

ON THE UP

WITH DOWN SYNDROME

FALL
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A Publication of the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

9TH ANNUAL BUDDY WALK TO KICK OFF DSAW'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We begin our sponsorship of Down Syndrome Awareness Month with DSAW's 9th annual Buddy Walk to be held September 25th at Hart Park in Wauwatosa. Registration starts at noon and there will be many things to do before we begin our walk at 1:30 pm. The "Bake 4 a Buddy" sale will return with an assortment of baked goodies for purchase. Visit the DSAW Marketplace which will include exhibitors such as Time For You, Market Day Gourmet, UCP, Lynne's Scizzory, MetLife and Silpada Jewelry. Finally, we'll get a warm up and pre-walk stretch led by Mymo the Monkey from My Gym Children's Center in Brookfield.

You may or may not know that DSAW was organized in September of 1990 by a dedicated group of parents that saw a need and filled it. Look at what parents can do! Fifteen years later, we celebrate those pioneering parents and ask all who have a loved one with Down syndrome to help promote positive awareness and social acceptance of Down syndrome with an audiovisual presentation celebrating 15 years of DSAW and the volunteers that make it work.



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Then join the leaders of the pack, Mike Strehlow, CBS-58 News Anchor and our honorary co-chairs, Leonard and Maryann Peace, as they walk the 1 1/2 mile route. After the walk, head over to the buffet line for food provided by Saz's on State. Live entertainment by MetaFour Jazz Quartet, puppet show and more kid's activities will follow. Don't forget about the prizes!!!! Top 10 Fundraisers, super raffle, general raffle and silent auction items will be handed out after lunch, too.

To honor one of DSAW's members who passed away this spring, we established the Deborah A. Cota Memorial Community Spirit Award. This annual award will be presented at the Walk to the



individual and to the corporate entity that best exemplifies the mission and vision of DSAW.

Please note that DSAW has an updated website that allows online Buddy Walk registration and donations with secure payments. We will also have the capability to accept credit card payments at the Walk for items such as auction prizes and raffle tickets. Great prizes this year include a Swimtastic birthday party package, one year supply of Klement's sausages, athletic event tickets and a 2005 Milwaukee Brewers team autographed baseball just to name a few. Raffle tickets are on sale for \$1 each or 6 for \$5 can be purchased the day of or in advance by calling the DSAW office. You need not be present to win but don't forget to return the ticket stubs with readable contact information so we can communicate with the lucky winners.

The Packers play at noon but we will have Buddy Walk Packer Backers providing game updates so come enjoy the festivities starting at noon on Sunday September 25th at Hart Park. Contact the DSAW office at (414)327-3729 or check the website at www.dsaw.org for more information.

If you can't make it to the DSAW Buddy Walk, please know that there are other Buddy Walks around our great state being held in conjunction with Down Syndrome Awareness Month in Madison at Warner Park, LaCrosse at Riverside Park and in Green Bay. Check out www.buddywalk.org for more information on statewide Buddy Walks. Hopefully no matter where you reside, you'll be able to enjoy fellowship and fun at a Buddy Walk near you.

DSAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Would you like to receive "On The Up" in your **computer's** mailbox? You will be able to obtain the DSAW newsletter faster and can help save DSAW money on postage. If you would like to participate in this pilot project, send an e-mail to kcshafer@wi.rr.com. Please provide your name, e-mail address you wish the newsletter sent to (if different from the sender) and place "newsletter pilot program" in the text.

www.DSAW.org

NEW AND IMPROVED!

Have you visited our website recently? Given our primary mission of providing our members with information and resources, DSAW recently invested time and money in upgrading the organization's website.

The improved version includes:

- Forums that allow you to share experiences, exchange ideas and form local networks
- An electronic version of our New Parent Packet
- A digital version of the New Parent Video
- Information-packed Resource pages
- Past newsletters
- "Find a Family" – assists you in finding other members in your direct vicinity
- A complete Calendar of events
- Online registration for the Buddy Walk
- Membership registration
- Volunteer registration
- The ability to accept online donations.

Special thanks to Eric Stoffers of Proactive Design (eric.stoffers@proactivedesign.net) for lots of hard work over the past few months.

We'll continue to add features and functions in the future and welcome your feedback. If you're interested in joining our Website Committee or have some ideas, please email Jon Reetz at jreetz@dsaw.org.

CHANGES ON THE BOARD

I am sorry to report that Kevin Fech is resigning from the DSAW Board of Directors. Kevin recently started a new position and finds that the demands on his time do not allow him to devote the effort he would have liked to spend on DSAW. The members of DSAW owe Kevin a tremendous amount of thanks for his years on the board. He is one of the individuals who came onto the board at a time when the organization faced many challenges. Kevin's "can-do" approach and his commitment to DSAW helped us to move the organization forward in many ways. On behalf of the board members, thank you Kevin for your contributions to DSAW. You have helped us to pave a bright future that will benefit families for many years to come!

Ron Irwin
DSAW President

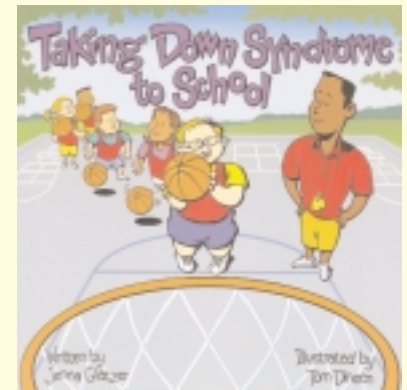
Please consider making a commitment to others in the Down syndrome community by volunteering to sit on the DSAW Board of Directors. If you have accounting experience especially, please consider lending a hand to help us fill the Treasurer position.

TAKING DOWN SYNDROME TO SCHOOL

DSAW recently received a memorial gift from one of our member families which enabled us to fund a unique project. With direction from our Community Outreach Committee (COC) and with the assistance of our statewide Advisory Board Members and other volunteers, DSAW is donating 350 children's books to elementary schools throughout the state of Wisconsin, to promote understanding and acceptance of Down syndrome.

The book entitled "Taking Down Syndrome to School" by Jenna Glatzer, depicts a young boy with Down syndrome talking to his classmates about his life experiences. The author herself has an adult brother with Down syndrome and the issues she touches upon are close to a parent's heart. The book also includes a Down Syndrome Kid's Quiz and Ten Tips for Teachers. After circulation

among classrooms, the book will be housed in the school library or put to good use in other ways. DSAW's purchase and distribution of these books is part of its ongoing effort to provide support to families and promote the acceptance and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome in the community.



The COC has many other exciting projects in the works and would welcome your help whether it's active participation on the committee, or on a limited basis. If you are interested in volunteering or if you have any questions, please contact Heidi Dauer at (414) 744-0203 or via email at hdauer@dsaw.org.

IN MEMORY OF NOAH'S GRANDPA CLIFF

By DSAW Member, Kara Van Vooren

What an honor for our entire family to be part of the "Taking Down Syndrome to School" project! Dad would have been so pleased to have accomplished this. It wasn't Down syndrome that mattered to him, it was the little boy who changed our world that happened to have it. Cliff Sellen was 79 years old when he died in March of 2005. People with Down syndrome didn't have a place in his world as a young man or adult. He saw that change with this little boy.



Being a grandpa was nothing new to my Dad. By the time Noah was born, he already had 16 grandchildren. When we discovered that Noah had Down syndrome he was nearly four months old. I had been talking with my mother about the possibility while we painstakingly waited for the lab results, always wondering what my dad was thinking. It seems it was too difficult for even him to face, so we didn't talk much in those two weeks. When we hurt, he couldn't hide how much he hurt with us. When the

phone call came in, my parents were as overwhelmed with shock and the same fears we had, but also incredible love and concern for us as parents. Dad encouraged us to move back to Wisconsin so they could build a relationship with their little buddy, but also to help develop a community for Noah.

And build a relationship, they did! My parents frequently accompanied us to therapy clinics and cheered Noah on. My dad would finish his bus route and hurry to our home to take Noah to Early Childhood classes at our local school. If Grandpa and Grandma left town for any reason, they'd stop at our house to visit Noah before even going to their own home! We enjoyed our Sunday night visits to Dairy Queen. They attended every Christmas open house, summer school musical, church awards event, and made sure Noah knew he was loved. Looking back, their support of Noah was a reassurance and an affirmation of all our lives. We have all learned that there is more love in the everyday moments than the holidays and big events.

Before Dad died, one of his last questions was "What will happen to Noah?" My mom assured him that Noah would be okay. And he will. He will, because of the heritage his grandparents have given him and the memories, warm feelings and pride he will carry with him every time he thinks of them.

Because of his grandparents' example, Noah belongs to our big family. He is accepted and welcomed and appreciated and loved unconditionally. Noah talks about my Dad daily. Sometimes, it is very difficult for me to hear. But now, I realize it's his way of keeping Grandpa Cliff alive in his heart and mind. This project has allowed us to share a very special Grandpa with all of you and the many children who will have the opportunity to use the books. Together, we are keeping his memory alive. Thank you for the inspiration to share the story of our amazing kids with school children all over Wisconsin.

SPREDING FAITH AND COMMUNITY

by DSAW member
Rosemarie Feiza-Lenz

"I want a ribbon # 5 next time," said a child after receiving third and fourth place ribbons in track and field events of the Special Olympics. For this child, whose developmental disabilities placed her in the Special Olympics, fifth place naturally came after fourth and third. To her, the games meant a sense of belonging, cheering on every Olympian with the fullest of joy, bear hugs and Frito Lays all around. And the desire to put community first was contagious. The crowd cheered on athletes who were just warming up. Undivided support rested like an unspoken bond in the stands.

Unlike in the community of the Special Olympics, children with developmental disabilities often have such a difficult time fitting into everyday society. The very thing they crave is so elusive- a lived paradox.

But our world is filled with hope, even if it may be slow to change.

The Milwaukee area is graced with the SPRED (Special Religious Development) ministry, which gives children with special needs access to their faith through meaningful friendships in a small faith community using the Method Vivre. The method draws on the child's profound sense of people and of the ambiance. As the children deepen their faith and hope, their sponsors in turn benefit from the face of Christ each child brings.

The group meets in a room that speaks of hospitality, warmth and belonging. It invites everyone to enter into a time and place to get focused and ready to hear the word of God. We communicate by doing "work" side by side, and are present to each other. Conventional social expectations are suspended. We are pleased when Matthew communicates his joy through lines from movies, or when leader catechist, Ralph Stewart, culminates the celebration time by saying, "Jesus says to you"...and Grace ends the sentence for him by saying "today." We tell symbolic stories from our everyday lives and juxtapose them to biblical and liturgical evocations. We're happy to be together and God is with us.

If you are interested in finding out more about the SPRED program, please contact Rosemarie Feiza-Lenz at 414-758-0534 or rfeizalenz@earthlink.net.. SPRED has been used in churches and synagogues around the United States and in 11 countries internationally. Its strongest presence is in Chicago where there are over 125 SPRED sites. Please visit the SPRED website at www.spred.org.



Sam Dess mixes paint as a way of getting focused to listen in religious education program for special needs kids called SPRED.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING DSAW EVENTS

- September 25, 2005** 9th annual Buddy Walk to be held at Hart Park, Wauwatosa.
- October 22, 2005** Halloween Dance for Teens and Tweens from 3 to 6 pm. Look for invitation in the mail but save the date today.
- December 3, 2005** Family Holiday Party to be held at Western Lakes Country Club. See RSVP in this edition of the newsletter.



The Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin receives a donation each time someone uses their Pick 'N Save Advantage Card.... providing that DSAW is the designated charity of choice. All Pick 'N Save donations to DSAW are used to support the services provided by DSAW. One of these services is to furnish New Parent Packets. These packets include valuable resource information to hospitals across the state and to new parents while they are still in the hospital.

Next time you are at Pick 'N Save, please visit the customer service counter and tell them you want to designate DSAW as one of your Advantage Card charities (if you haven't already done so). Then give them the **DSAW number - 175315**. It is that simple! Don't forget to tell your friends & relatives that shop at Pick 'N Save, too.

**IT FEELS LIKE SUMMER NOW.....
BUT THE HOLIDAYS WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!**

Come enjoy the season with friends old and new at the DSAW Holiday Party on Saturday, December 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Holiday festivities will be held again at Western Lakes Golf Club located at W287 N1963 Oakton Road in Pewaukee.

The lunch buffet will be served at noon sharp! A jolly, busy Santa will be passing out presents to children aged 13 and under but all family members are invited to attend and enjoy some holiday cheer, good food and music provided by a DJ.

Santa needs your help so don't be naughty! Be nice and fill out the form below, fold this page in half, seal the open end, stamp and mail to DSAW in order to reserve your spot for this fun event!!

Your RSVP must be received by the DSAW office no later than November 4th in order for your family to participate in gift giving.

Each child in the family, age 13 and under, will be receiving a gift so please list them separately below. Most importantly, we need an indication of your child's(ren's) interests in order to make their present special. Please indicate 2 or 3 of your child's interests on the line provided. For example, if your child likes action heroes you may list "Action Heroes, Spiderman, Batman" but do not be specific with regard to the toy. For example, do not write "Spiderman Web Action Glove". Also, please be considerate regarding the price of the gift request, do not exceed \$25. We cannot guarantee specific toy requests. Please come and enjoy some holiday cheer with DSAW on December 3rd.

(FOLD HERE)

DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN HOLIDAY PARTY RSVP

Family Name: _____

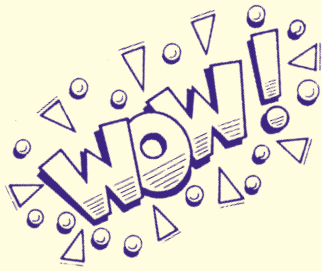
Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Child Name	Age	Child's Interests or Hobbies

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN
9401 WEST BELOIT ROAD
SUITE 311
MILWAUKEE, WI 53227



NEW MEMBERS
THANKS FOR JOINING US!

Thank You!

Abdul & Barbara Ali
 Marilyn Bartel
 Elmer Blair
 Rick Browne
 Lisa Casperson
 Dale & Claudia Dahlgren
 Mark & Tracie Gurda
 Ron & Julie Heibtke

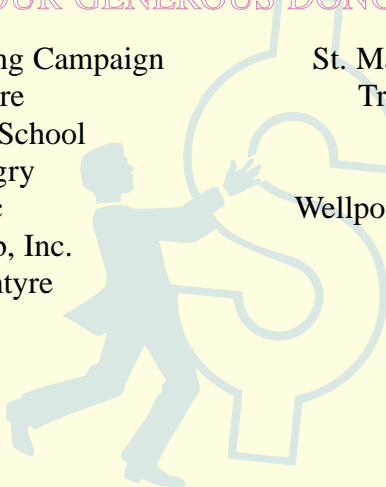


Dale & Sheri Johnson
 Jim & Danielle Marks
 Mike & Dawn Nuoffer
 Tim & Melissa Olson
 Dr. Frank & Sherry Perez
 John & Kim Perez
 David Finch & Laura Schindler
 Max & Cheri Stoka

TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS:

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 Aurora Health Care
 Badger Ridge Middle School
 Dr. Thomas Barragry
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 Greendale Lions Club, Inc.
 Robert & Ann McIntyre

St. Matthias School Student Council
 Tracks Custom Crushing, Inc
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Thank You!

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

Theresa Bredl
 from Mary Ann Kovacic
 Delores Davenport
 from the Ron Irwin Family
 Dorothy Fecteau
 from the Kevin Fech Family
 Peggy Flees' Father
 from the Ron Irwin Family
 Grandpa Fernandez
 from Kevin & Angie Fech
 Matt Goodman
 from the Kevin Fech Family
 Loretta Salzer's Brother,
 from Kevin & Angie Fech

Cliff Sellen
 from Ms. Edith Sellen
 Eric Skaalen
 from Paul, Gina & Jackson Haney
 Arvid Troyer,
 from the Grobschmidt Family & Friends



DONATIONS MADE TO HONOR:

Gene Feuling's 70th Birthday
 from Mary Ann Kovacic
 Sam Mayer
 from Clara Gantner
 Evan Reetz
 from David and Elizabeth Thuli
 Jim & Linda Studzinski's 35th Wedding Anniversary
 from the Kevin Fech Family

Thank You!



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- New Member
 Renewal
 Gift Membership

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Parent Grandparent Aunt / Uncle Sibling Other

If this is a gift membership, list recipient's information above and write your name here: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

\$20 one year \$30 two years Free One Year - New Member

Additional Donation enclosed: \$ _____

Please enclose any names and addresses of others who may be interested in helping DSAW achieve its goals.

Mail this application with your check to:

DSAW • 9401 West Beloit Road, Suite 311, Milwaukee, WI 53227

ON THE UP WITH DOWN SYNDROME

Newsletter is published quarterly by the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

DSAW's **mission** is to provide support to families and individuals with Down syndrome through education, information, and the exchange of ideas and experiences.

The **vision** of the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin is the understanding of the value of people with Down syndrome in our lives and the community. We will continue to strive towards full acceptance, full access, full life and full potential.

The **policy** of the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin is not to endorse any medical, therapeutic or special education alternatives. The Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin is a volunteer group consisting of people who wish to create an optimistic outlook about Down syndrome for our families and others. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a source of information to the community and members on issues related to Down syndrome.

DSAW Office is located at
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E-Mail: info@dsaw.com
Web Site: www.dsaw.org

Thanks to **INDEX PRINTING** for their hard work that goes into the production of the newsletter.



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DSAW IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL.
IF THERE IS A NUMBER AT THE END OF YOUR NAME, THAT IS
YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.

**IF THERE IS NO NUMBER,
YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED . . .
PLEASE RENEW!**

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET JOINED DSAW, PLEASE DO SO TODAY . . .
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

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