17, 2017. Registration closes Monday, August 7, 2017. Have questions? Please contact Samantha Escherich at 214.267.1374 or [samantha@downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:samantha@downsyndromedallas.org).**

*Please note that this event is valued at over \$100 per person and offered to DSG Members for a reduced rate of \$10 per person.*

## Hawaiian Falls Day for Youth Ages 5-12

**S**aturday, August 19, 2017  
10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Hawaiian Falls Water Park  
(Garland)

4550 N. Garland Ave  
Garland, TX 75040

DSG Member Cost: \$10 each for  
siblings and parents; child with  
Down syndrome is free

Youth ages 5-12 and their  
immediate family members  
(parents and siblings) are invited  
to join us for some fun in the sun  
at Hawaiian Falls Water Park  
in Garland. Your day includes  
all day entrance to all the water  
park features and a complete hot  
dog lunch in our own reserved  
pavilion. Lunch will be served  
at 12:00 pm.

**Space is limited and  
registration is required. Online  
registration opens at [www.  
downsyndromedallas.org/  
youth](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/youth) on Monday, July 17,  
2017. Registration closes  
Friday, August 11, 2017. Have  
questions? Please contact  
Samantha Escherich at  
214.267.1374 or [samantha@  
downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:samantha@downsyndromedallas.org).**

*Please note that this event is  
valued at over \$25 per person  
and offered to DSG Members  
for a reduced rate of \$10 per  
family member. Youth with  
Down syndrome are no  
additional charge.*

## Art Class for Youth Ages 5-12

*Please visit our website at [www.downsyndromedallas.org/youth](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/youth)  
for updated date, time, location, and registration  
details as they become available.*

**DSG Member Cost: \$25**

Youth ages 5-12 with Down syndrome are invited to join us for art class this fall. Participants will learn about different types of art forms, have the opportunity to experiment with them, and consistently work on one project throughout the semester. The last class we will be displaying the artwork for family and friends to come see!

**Space is limited and registration is required. Online registration opens at [www.downsyndromedallas.org/youth](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/youth) in mid to late July. Have questions? Please contact Samantha Escherich at 214.267.1374 or [samantha@downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:samantha@downsyndromedallas.org).**

*Please note that this event is valued at over \$100 per person and offered to DSG Members for a reduced rate of \$25 for the semester.*

## DSG Adults Were Armed and Ready for a Friendly Game of Laser Tag at Amazing Jakes



## Yoga for Teens Ages 13-17

*Saturdays, September 16 - October 28, 2017*

*2:30 pm - 3:30 pm*

*Austin Ranch*

*7006 Davidson Street*

*The Colony, TX 75056*

*DSG Member Cost: \$25*

Teens ages 13-17 are invited to join other teens for Saturday afternoon yoga! Every Saturday, friends will join together for yoga class, learning new stretches and exercises. Teens will be able to have fun, build friendships and use their newly acquired skills at home!

*Space is limited and registration is required. Online registration opens at [www.downsyndromedallas.org/teen](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/teen) on Monday, July 17, 2017. Registration closes Friday, September 1, 2017. Have questions? Please contact Samantha Escherich at 214.267.1374 or [samantha@downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:samantha@downsyndromedallas.org).*

*Please note that this event is valued at over \$125 per person and offered to DSG Members for a reduced rate of \$25 for the semester.*

## Allison & Yousef Put the Pedal to the Metal on the Go Kart Track at Amazing Jakes



## Topgolf for Teens Ages 13-17

**S**aturday, August 5, 2017  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Topgolf Dallas

8787 Park Lane

Dallas, TX 75231

DSG Member Cost: \$10

Teens ages 13-17 are welcome to join their friends to learn and play golf at Topgolf Dallas! Friends will enjoy appetizers together, learn how to golf from the pros, and make memories.

*Space is limited and registration is required. Online registration opens at [www.downsyndromedallas.org/teen](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org/teen) on Monday, July 17, 2017. Registration closes Monday, July 24, 2017. Have questions? Please contact Samantha Escherich at 214.267.1374 or [samantha@downsyndromedallas.org](mailto:samantha@downsyndromedallas.org).*

*Please note that this event is valued at over \$75 per person and offered to DSG Members for a reduced rate of \$10 per person.*

## 2017 Herb's Paint & Body/Down Syndrome Guild Golf Classic

The 2017 Herb's Paint & Body/Down Syndrome Guild Golf Classic was one for the record books. This year's event was hosted at the beautiful Dallas Athletic Club on May 22, 2017, and raised over \$105,000 for the organization. The funds raised through the annual Golf Classic are allocated towards the Down Syndrome Guild's general operating fund and help support semester events, social opportunities, new parent outreach, and more throughout the year.

You've all heard the phrase "It takes

a village", and that is certainly true for the golf tournament. There are many who work tirelessly and support us each and every year to help make our tournament one of the best in North Texas. First and foremost, we would like to thank our partners at Herb's Paint & Body for their unwavering support over the years. The Golf Classic would certainly not be what it is today without them. Secondly, we would like to thank our entire golf committee for their dedication to this event and the mission of the DSG. Of course, the Golf Classic could not be possible without the amazing support of

all our sponsors (listed below), donors, and golfers. And last, we would like to thank our phenomenal volunteers who work not only behind the scenes prepping for the tournament, but also those who serve on event day making sure all our participants are enjoying the event.

Again, thank you to all for making this year's tournament such a huge success. If you've never participated in the tournament before, we encourage you to join us next year for what's guaranteed to be a fun filled day.

### Special Thanks to Our 2017 Golf Classic Sponsors

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DOWN SYNDROME GUILD  
OF DALLAS

GRUPO DE FAMILIAS UNIDAS

**REUNION DE  
GRUPO DE  
FAMILIAS UNIDAS  
3-5 PM**

**29 DE JULIO -  
Problemas de  
Comportamiento**

**7 DE OCTUBRE -  
Agende estas  
fechas**

**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

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1702 N. COLLINS BLVD.  
SUITE 170  
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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.

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

CALL (214) 456-2357

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## *Down Syndrome Guild Calendar of Events*



### July

**July 17** - Fitness Boot Camp for Teens Ages 13-17

**July 29** - Reunion de Familias de Grupo Undias



### August

**August 5** - Wet Zone for New Parents with Children Ages 0-4

**August 5** - Topgolf for Teens Ages 13-17

**August 18** - 2nd Annual Gala for Self-Advocates Ages 18 and Older

**August 19** - Hawaiian Falls Day for Youth Ages 5-12