

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

March/April 2017

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



Monday, May 22, 2017

Dallas Athletic Club

4111 Dallas Athletic Club Drive

Dallas, TX 75228

12:30 pm shotgun start

\$175 individual player fee / \$600 for a team of four players

*(includes cart and green fee, driving range, lunch/dinner,
goodie bag and refreshments on course)*

Join Herb's Paint & Body in supporting the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas at the 2017 Herb's Paint & Body/DSG Golf Classic! The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas and Herb's Paint & Body are partnering once again to raise funds that will allow the Down Syndrome Guild to carry out its mission of providing accurate and current information, resources, and support for people with Down syndrome, their families, and the community. The DSG will receive all proceeds of the tournament which will be used to fund the programs and long-term growth of the organization.

Don't wait; register your team today by downloading a packet at <http://downsyndromedallas.org/golf-tournament>. There are also many sponsorship opportunities available for companies as well as individuals. For example, families can honor their child by becoming a hole sponsor for only \$500. Drawing tickets will also be available for purchase soon with your chance to win great prizes such as sporting event tickets, sports memorabilia, travel packages, and much more.

For additional information about the 2017 tournament, please visit our website at <http://downsyndromedallas.org/golf-tournament> or contact Jennifer Ford at jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374.

2017 DSG College Scholarship

The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas is awarding one \$1,000 college scholarship to a local deserving high school graduate with a personal connection to an individual with Down syndrome. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please download the application and full requirements from our website at <http://downsyndromedallas.org/membership>. Applications are due by 4:00 pm, Friday, April 28, 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 memory of Norry Hersey.
From: Bill & Dolores Kuehl

In memory of Azile Harrison.
From: Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Courson, Michael & Barbara Bingham, Carolyn Hood, Brent, Charlotte & Jeffrey Bingham, A C Wiley Jr. & Mary Lou Wiley, Mr. & Mrs. James Anderle, Karen & Billy Luce, Carmen & Dennis Dotson, Bob & Linda Murdock, Charles & Pat Collie, Robert & Janet Peterson, and Brenda Bahlman

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

Executive Director's Message by Jennifer Ford



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
OF DALLAS



As many of you already know, March 21, is World Down Syndrome Day (WDSB), but what exactly does that mean? World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. Each year, the voice of people with Down syndrome and their loved ones grows louder and louder. There are many ways for you and your family to get involved and show your support.

Sign up to perform or plan to attend the Down Syndrome Guild's Got Talent annual talent show. Every year, in conjunction with WDSB, the DSG hosts a talent show showcasing the many talents and abilities of our members. Complete details about this year's talent show can be found on page 5 of this publication.

Light the Way Campaign. Both downtown Dallas and Ft. Worth skylines will be lit in blue and yellow on March 21 in support of Down syndrome awareness and World Down Syndrome Day 2017. Look to the sky and share your pictures with us using the hashtag #DallasWDSB2017

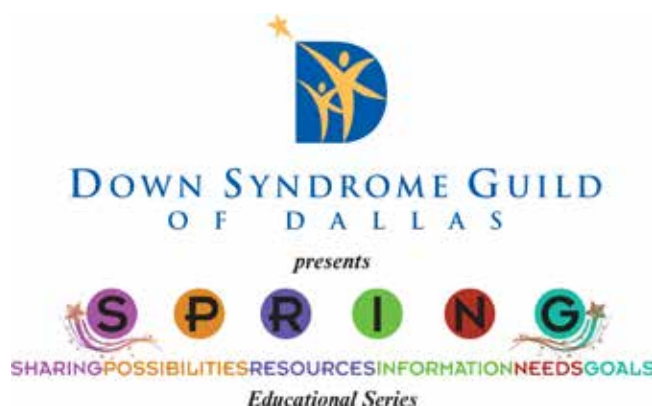
Wear Lots of Socks. Whether short or tall, colored or patterned, the idea is to wear a pair that will grab the attention of others so you can tell them all about WDSB. For every pair of socks purchased through <https://my.wehelptwo.com/campaign?id=371>, the DSG

will receive funds to help support our mission, and one pair of socks will also be donated to someone in need. Rock your socks and share your pictures with us using the hashtag #DallasWDSB2017

Racing for 3.21. NDSS is hosting its inaugural 2017 Racing for 3.21 on March 21. The "virtual" Racing for 3.21 event encourages participants and advocates to move for 3.21 miles on March 21 to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and raise awareness for the Down syndrome community. This event is FREE with the option of purchasing race bibs, medals, and t-shirts. Register online at <https://www.classy.org/events/racing-for-321-world-down-syndrome-day/e114138>.

Present to Your Child's Class or School. Read a book about Down syndrome or schedule a presentation to your child's class or entire school. The Down Syndrome Guild of Kansas City has some great resources and fun ideas listed on their website at https://www.kcdsg.org/for_educators.php.

No matter how you choose to spend your day or what you wear, be sure to take the time to tell someone with Down syndrome how much they are loved and valued. Sometimes a simple act or kind word is the best way to celebrate.



How to Maintain and Develop Language/Learning and Reading at Home - Practical Tips for Parents

Saturday, April 8, 2017

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas

1702 N. Collins Blvd. Suite 170

Richardson, TX 75080

Cost: \$0 (Registration is required at <http://downsyndromedallas.org/spring-education-series>.

Registration closes April 5 or until max attendance has been reached.)

Target Audience: Parents of preschoolers & elementary school-age students with Down syndrome

Description: In this session parents will learn the importance of the connection between language and reading and will be given language/learning instruction tips and ways they can help their child at home with reading, starting with beginning readers and progressing through the process of becoming an independent reader. Participants will be provided with examples and take home activities that will help enhance their child's language and reading skills.

Take this opportunity to hear ideas on how you can facilitate language, reading and overall learning during the summer break months and throughout the year!

Presenters: *Ali Ackles, M.Ed* with a specialization in Reading, Educator, Educational Diagnostician, parent of a 6-year-old with Down syndrome. Ali taught in Plano ISD for 8 years and then became a stay-at-home mother to three boys. While at home she worked for UNT as a supervisor of student teachers and tutored children, specifically those with learning disabilities. After the birth of Levi she decided to return to school and become an educational diagnostician.

Lynn Campbell, M.S., CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist & DSG Education Committee Chair. Lynn has provided direct therapy and consultations services for children and young adults for many years. For the past 15 years, she has worked almost exclusively with individuals with Down syndrome, focusing on the development of speech and language expression and understanding as it relates to academic (reading & writing), social and workplace success.

Toilet Training

Save the Date - Saturday, May 6, 2017 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please Note: Childcare is NOT provided for this particular seminar series, and parents are encouraged to make other arrangements for childcare out of respect for all our attendees. Should you have any further questions or need assistance with registration, please contact Jennifer Ford at (214) 267-1374 or jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org.

Family Picnic

Sunday, April 9, 2017
 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
 (BBQ buffet lunch will be served from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm)
 Sandy Lake Amusement Park
 1800 Sandy Lake Road
 Carrollton, TX 75006

The Down Syndrome Guild Picnic is one of our most popular events with fun for the family! You will have the opportunity to visit with friends old and new while enjoying many activities such as: miniature golf, amusement park rides, volleyball, and so much more! All activities, free ride time, and a BBQ buffet lunch are free of charge and reserved exclusively for DSG members with Down syndrome, their parents, and siblings living at home.

NEW THIS YEAR: Families are required to register online at <http://downsyndromedallas.org/2017picnic>. **Registration closes Friday, March 31, 2017, and no late reservations will be accepted.** After registering online, you will receive a registration confirmation e-mail at the e-mail address provided. This confirmation e-mail will serve as your entry ticket. You **MUST** print this ticket and present to the gate check-in for entry into the park. **You will not be admitted without this PRINTED confirmaiton.** Therefore, no tickets will be mailed this year. After entry into the park, you must check in at the blue DSG tent in order to receive your free meal and ride time tickets.

If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Samantha Escherich at samantha@downsyndromedallas.org or (214) 267-1374.

Ambassador Spotlight - Casey



Casey and her entire family have been active with the Down Syndrome Guild since moving to the metroplex over 11 years ago. Shortly after joining the DSG, Casey and her family helped organize their first Buddy Walk team with other families in their neighborhood who also happened to have young girls with Down syndrome. The Castle Hills Cuties team raised over \$4,500 that year, which was a record for any one team at the time. Over the next 10 years, Casey, her family, and the Castle Hills Cuties team went on to support the Down Syndrome Guild and the Down syndrome community in immeasurable ways.

Casey's mom, Angela, has served as a volunteer for both the DSG and the Down Syndrome Clinic helping connect families to local resources and support. Casey's brother, Dan, has served as a sibling panelist for the DSG speaking to new and expectant parents, volunteered at the annual iCan Shine Bike Camp, and has assisted campers with Down syndrome and other disabilities at Camp Barnabas in Missouri.

Additionally, Casey has been an advocate herself in her schools and community for all people with Down syndrome. She was the first person

with Down syndrome to be fully included at Castle Hills Elementary almost 6 years ago. Thanks to an amazing team of teachers and supporters, Casey showed everyone there that people with Down syndrome not only deserve to be welcomed into the classroom, but can thrive and be an important part of the school community. Since then, Casey has moved on to the Notre Dame School of Dallas where she continues to thrive both



educationally and socially. Casey has also been amazing and inspiring crowds of thousands as part of the Texas Cheer All Stars Specialty Cheer team, where she has been a flyer and one of their lead tumblers for the last 5 years. Casey's mom, Angela, stated that getting to witness the spectators watching Casey's squad perform has been one of the most rewarding experiences as a mom. Casey and her squad not only amaze the crowd each time they perform, but they are breaking barriers and showing people exactly what people with Down syndrome are capable of doing.

Casey and her family truly embody the mission and vision of the Down Syndrome Guild, and we are honored to recognize her as the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas Self Advocate Ambassador for March 2017.

Ambassador Spotlight - Joseph



Joseph and his family have been huge advocates for all people with Down syndrome since his birth. They are always seeking to learn more and share their knowledge, experience, and support with others in the community. Joseph was also featured in the 2013 Down Syndrome Guild calendar with the late Ebby Halliday, and he and his family represented the DSG at the National Down Syndrome

Joseph has a zest for life with a smile and laughter that could light up an entire room. Although you will find Joseph full of smiles today, his journey has not always been so easy for his family.

At the age of 6 months old, Joseph was diagnosed with seizures, which continued throughout his first year of life. Joseph's mom, Genevieve, explained what a difficult time period this was for their family to see their baby go through something like this especially at such a young age. The time Joseph spent having seizures taught the family not to take life for granted, but Joseph is now celebrating 4 years of seizure freedom.

Today, Joseph is a fun-loving boy who enjoys sports and playing outside and getting dirty. Joseph attends public school in his hometown of Princeton, Texas. Joseph is described as a hard worker at school, both in the classroom and during his therapy sessions for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. Joseph also receives private speech therapy services and is thriving with learning and using sign language as his primary form of communication.



Congress Convention in Indianapolis, IN, the following year. Team Joseph is also always well represented at the annual Buddy Walk raising funds to support our mission and outreach to other families.

Joseph and his family have certainly made an impact in their community and continue to educate and advocate each and every day. We couldn't be more proud of their efforts and are honored to have Joseph represent the Down Syndrome Guild as our Self Advocate Ambassador for April 2017.

Talent Show

Saturday, March 25, 2017
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
First United Methodist
Church Richardson
503 N Central Expy
Richardson, TX 75080

The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas is hosting our annual talent show for children and adults with Down syndrome (ages 6 and older). Self-advocates are welcome to participate solo or with a group, siblings, friends etc. Performers can showcase any talent from singing, dancing, sports tricks, telling jokes, reciting poetry and anything in between! Everyone has talent, and we can't wait to see yours! Join us for this wonderful opportunity for our self-advocates' stars to shine! To register to perform, contact Samantha Escherich at (214) 267-1374 or samantha@downsyndromedallas.org. Please include your child's name, age, talent and any specific music or videos needed. **Deadline to sign up to perform is Friday, March 17, 2017.** See you in the spotlight! *Admission is free and reservations are not required to come and enjoy the show.*



BEAUTYKIND

UNITES

A CONCERT FOR CAUSES

You are invited to a special event where you can support Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas by attending an amazing concert.

What: BeautyKind Concert for Causes

When: Saturday, March 25th

Where: AT&T Cowboys Stadium



THE BAND PERRY



DEMI LOVATO



JAKE OWEN



COLE SWINDELL

Honorary Guest Randy Travis

Why does it matter???

50% of your ticket price will be donated to Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas! That's right, 50%!

Special Offer!

Enter DSG in the Offer Code box at Ticketmaster when purchasing tickets to get a free \$50 gift card from BeautyKind!

BEST AVAILABLE		SEE RESALE ONLY
QTY	TICKET TYPE	
2	Regular Price Ticket	
Got an Offer Code?		

Get your tickets at www.bit.ly/BeautyKindUnites

Together we can make a difference!

DALLAS  STARS
DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF DALLAS
FUNDRAISER NIGHT



FRIDAY, MAR. 24 - 7:30 PM
 American Airlines Center

ENJOY A DALLAS STARS GAME WITH A PORTION OF YOUR TICKET COST GOING BACK TO THE DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF DALLAS!

\$35 TERRACE SEATS

\$80 PLAZA SEATS

FOR INDIVIDUAL TICKETS, VISIT WWW.DALLASSTARS.COM/DSG PROMO CODE: DSG
 FOR GROUPS OF 9+, CONTACT CHRIS LANGAN AT CLANGAN@DALLASSTARS.COM

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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DALLASDSG

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



March

- March 21** - World Down Syndrome Day
- March 24** - Community Concert Benefitting the DSG
- March 25** - Dallas Stars Fundraising Night for the DSG
- March 25** - DSG Talent Show



April

- April 8** - How to Maintain and Develop Language/Learning and Reading at Home - Practical Tips for Parents Seminar
- April 9** - Family Picnic
- April 22** - Reunion de Grupo de Familias Unidas
- April 28** - DSG College Scholarship Applications Due