

BUDDY WALK® TEAM CAPTAIN TOOLKIT





INTRODUCTION



Dear Team Captain,

Thank you so much for registering your team for the <u>2021 Dallas Buddy Walk®</u> benefiting the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas. We are thrilled to offer an in-person event this year at our new location, <u>Toyota Stadium in Frisco</u> on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>October 24</u> from <u>11 am-3 pm</u>. However, we also recognize that some teams may not be ready to celebrate with a large crowd just yet. Therefore, a virtual walker/team option has been added to the website this year, and we encourae you to share your celebrations from near and far using #DallasBuddyWalk.

The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas has also put together this **Team Captain Toolkit** full of important information, deadlines, FAQs, and helpful tips and tricks to assist you as you fundraise and plan your celebrations this year. We encourage teams to think outside the box and use the tools provided in this toolkit as they recruit team members, raise funds, and plan their day.

Our fantastic Buddy Walk® teams never cease to amaze us, and it's all because of YOU! We know that it's not always easy to lead a Buddy Walk® team, track down t-shirt sizes, and ask for more donations, but your efforts truly make a difference in our community day after day. The impact of the Buddy Walk® is felt year round as we connect with new and expectant parents, answer questions about school, run alongside your child as he or she masters riding a bike, see reading skills improve week after week through book club, and so much more.

Thank you again for registering your team for the <u>2021 Dallas Buddy Walk®</u> on Sunday, October 24. Remember to make sure all your team members are registered in order for them to receive a commemorative event t-shirt, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

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ABOUT DSG



WHAT IS THE DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF DALLAS (DSG)?

Established in 1978, the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing accurate and current information, resources, and support for people with Down syndrome, their families, and the community.

The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas strongly believes that by providing easy-to-access information, along with compassionate and caring support, the organization can help families and the community gain a better understanding of Down syndrome. With over 250,000 people in the United States living with Down syndrome, the DSG strives to provide tools and opportunities that promote awareness, acceptance, and inclusion in our local communities.

WHO DOES THE DSG SERVE?

The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas represents over 2,000 individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and community professionals primarily residing in the 13 counties that make up the DFW Metroplex and its surrounding areas.

WHAT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE OFFERED BY THE DSG?

The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas believes in the inherent dignity of people with Down syndrome of all ages and provides a wide variety of educational and social programs, resources, referral services, and support from diagnosis through adulthood.

HOW IS THE DSG FUNDED?

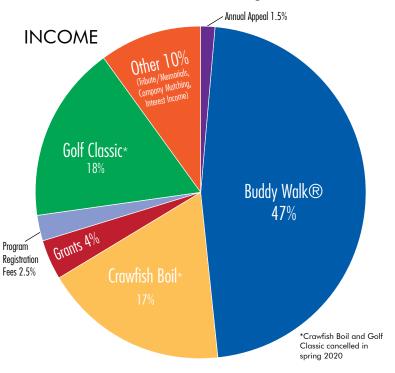
The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas is primarily funded by individual donations and generous supporters like you. Over 47% of the Down Syndrome Guild's annual operating budget is raised through the organization's largest fundraiser, the Buddy Walk®. The DSG receives no federal or state funding and relies on individual donations, grants, and corporate partnerships to remain operational.

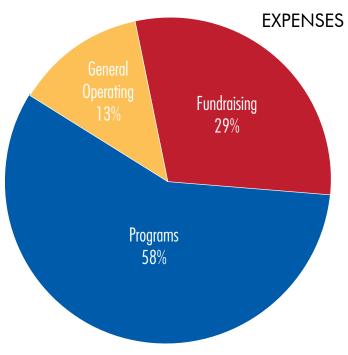
For additional information about the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas and a complete listing of upcoming social and educational programs, please visit www.downsyndromedallas.org.



WHERE THE MONEY GOES

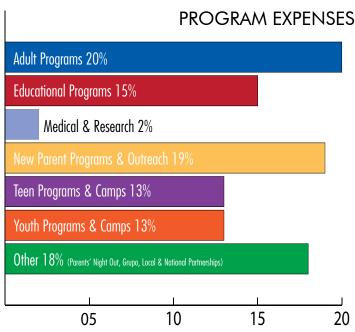
All proceeds from the 2021 Dallas Buddy Walk® directly benefit the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas and the local community. Your fundraising efforts and financial contributions to the Dallas Buddy Walk® fund over 47% of the organization's annual operating budget.





The 2019 Buddy Walk® raised over \$275,000 for the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas and directly

- Supported 50 new and expectant parents by providing one on one support and welcome packets
- Educated over 350 parents and professionals on best practices and inclusive education at the Learning Together, Focusing on Possibilities Fall Conference and SPRING Educational Series
- Enhanced literacy skills of 70 self-advocates with Down syndrome through semester book clubs
- Helped 75 individuals with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities conquer their fears and learn new skills at iCan Bike and Swim camps
- Connected over 625 families through social opportunities like Music Together, Parents' Night Out, holiday parties, Grupo de Familias Unidas, and more.

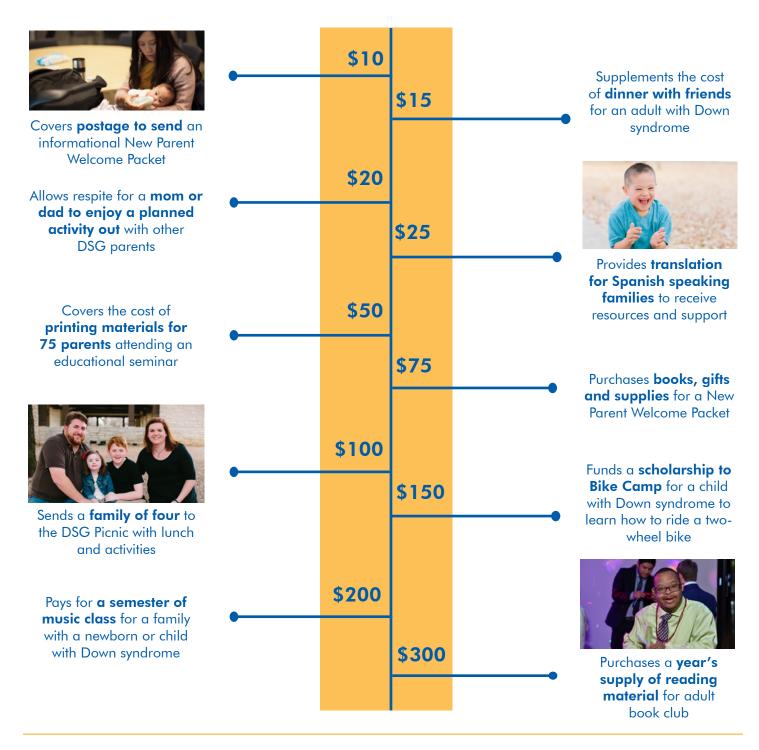


*Data derived from independently audited financial statements from year end May 31, 2019. Additional financial data is available upon request. Strategic priorities and budget allotment varies annually.



LOOKING AHEAD

Like many nonprofits that rely on donations, the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas' budget has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the DSG looks ahead to the future, your financial support is imperative for the continuation of key programs and resources. Donations as little as \$10 can provide hope, resources, and support to individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community.



5 STEP FUNDRAISING METHOD

STEP ONE: BUILD YOUR NETWORK

Make a list of people and/or businesses who may donate to your efforts this year.

- Friends and family
- Colleagues and/or business connections
- Classmates, teachers, and therapists
- Neighbors
- Church/Religious network
- Local businesses your family frequents (restaurants, retail stores, etc.)
- Social media connections

STEP TWO: TELL YOUR STORY

Each of you has a unique and personal story about why the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas is so important to you, and your network wants to hear it. They want to know why they should donate and support your cause. Think through the questions below to help fine tune your story and fundraising ask. Be creative with photos and videos to help reinforce your story. Share via email and social media as well as in person.

- Why do you participate in the Dallas Buddy Walk®?
- How have the funds raised by the Dallas Buddy Walk® helped your family?
- How have certain programs impacted you and/or your family?
- How did you feel when you received a Down syndrome diagnosis? How did you feel after connecting with the DSG?
- How has Down syndrome impacted your life and why do you believe it's important to raise money for the DSG?
- What would happen if the DSG didn't exist in your community?

STEP THREE: SET YOUR GOAL AND ASK

What's the worst they can say, no? Don't be afraid to ask your network to join your team or donate to your fundraising page. Many are hesitant to ask especially during a global pandemic and uncertain times, but do not assume someone is unable to support your goal. In fact, many donors are more generous than before because they recognize the impact on the economy and local nonprofits.

STEP FOUR: THANK YOUR DONORS

Don't forget to thank all those in your network who supported you this year. The Dallas Buddy Walk® website makes it easy to download your donor report with addresses, so you can send a quick and personal thank you note. The donor will also receive a detailed donation report and letter of thanks from the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas.

STEP FIVE: HAVE FUN

Fundraising doesn't have to be complicated. Have fun and take pride in your efforts to help raise awareness and support the programs and services provided by the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas.

HOW TO RAISE \$1,000



The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas' goal for the 2021 Buddy Walk® is to register 321 teams with each team raising at least \$1,000. (321x\$1,000=\$321,000)

Raising \$1,000 may sound daunting at first, but it's easier than you think using the **5 Step Fundraising Method** and some creative fundraising ideas outlined on the following pages.

SAMPLE FUNDRAISING PLAN 1:

\$210 RAISED 10 people from your network join your team at \$21 each.

\$250 RAISED 10 people from your network donate \$25 each.

\$150 RAISED Host a garage sale. Ask your network to donate unwanted items you could sell.

\$115 RAISED Host a give back night for in person or take out orders at a local restaurant.

\$150 RAISED Organize a casual day or fun dress up day at work or school.

Each person pays \$ to participate.

\$125 RAISED Flock 5 of your neighbors or friends. Flocks are removed with a \$25 donation.

TOTAL RAISED: \$1,000

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

INVITE LOVED ONES TO JOIN YOUR TEAM AND DONATE

For every person that registers for the Buddy Walk®, their registration fee (\$21 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and under) goes toward your fundraising total. Plus, within the registration process, teammates can add additional donations designated for your team. Donors can also donate any amount they choose without registering. Just remember that commemorative event t-shirts are available for registered participants only.

INQUIRE ABOUT MATCHING GIFTS

Encourage all teammates to contact their HR Department to find out how their company handles company matching gifts. Many companies will match donations dollar for dollar.

PROVIDE SERVICES IN EXCHANGE FOR DONATIONS

Think of ways you and your teammates can assist people in your neighborhood or network to raise money, such as mowing lawns, picking up groceries, helping with yard work, etc. Include younger team members too who may like to host a lemonade stand, car wash, or bake sale.

SECURE A CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Teams who secure a corporate sponsor can apply those funds to their team fundraising totals. Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities are detailed on <u>page 9</u>.

CREATE A BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISER

Are you or a team member having a birthday? Consider hosting a birthday fundraiser on Facebook. Let DSG staff know in advance so donations can be applied appropriately to your Buddy Walk® team page.

DESIGN AND SELL TEAM T-SHIRTS

Team t-shirts with a design of your choosing have grown in popularity over the years. Consider charging team members a little extra and apply the proceeds to your team fundraising.

HOST A CONSULTANT PARTY OR RETAIL/RESTAURANT GIVE BACK NIGHT

Odds are you or someone on your team knows a consultant for Pampered Chef, Color Street, Thirty-One, etc. who would be willing to host a party with proceeds benefiting your team. Retail shops and restaurants like Kendra Scott, Chick-fil-A, Palio's Pizza, Mod Pizza, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chipotle, etc. also offer options for give back nights. Be sure to ask about both take out and dine in options. Advertise in your neighborhood and child's school to increase exposure.

HOST A RAFFLE OR AUCTION

Ask friends and local businesses to donate items and services that can be auctioned or raffled for donations. Many teams have had huge success with both online and in person auctions. Make sure you indicate that the raffle/auction benefits the DSG. The DSG can also provide tax exempt documentation upon request.

MORE FUNDRAISING IDEAS

ORGANIZE A COOKOUT OR LOCAL EVENT

Host a pancake breakfast, fish fry, neighborhood block party, concert, movie night, etc. and charge a per plate fee or entrance fee. Please research and adhere to all current local and state restrictions on group gatherings in your area.

HOST A VIRTUAL OR IN PERSON GAME NIGHT

Charge a small buy in fee and split the pot with the winner at the end of the night. Hint: Most people will donate their winnings back to your team. You could also give away donated items as prizes.

HAVE A VIRTUAL OR IN PERSON GARAGE SALE

Clean out the closets, ask neighbors and family members for items, and post them for sale. Facebook Marketplace makes it easy to post items with photos. Go contactless with Zelle or Venmo payment and then set items out for porch pick up. You could even include a note letting them know their payment was a donation to the DSG for added awareness in the community.

ORGANIZE A CASUAL DAY OR FUN DRESS UP DAY AT WORK OR SCHOOL

Talk with your place of business or child's school about allowing colleagues or classmates to make a small donation (\$1) to have a designated casual or dress up day. This could also be a fun opportunity to talk about Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October or encourage people to wear silly socks or blue and yellow.

FLOCK YOUR FRIENDS/FAMILY/NEIGHBORS

Leave a flock of plastic flamingos on their lawn and encourage a \$25+ removal fee. They also get to select the next person to be flocked. There are some great printables online if you search Flamingo Flock Fundraiser.

CREATE SOME FRIENDLY COMPETITION

Create a competition with your spouse, children, team members, or another team where the loser has to do something funny. Some examples could be a pie to the face, jumping in or pouring ice water over the loser, sharing a funny dance or song on social media, conquering a fear, etc. Team captains could also use this as an incentive for a certain fundraising milestone for their team. For example: the team captain may commit to riding a terrifying roller coaster if the team raises \$5,000.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$15,000

- Naming rights to event, example: Dallas Buddy Walk® presented by "Your Company"
- Recognition as Presenting Sponsor any time the Dallas Buddy Walk® logo is displayed
- Prime recognition by **linked logo** on Dallas Buddy Walk® website, all print and electronic promotions, social media mentions, big screens, and all event day sponsor signage
- Prime logo placement on over 3,500 Dallas Buddy Walk® t-shirts
- Prime exhibitor booth placement at event to distribute promational materials and engage audience of \$000 trendees
- Inclusion in all press releases
- Opportunity to publicize partnership in print, radio and/or television promotions
- Opportunity for brief sponsor remarks from stage on event day
- Opportunity for logo placement on all event photo booth strips, team incentive prizes like yard signs*, and event area signage
- Up to 50 Dallas Buddy Walk® registrations

GOLD SPONSOR - \$5,000

- Recognition by linked logo on Dallas Buddy Walk® website, all print and electronic promotions, social media mentions, big screens, and event day sponsor signage
- Logo placement on over 3,500 Dallas Buddy Walk® t-shirts
- Exhibitor booth at event to distribute promotional materials and engage audience of 5,000 attendees
- Opportunity for logo placement on team incentive prizes like yard signs* and select event area signage like "children's zone"
- Opportunity to publicize partnership in print, radio, and/or television promotions
- Up to 25 Dallas Buddy Walk® registrations

SILVER SPONSOR - \$2,000

- Recognition by logo on Dallas Buddy Walk® website, print and electronic promotions, social media mentions, big screens, and event day sponsor signage
- Logo placement on over 3,500 Dallas Buddy Walk® t-shirts
- Exhibitor booth at event to distribute promotional materials and engage audience of 5,000 attendees
- Opportunity for logo placement at select event area signage like "children's zone"
- Up to 10 Dallas Buddy Walk® registrations

BRONZE SPONSOR - \$1,000

- Recognition by logo on Dallas Buddy Walk® website, print and electronic promotions, social media mentions, big screens, and event day sponsor signage
- Logo placement on over 3,500 Dallas Buddy Walk® t-shirts
- Exhibitor booth at event to distribute promotional materials and engage audience of 5,000 attendees
- Up to 5 Dallas Buddy Walk® registrations

FRIEND SPONSOR - \$500

- Recognition by name on Dallas Buddy Walk® website, print and electronic promotions, big screens, and event day sponsor signage
- Name placement on over 3,500 Dallas Buddy Walk® t-shirts
- Up to 2 Dallas Buddy Walk® registrations



TEAM INCENTIVES & DEADLINES

Leading up to the Buddy Walk®, teams will have the opportuity to participate in multiple contests to earn fun prizes and incentives. The top three fundraising teams and largest team will also be recognized on stage at the during the 2021 Dallas Buddy Walk® on Sunday, October 24. Additional pop up contests and competitions will be annouced via email and social media leading up to the walk for more chances to win.

\$500-\$749 RAISED	1 Buddy Walk® yard sign
	0 DCC

2 DSG branded koozies

\$750-\$999 RAISED 1 Buddy Walk® yard sign

2 DSG branded koozies 1 DSG branded water bottle

\$1,000-\$2,499 RAISED 2 Buddy Walk® yard signs

2 DSG branded koozies1 DSG branded cooler bag

\$2,500-\$4,999 RAISED 2 Buddy Walk® yard signs delivered to you

2 DSG branded koozies

Photo featured on jumbo screen at Toyota Stadium

\$5,000-\$9,999 RAISED 3 Buddy Walk® yard signs delivered to you

2 DSG branded koozies

Photo featured on jumbo screen at Toyota Stadium

Reserved early access tailgate spot with DSG branded picnic blanket

\$10,000+ RAISED 3 Buddy Walk® yard signs delivered to you

4 DSG branded koozies

Photo featured on jumbo screen at Toyota Stadium Reserved early access tailgate spot with tailgate kit*

*kit includes DSG branded wheeled cooler, picnic blanket,

snacks & more

SEPTEMBER 28 Corporate Sponsorships Due

OCTOBER 1 T-Shirt Sizes Guaranteed (Registered Participants Only)

OCTOBER 15 Online Registration Closes

OCTOBER 15 Funds Due to Qualify for Incentives & Awards

OCTOBER 16 Team T-Shirt and Yard Sign Pick Up

(Details will be Emailed to Team Captains in October)



SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS

Social media is a fantastic way to share your story, link to your fundraising page, and recognize and thank donors.

LET'S GET SOCIAL

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- LinkedIn

BEST PRACTICES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

- Like and follow the DSG and participate in our social media challenges
- Change your <u>Facebook Header Image</u>
- Include a photo/video when posting
- Consider a Facebook Live video to talk about why you are raising money or how the DSG has impacted your family
- Ask a question to get friends to share in the comments of your posts
- Tag the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas in all your posts about the Buddy Walk®. We love sharing all your creative ideas and adorable kids.
- Don't forget to use #DallasBuddyWalk so the whole community can check out your posts

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Our family is raising money for the #DallasBuddyWalk on October 24 to support the programs and services of the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas. The DSG has been a huge asset to us because (Insert your personal story here). Join our team and donate at (Insert your unique team page link here or use https://give.classy.org/2021dallasbuddywalk and donors can search for you).

Help Team (Insert Team Name) reach our goal of (Insert Goal) for the #DallasBuddyWalk on October 24. Donate and/or join our team at (Insert your unique team page link here or use https://give.classy.org/2021dallasbuddywalk and donors can search for you).

DOWNLOADS

- Facebook Header
- Buddy Walk® Flyer
- Buddy Walk® Save the Date



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

COVID-19?

The health and safety of you and your team are our number one priority. While not required, the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas **highly encourages** all participants wear a mask, distance when possible, and clean hands frequently. Additional hand sanitizing stations will be set up throughout the event concourse. Restrooms are also located on the concourse. Please use caution and practice courtesy as not everyone may have the same comfort level as you and your team members.

The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas, the City of Frisco, Toyota Stadium, and our event sponsors accept no responsibility should you or your team become ill after the event. If you are experiencing any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, we ask that you please remain home to reduce the spread to our high risk population. We aim to provide a safe event for all; however, please know there are risks involved with attending a large community event of this nature.

WHO SHOULD REGISTER FOR THE BUDDY WALK® AND WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

ALL participants must register for the Buddy Walk®. Registration includes access to the event activities, awareness walk, and a commemorative Buddy Walk® t-shirt. Registration is \$21 for teens and adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. All individuals with Down syndrome are free. Please note that t-shirts are available for registered participants only, so please make sure everyone on your team wanting a commemorative t-shirt clicks the <u>Register</u> or <u>Join Team</u> button. Hint: Don't forget to include children in your registration.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR T-SHIRT SIZES, TEAM PRIZES, AND REGISTRATION?

The deadline for registered participants to be guaranteed their preferred t-shirt size is **October 1** due to the advance timeline required for ordering shirts. The DSG does order extras; however, sizes and quantities cannot be guaranteed after October 1. Registration and submission of fundraising dollars for overall team prizes like 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place fundraising teams closes at midnight on **October 15**. Winners will be announced at the 2021 Dallas Buddy Walk® on Sunday, October 24, at Toyota Stadium. Additional incentive deadlines and team prize opportunities will be announced in the months/weeks leading up to the event, so there are lots of opportunities for teams to win fun prizes.

HOW AND WHERE DO I PICK UP MY TEAM'S T-SHIRTS?

All team captains will receive additional information via email in October regarding team t-shirt pick up details on Saturday, October 16, at the Down Syndrome Guild office located at 1702. N. Collins Blvd. Suite 170, Richardson, TX 75080.

CAN I MAKE MY OWN TEAM T-SHIRTS?

Yes, many teams make their own team t-shirts. There are no restrictions to the design and color of team t-shirts with the exception of use of the official NDSS Buddy Walk® and Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas logos. Use of the NDSS Buddy Walk® logo must be approved by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). If you wish to use the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas logo on your team shirt, please email your design for prior approval to iennifer@downsyndromedallas.org.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT WILL THE DALLAS BUDDY WALK® EVENT INCLUDE?

The 2021 Dallas Buddy Walk® is a day of fun for the entire family. Activities will include exhibitor booths, face painting, dj, inflatables, games, food for purchase, clowns, balloon artists, photo booth, awareness walk, and more.

IS THERE A TAILGATE AREA? WHAT IS ALLOWED? HOW DO I GET A SPOT?

Yes! Many teams choose to set up a tailgate spot as a meeting/hang out space for their group. Tailgate spots are available on a first come, first served basis on event day at a designated time. Teams may choose to set up a small pop up canopy, tables, and chairs. Small coolers with snacks and drinks are also permitted. Alcohol, glass containers, grills and other open flames are not permitted. All team captains will receive additional information via email in October on specific procedures and set up times.

CAN I BRING MY DOG?

No! Only service animals are allowed at the 2021 Buddy Walk®. Participants arriving with pets other than service animals will be asked to take them home.

IS THE BUDDY WALK® A FUNDRAISER? WHAT AND WHO DOES IT BENEFIT?

The Dallas Buddy Walk® is the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas' largest fundraiser funding over 47% of the organization's annual operating budget each year. Proceeds benefit the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas and help provide resources, support, and educational and social programs for more than 2,000 individuals with Down syndrome and their families in North Texas. For more information, please see pages 3-4 or visit the DSG website at www.downsyndromedallas.org.

ARE DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law. The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas is a registered 501(c)3 organization. Our tax ID number is 75-1508091.

WHO SHOULD CHECKS BE MADE PAYABLE TO? WHERE DO I SEND ANY CHECKS?

For tax purposes, please make checks payable to the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas or DSG. Checks should not be written to Buddy Walk® teams, team captains, or individual participants. Please ask donors to indicate which walk team they are supporting in the memo section of the check. Checks may be mailed to Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas, 1702 N. Collins Blvd. Suite 170, Richardson, TX 75080.

I'M HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THE REGISTRATION AND FUNDRAISING SITE. WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR SUPPORT?

For all your Buddy Walk® related questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Jennifer Ford Hannah Fredette 214.267.1374 x.1 214.267.1374 x.2

jennifer@downsyndromedallas.org <u>hannah@downsyndromedallas.org</u>

