

World Down Syndrome Day Celebration Embraces the Difference



More than 70 people were on hand at The River Club at Confluence Park to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. March 21 marked the 7th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day, and for the first time this year, the day was officially observed by the United Nations.

The day featured a presentation by Dr. Murugu Manickam, a medical geneticist at Nationwide Children's and the Wexner Medical Center at The Ohio State University. Dr. Manickam discussed a wide range of Down syndrome research initiatives and provided thoughtful insight on topics ranging from sleep apnea to divorce rates among families with a child who has Down syndrome.

Program Director Marge Barnheiser and Regina Britt facilitated an interactive role playing workshop which showed guests how to have an effective meeting with a legislator.

During the luncheon, DSACO Governing Board Chair Beth Savage and President & CEO Nancy Whetstone presented *Commitment to Excellence* awards to professionals who demonstrated outstanding dedication to serving individuals with Down syndrome.

The event ended with an inspiring reading by self advocate, Katie Kozicki and a beautiful signing by self advocate, Michelle Khourie to the song, *I Can Only Imagine*. A number of the attendees participated in a tour of the Statehouse following the event and observed the Ohio Senate in session. ★



Michelle Khourie



Susie Magyar and sons support Dylan



Dr. Manickam



Christine Manns and Stephanie Mills

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2012 Commitment to Excellence Awardees:

Loretta Crego, Nurse
Utica, OH
Nominated by Mitzi Amon

Dr. Dan Jones, Neurologist
Upper Arlington, OH
Nominated by Marna Beatty

Stephanie Mills, Special
Education Teacher
Galloway, OH
Nominated by Christine Manns

Joanne Mothes, Educator
Dublin, OH
Nominated by Elizabeth Pettis &
Amy Thomas

Catherine Pellegrini, Piano
Teacher
Columbus, OH
Nominated by the Reiser Family

Dr. Jeffrey Shirck, Orthodontist
Pataskala, OH
Nominated by
Lynn Puskarich-Sriprajittichai

Commitment to Excellence in
Media: *A Chosen Child*
The Columbus Dispatch,
Dec. 3, 2011

Rita Price, Reporter
Chris Russell, Photojournalist

Commitment to Excellence
Nominees:

Jen Campbell
Maryellen Hassett-Elam
Shannon Kemper
Carol Ann Morabito
Marti Netler
Shelli Speakman
Carrie Wheeler

MARCH 21st, WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY ...by Katie Kozicki

National Down Syndrome Day is Wednesday, March 21, 2012. Every person with Down syndrome is a special gift. Our families are very proud of what we have accomplished in our lives. Our friends accept us for who we are and support us in our communities. We have dreams and we work hard to make them come true. Our families and friends are our greatest supporters. We were created by God's hands and we have an important job on this earth. Help us along the way with a smile, a hug or an encouraging word. It will be a better world if we all work together.



Katie Kozicki



**Beth Savage, Joanne Mothes
and Nancy Whetstone**



**Chris Russell
and Rita Price**



**Kim Wilson,
Michelle Khourie,
Katie Kozicki and
Aly Barnheiser**

Self-Advocates Grace the Stage at Dancing with our Stars Gala

Under the soft lights before a sold out crowd at The County Club at Muirfield Village, three couples performed an elegant waltz to the Karen Carpenter song, "Rainbow Connection." "It was a mesmerizing performance," remarked DSACO Board Chair Beth Savage. "Their grace, pride and joy gave all of us [parents in the room] a sense of hope for the future—a future of acceptance and inclusion."



A tantalizing tango was performed by a tuxedo-clad Kyle McKay and Arthur Murray Dance Instructor Mia McKibbin. Self-advocate Jenny Fox Cunningham and husband Bryan shared the spotlight as they danced to Tim McGraw's hit song "It's Your Love."



WBNS 10TV Anchor Kurt Ludlow, who served as master of ceremonies, received DSACO's 2012 Advocate in Media award for 20 years of thoughtful coverage of Down syndrome issues. "Thank you for this prestigious award. I am humbled by the recognition and honored to serve such a wonderful organization," he said.

The evening also featured a tribute to RJ Umberger, who plays Left Wing for the Columbus Blue Jackets. Umberger, who was in Pittsburgh for a game against the Penguins, has donated more than \$16,000 worth of Columbus Blue Jackets tickets to DSACO over the past couple of years. "I want to give people of all ages with Down syndrome the opportunity to enjoy the game of hockey," wrote Umberger.



A spectacular live auction sparked some bidding wars and enabled DSACO to sell a couple of packages twice. Every guest had a special opportunity to raise their paddle to fund the adult mini-conference. "We were amazed by the generosity of our guests," remarked Savage. "We raised \$57,000, raised awareness and raised the bar for another gala next year."

A number of brave guests took to the dance floor at the beginning of the evening for dance lessons from Arthur Murray instructors. Later in the evening, they had the opportunity to show off new moves and groove to music "spun" by David DeWitt Taylor, a self-advocate who owns a DJ business.



"It was important to us to showcase the many talents, interests and abilities of self-advocates," shared DSACO President & CEO Nancy Whetstone. "Dancing brings us all together."

Special Thanks:

Gold Sponsors:



PLASKOLITE, INC.

Silver Sponsors: AT&T, Nationwide Children's, Thompson Hine

Buddy Walk® on Washington & DSAIA Conference Wrap-up

The Buddy Walk on Washington is an annual two-day advocacy experience hosted by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) that brings the Down syndrome community together to advocate for public policies that impact the lives of people with Down syndrome and their families. Advocates interact with members of Congress and their staff on Capitol Hill to advance education, research and healthcare for people with Down syndrome.

This year, NDSS partnered with Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action (DSAIA). DSAIA is a national trade association composed of nearly 80 Down syndrome support organizations from across the country. DSACO is one of 73 organizations who sent representatives to the annual event.

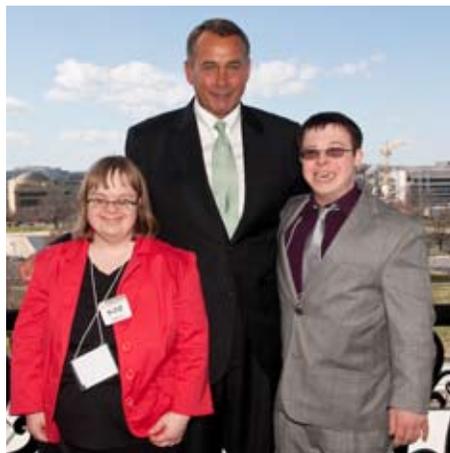
DSACO representatives included staff, parents, siblings and self-advocates. They joined more than 330 fellow advocates from the Down syndrome community and made their voices heard on Capitol Hill. Primary "asks" included co-sponsoring the ABLE Act, increasing Down syndrome National Institutes of Health funding, co-sponsoring the Trisomy 21 Research Resource Act and encouraging members of Congress to join the Down Syndrome Caucus.

The Ohio delegation consisting of members from Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo and Akron was among the largest delegation to attend the advocacy event. Their efforts were very successful! Two Ohio Representatives, Congresswoman Jean Schmidt (R-OH) and Congressman Steve Stivers (R-OH) added their support to co-sponsor the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act after meeting with their local constituents.

DSACO board members and self-advocates, Alison Foose and Kyle McKay played a key role in many of the meetings and urged legislators to

lend their support. After hearing their stories, Congressman Stivers responded with an enthusiastic "You've convinced me. Count me in!"

At a recent follow-up meeting, DSACO advocates met with Congressman Pat Tiberi (R-OH) at his Columbus office. The group was able to secure Congressman Tiberi's commitment to support the Trisomy 21 Research Resource Act of 2011. This bill is sponsored by Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown.



On behalf of NDSS, the Ohio delegation was pleased to present Senator Brown with the Champion of Change award.

DSACO Governing Board members Alison Foose and Kyle McKay with Speaker of the House John Boehner.



Ohio Delegation



Barnheiser Appointed to National Down Syndrome Society Government Affairs Committee



DSACO Program Director Marge Barnheiser was recently appointed to NDSS' National Government Affairs Committee (GAC). The NDSS GAC is responsible for gathering and synthesizing input from the greater Down syndrome community to help inform NDSS' annual public policy and advocacy agenda in Washington, DC.

"Based on her expertise and experience, we felt strongly that Ms. Barnheiser would be a perfect fit for our NGAC," wrote Madeleine Will, Director, National Policy Center at NDSS.

The mission of the NDSS is to be the national advocate for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. To this end, NDSS strives to protect the rights and remove the barriers of all individuals with Down syndrome. Legislative and policy priorities span the life experience of individuals with Down syndrome from birth through adulthood and range in issue from healthcare to asset development.

These priorities have been shaped by self-advocates, families, affiliate leaders and others under the direction of the NDSS Board of Directors and the GAC, and are as follows:

- ★ Improving Health Outcomes and Quality of Life for People with Down syndrome
- ★ Improving Education Opportunities for People with Down Syndrome
- ★ Increasing Opportunities for Adults with Down Syndrome
- ★ Creating an Economic Future for Individuals with Down Syndrome

"As a member of the GAC, Ms. Barnheiser will have a prominent role in shaping and organizing the Down syndrome community legislative agenda in Washington, DC," wrote Will.



Buddy Walk® on Washington central Ohio delegation (pictured L to R) Allison McKay, Alison Foose, Kyle McKay, Regina Britt & Marge Barnheiser.



Join the National Down Syndrome Congress for the 40th Annual Convention: A Monumental Meeting

July 19-22
Washington, DC

Each year, thousands of people from across the globe attend the National Down Syndrome Congress annual convention. For most people it's a chance to hear the latest information from world-renowned experts. For others, it's a great vacation. But, for nearly all, there's the one-of-a-kind NDSC family reunion feeling that permeates the convention weekend.

Attendees will participate in a variety of plenary and breakout workshops, hear from self-advocates from across the country and enjoy several social events designed for people of all ages.

Registration is available through June 27. Register NOW as this annual convention regularly sells-out! For additional information visit: convention.NDSCcenter.org or call (800) 232-6372.

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities

14th Annual Youth Leadership Forum
July 16-19 Columbus, Ohio

The four day leadership training program is for 11th and 12th grade high school students with disabilities. Many young people with disabilities now have more options and more challenges than at any other time in our nation's history. This forum is designed to prepare them to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunities and to fully develop as constructive, contributing members of our society.

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities: Advises the Governor and General Assembly on statewide disability issues; educates and advocates for:

- ★ Partnerships at the local state and national level,
- ★ Promotion of equality, access and independence,
- ★ Development of employment opportunities;
- ★ Promotes the value of diversity, dignity and quality of life for people with disabilities; and
- ★ Serves as a catalyst to create systematic change promoting awareness and disability-related issues that will ultimately benefit all citizens of Ohio.

For more information, visit gcpd.ohio.gov

SIBS Looking Forward Weekend Retreat about Transition

April 20-22, 2012
YMCA Camp Wilson
Bellefontaine, OH

Ohio SIBS is offering a special retreat designed to show siblings of students with disabilities how they can help their brother or sister become more independent, engaged in the community and ready for employment. Transition is a critical time for students with disabilities and this retreat offers a unique chance to highlight the importance of the sibling relationship.

This retreat is for Students with disabilities who are between the ages of 17 and 22 are eligible; accompanying sibling should be between the ages of 16 and 25.

Thanks to funding by Ohio SIBS, The Columbus Foundation and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, this is a free conference but advanced registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact Dr. Tom Fish at fish.1@osu.edu or (614) 685-8723.

Self-Advocate Lands Dream Job at High School: Parents Reflect on the Educational Experience

When Jeremy Kirk was elected Homecoming King at Reynoldsburg High School in October and offered a job with the school's athletic department, it was no surprise to his parents, Marsha and Chuck, who have always put his abilities first.

Over the years, Marsha has worked with the school system to meet Jeremy's changing needs. "You are your child's voice. It is not your responsibility to meet the needs of the school. It is the school's responsibility to meet the needs of each student," remarked Chuck. "We give enormous credit to the Reynoldsburg School District for the devotion they gave to educating Jeremy."

Jeremy had always enjoyed basketball. In 7th grade, his basketball skills continued to develop and he made the team during tryouts.

"Jeremy has always been in

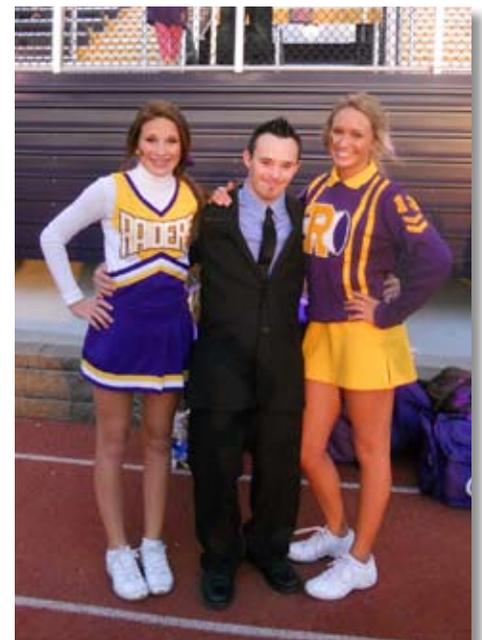
extracurricular activities," remarked Chuck. "He enjoys playing, managing and coaching several varsity sports--football, basketball, soccer, softball and serves as a wrestling stats recorder."

When the athletic director asked Jeremy to work for him cleaning and setting up before games, it was a dream come true for Jeremy. "I make sure everything looks good for the fans," said Jeremy. "We are excited that Jeremy's job will become a paid position after graduation," shared Marsha.

Looking toward the future, Jeremy says that he will enjoy seeing his friends every day. "They show up for his Special Olympics basketball games, pick him up to hang out and stand up for him if anyone gives him a hard time," says Marsha.

Jeremy says he is looking forward to

some down time during the summer so that he can play video games, watch TV and hang out with his best friend, Anthony.





**2012 Columbus Buddy Walk®
Sunday, September 23**

Get Involved. Be Inspired.

Walk With Us!

**Crew Stadium
One Black & Gold Boulevard
Columbus, OH 43211**

Registration Opens at 9:00 a.m.



Whether you have Down syndrome, know someone who does, or just want to show your support, come and join us! At the Buddy Walk, you will join more than 4,500 walkers from all over Central Ohio as we unite for a common cause and raise funds to support DSACO and the National Down Syndrome Society. Our 2012 fundraising goal is \$275,000—together we can do it!

2012 marks the 10th year that Sunny 95 radio personality Dino Tripodis will host the event. WBNS 10TV Anchor Kurt Ludlow, DSACO's 2012 Advocate in Media winner, will join Dino again this year to co-host the opening and closing ceremonies.

**Register now at
columbusbuddywalk.org!**

Launched on March 21—World Down Syndrome Day—DSACO's redesigned Columbus Buddy Walk website features a new look but the same great functionality as last year's website. The registration fee is still only \$21 per person of which \$10 is tax-deductible. Your fee includes an official 2012 commemorative Buddy Walk t-shirt.



"Given everyone's busy schedules, it makes sense to register your team early and so that you can track your fundraising progress over several months," said Development Officer Laura Berger. "We were very pleased that 69 teams registered on World Down Syndrome Day."

If you have any problems during the online registration process, contact Development Officer Laura Berger at lberger@dsaco.net. If you would like to register your team but don't have access to a computer, please contact DSACO at (614) 263-6020.

Build Your Team

Whether you are a veteran team captain or a first-time walker, DSACO will provide you with the tools you need for success. "We listened to our Team Captain's wants and reviewed responses to a survey that we sent after last year's walk," said Carrie Wheeler co-chair of the 2012 Buddy Walk. With teams as small as two, anyone can become a

team captain! Register as a team captain and DSACO will mail you a Team Captain Kit which contains:

- ★ Timeline of Important Dates
- ★ Responsibilities of a Team Captain
- ★ Information about how funds raised support DSACO and NDSS
- ★ Guide to Fundraising Incentives
- ★ Tips on Fundraising
- ★ NEW! Buddy Bucks Fundraising Tool
- ★ NEW! Customized Permission to Fundraise Letter
- ★ NEW! DSACO Fundraising Standards
- ★ Recognition Ideas
- ★ DSACO and Buddy Walk Fact Sheets and more!

"I am really excited about the new Buddy Bucks," shared Wheeler.

Buddy Bucks are colorful donation cards that can help you raise funds at work, in school or at local businesses. For a \$1 or \$5 contribution, your donor can support your team and recognize your honoree on the Buddy Buck. Hang them wherever they are sold and increase Down syndrome awareness!



New Buddy Walk Video Showcases Impact

Search DSACO on You Tube and check out our new Buddy Walk video! Produced courtesy of Mills James, the video features DSACO members Jennifer Truby, Joe and Windi Grady, and Pat Gray along with dozens of individuals with Down syndrome and their families enjoying the 2011 Buddy Walk. Share it on Facebook and use it as a tool to help you raise funds and awareness.





Like us on Facebook and join more than 600 followers who are receiving event and program information, success

stories, current research, volunteer opportunities and other important information you need to know to support the person in your life with Down syndrome. Click  on DSACO's Facebook page and encourage you family and friends to follow along too!

Members Encouraged to Complete Application Annually

You have probably noticed the word "members" referenced throughout this newsletter, on the website and in communications from DSACO. We receive many calls and emails throughout the year from all over the country inquiring about membership. There is no fee and membership is open to anyone with an interest in Down syndrome. Most programs are available to families and self-advocates at no charge or for a nominal fee.

While some written and electronic communications are sent to the general membership, many are customized based upon the age of the family member with Down syndrome.

If you haven't completed an annual membership application in the past six months, we hope you will visit our website at dsaco.net and download the interactive membership form located at the bottom of our homepage. Once you complete the form, save it on your desktop and email it back to us at info@dsaco.net.

Completing a membership application will help ensure you receive timely information about programs and services of interest to you. We never share, sell or trade personal information about our members.

Recreational Scholarships Available

DSACO offers recreational scholarships to individuals with Down syndrome to take part in recreational activities that include, but are not limited to, organized sports, summer camps, exercise classes, swim lessons, gymnastics and dance. Prescribed therapies such as physical therapy sessions are not eligible. Up to \$200 is available to individuals with Down syndrome per calendar year.

For an application, visit dsaco.net and click on the Programs & Services tab.

Scholarship Offers Funds for Swimming Lessons

More than \$4,000 in scholarship funding is available for swimming lessons thanks to the Nick Crusse Memorial Scholarship Fund. Growing up, Nick Crusse's best friend had Down syndrome and this special friendship left an indelible mark on the Crusse family.

An avid NASCAR fan, Nick enjoyed building models and playing Lacrosse for Thomas Worthington High School. Like many teens, he loved spending the long summer days hanging out with friends and swimming in the local creeks.

On July 8, 2001 Nick tragically drowned while swimming with friends in Alum Creek. Nick's family decided to create a scholarship program with memorial donations they received from family and friends. To honor Nick's longtime friendship, they earmarked scholarship funds for swimming lessons for people of all ages with Down syndrome.

The Nick Crusse Memorial Scholarship fund allows a maximum of \$200 per person, per year for swimming lessons. Funds will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. There is no lifetime award limit. When the funding is exhausted, parents should apply for Recreational Scholarships to help cover the costs for swim lessons.



The application and additional information can be found at dsaco.net.

 Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio

DSACO Staff

Nancy Whetstone	President & CEO
Marge Barnheiser	Program Director
Laura Berger	Development Officer
Denise Showalter	Office Manager
Abbey Slee	Intern

Stay Connected



KEEPING UP is a publication of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO), reporting items of interest relating to Down syndrome. DSACO does not promote or recommend any therapy, treatment, institution, or professional system. Any editorials are the opinion of one person and not meant to represent the exclusive opinion of DSACO. DSACO is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Dr. Kvitko Golf Classic
Presented by Buffalo Wild Wings
Benefitting DSACO
Friday, July 27
Bent Tree & Royal American Golf Courses

DSACO is partnering with Buffalo Wild Wings and Dr. Kvitko for its annual golf classic. Golfers will have the opportunity to meet OSU sports legends while enjoying a spectacular round of golf. Buffalo Wild Wings and its partners will provide a delicious array of food and thirst-quenching beverages throughout the day. Both venues can accommodate 300 golfers playing a scramble format.

Buffalo Wild Wings, one of the country's fastest growing restaurant chains, has hosted a successful charity golf outing for the past few years. Organizers plan to promote the event through table toppers, posters, screen shots on TVs, social media and email. "Partnering with such a well-known brand will raise awareness about DSACO," said Development Officer Laura Berger.

Dr. Kvitko, host of Dentally Speaking with Dr. Kvitko radio program, has organized his own golf outing to benefit DSACO for the past five years. "This is a great opportunity to bring together golfers from all three events to raise funds and awareness for DSACO."

Registration information will be available soon at dsaco.net.

**Shifting Perspectives:
 In the Community**

Exclusive Pre-Opening Event
Tuesday, September 25
Dublin Arts Council



DSACO is pleased to announce that we have partnered with the Dublin Arts Council on a new exhibition- Shifting Perspectives: In the Community. The exhibition is planned for October to build upon awareness initiatives planned for National Down Syndrome Awareness Month.

"In addition to curator Richard Bailey's poignant photographs, the new exhibition will include images taken by central Ohio photographers of local individuals with Down syndrome in our community," remarked DSACO President & CEO Nancy Whetstone.

The exclusive pre-opening event will offer guests the opportunity to see the unveiling of the local exhibition, meet Shifting Perspectives curator, Richard Bailey and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres.

2013 DSACO Calendar: Call for Photos

Planning is underway for the 2013 DSACO calendar and Graphic Designer Gayle Webster is already beginning to collect photos. Please send Gayle your high resolution images (300 dpi or higher) of family members of all ages with Down syndrome for use in the calendar, eblasts, printed materials and website.

Send Gayle up to three jpg photos that are not touched up or scanned. If there is red eye, please do not remove it. Please include the name and age of the person featured in your photos and email them by Friday, July 5 to dsacocalendar@yahoo.com.



**April is Re-Enrollment Month for
 Kroger Community Rewards**

Supporting DSACO has never been easier! Simply enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards



(KCR) program and scan your Kroger Plus Card at checkout to earn fuel points and rewards for DSACO. You must re-enroll this month even if you are already support DSACO through KCR.

To re-enroll or to register your card online go to: kroger.com/mykroger/Pages/community_rewards.aspx. Click on your store location and then click on re-register. DSACO's KCR number is 83947.

Lose The Training Wheels™ Bike Camp Offered

DSACO is hosting Lose the Training Wheels™ camp from June 4-8 at Worthington Kilbourne High School. Lose the Training Wheels™ is the perfect program for those at least 8 years old who want to learn to ride a two wheel bicycle.

Learning to ride a two wheel bicycle has many benefits, some obvious and some not so obvious including:

- ★ Increase in self esteem & self confidence
- ★ Inclusion opportunities
- ★ Positive change in family dynamics
- ★ Improved quality of life through recreation
- ★ Independent transportation
- ★ Improved physical fitness

Transforming biking into an inclusive activity is the mission of Lose the Training Wheels™, a national organization that conducts bike camps for individuals with special needs. Their unique approach has enabled thousands of people with various disabilities become independent riders.

The 2012 Lose the Training Wheels™ is co-sponsored by Autism Society of Central Ohio and supported through a grant from The Country Club at Muirfield Village Foundation. Over the past five years, DSACO and our supporters have enabled more than 150 people to learn how to ride a bike independently through Lose the Training Wheels™.

Participant Requirements

Participants should have a minimum inseam of 20", be able to walk without an assistive device, weigh no more than 220 lbs and must wear a properly fitted helmet. A parent, guardian or other caregiver is expected to participate in various ways throughout the week. Screenings will be held prior to the camp to determine further eligibility.

The registration fee for the week-long course is \$125 per participant.

Volunteer Opportunities

Anyone interested in volunteering for the camp must be at least 16 years old and physically able to walk/run alongside the participant as they master the skill of riding a bicycle. Volunteers must be able to commit 75 minutes a day for the week.

Applications are available on-line for both campers and volunteers. Please visit the DSACO website at dsaco.net for more information and application forms. Questions? Contact Program Director Marge Barnheiser at (614) 263-6020 or email mbarnheiser@dsaco.net.



DSACO Launches Summer Learning Academy

Learning loss during the summer is a concern of many parents. Summer vacation breaks the rhythm of instruction, leads to forgetting, and requires a significant amount of review of material when students return to school in the fall.

The disruption in learning can have a greater negative effect on the learning of children with special educational needs. Many parents attempt to supplement their child's learning with educational activities and tutoring during the summer but these efforts can fall short of the desired outcome.

In response, DSACO will be offering 60 hours of academic instruction through a pilot Summer Learning Academy for children with Down syndrome who have completed grades 1-4. The primary goals are to:

- ★ Minimize learning loss
- ★ Improve math and reading skills
- ★ Improve social development

A group of eight children with Down syndrome will be accepted into the pilot program along with four typically developing peers. This group will have the benefit of certified teachers, peer interaction and support personnel. DSACO is partnering with the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University on this exciting new program.

Applications are now available on the DSACO website at dsaco.net or by calling the DSACO office at (614) 263-6020. Please direct any questions to Program Director Marge Barnheiser.

Summer Learning Academy

July 9 - August 9

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Mondays through Thursdays

Bethel United Methodist Church

1220 Bethel Road

Columbus, OH



Certified Teachers Sought for Summer Learning Academy

DSACO is looking for certified educational professionals for our pilot Summer Learning Academy, beginning July 9, 2012. This five week program will focus on reinforcing reading and math skills for children with Down syndrome (ages 7-11) during the summer school break.

Qualifications:

- ★ Certified in special education or elementary education
- ★ Five years of teaching at the elementary level, preferably with 3rd graders or below
- ★ Ability to create a learning experience based upon individual student's needs
- ★ Demonstrated ability to maintain appropriate discipline when needed
- ★ Must be available for the entire session (July 9-August 9)

Send resume to:

DSACO

510 E. North Broadway

Columbus, OH 43214

Transition and Employment Series

"It's My Turn" Transition Training for Self-Advocates
Saturday, April 28
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
DSACO Offices

"It's My Turn" is a self-determination curriculum for students with disabilities age 14 and over. Developed by the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) through funding from the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission & currently supported by the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children, this highly interactive workshop will include topics such as employability, post secondary options, living skills and community participation.

This is the perfect program for teens and adults who will soon be leaving high school or have recently graduated. They will have a blast while learning about a whole new world after high school. The training concludes with a parent time to celebrate their student's achievements.

Free program but registration is required no later than April 20. Pizza lunch included. Contact Marge Barnheiser at (614) 263-6020 or email mbarnheiser@dsaco.net.

Estate Planning & Guardianship

David A. Zwyer, J.D.
Community Fund Management Foundation
Monday, May 7
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
DSACO Offices

Do you worry about how to provide for the needs of a loved one with a disability?

In Ohio, individuals with a disability and those who love them face many challenges when trying to provide for their needs in a way that helps safeguard their eligibility for government benefits, such as Medicaid and perhaps Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The goals of this presentation are to provide parents/caregivers information about how to:

- Set aside funds for person/child with a disability (family)
- Save and Spread out lump sums (i.e., funds received by person with disability)
- Continue to provide things that parents currently provide
- Retain eligibility for Medicaid
- Understand different types of guardianships and what they mean for your son/daughter

Registration fee is \$10 per family. Please register by May 1. Contact Marge Barnheiser at (614) 263-6020 or email mbarnheiser@dsaco.net.

Down Syndrome Golf Academy Builds Skills and Promotes Values

DSACO is pleased to announce that we have once again partnered with The First Tee Columbus and Bent Tree Golf Club on the Down Syndrome Golf Academy. Through these partnerships, participants ages 12 and older, learn all aspects of the game of golf and nine core values—honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy and judgment.

"This year, we have designed the program to benefit even more DSACO members including beginners who are interested in learning the game of golf and advanced golfers who want to improve on the skills acquired through the Academy last year," remarked Program Director Marge Barnheiser.

The Advanced Session is open only to graduates of the 2011 Down Syndrome Golf Academy. This program offers participants additional instruction from golf professionals to continue improving upon their skills. Participants will be given player cards with goals to track their practice and progress over eight weeks.

BEGINNER SESSION

June 13-August 1 (Wednesdays)
 6:00-7:45 p.m.

Fee: \$100 per person, includes a new set of golf clubs

ADVANCED SESSION*

May 1-22 (Tuesdays)
 6:00-7:45 p.m.

*Contact DSACO for details.

Both sessions will be held at alternating locations between Bent Tree Golf Club and Golf View Golf Course.

Applications for the beginner and advanced session are available through the DSACO website at dsaco.net or by contacting the office at (614) 263-6020.



Snake, Rattle & Roll Picnic & Dance Promises Fun for All

Saturday, May 19

5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Water's Edge Pavilions 1&2
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

Self-advocates of all ages and their families will enjoy exploring the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium at DSACO's Annual Picnic planned for Saturday, May 19. "We are excited to once again offer this special opportunity for families to connect," remarked DSACO President & CEO.



"We will have the exclusive use of the carousel after the Zoo closes along with a caricature artist, face painting, goodie bags and more!" A buffet picnic dinner will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Last year, more than 460 people registered for this event. While there is no charge for self-advocates and their immediate families (siblings & parents), extended family members and friends will be charged \$20 per person to cover the cost of their admission to the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium and food expenses.

Invitations were mailed to families in DSACO's database. "If we do not have a current membership application on file for your family, we will include an application with your picnic registration," said Whetstone. "While there is no membership fee, we do ask the families we serve to complete an application so that we can plan programming around needs and improve communications."

Book Bundle Project

Self-advocates will host their annual bake sale at the picnic to raise funds to purchase a book bundle at the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC). "Book Bundles" are sets of books that positively portray individuals with Down syndrome. Self-advocates present these books to school libraries in the annual NDSC convention host city or bring them home to donate to local libraries.

The project accomplishes several goals set by self-advocates:

- Show the public that self-advocates are productive and give back to the community;
- Increase disability awareness for students K-12;
- Increase leadership opportunities as they implement the project; and
- Ensure that schools and communities become more inclusive places for people with Down syndrome.

DSACO self-advocates have received national recognition for the success of their book bundle projects. Your purchase of delicious baked goods supports awareness, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

At 7:30 p.m., the dance will get underway and give teens and adults the opportunity to groove to music provided by DJ Joe Carvitti. Refreshments will be provided.



DSACO's Conference for Adults with Down Syndrome

Friday, August 24 – Saturday, August 25

NEW LOCATION!

Hilton Garden Inn at Polaris Parkway

Self-advocates and caregivers should not miss this educational and enjoyable conference! Registration materials will be mailed to families of adults in July and information will be posted at dsaco.net.

Unrestricted Gifts

Rudy and Amber Agrad
Michelle Alruz
Susan Andrews
Lucinda Bolinger
Ann & Robert Buczek
Steve Champagne
Brett Cisler
Randall Cisler
Coldwell Banker King Thompson Foundation
Columbus Scrappers
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Amy Whitehair
Michelle Wiegman
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Dominion Foundation Matching Gift Program
IBM Employee Services Center
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
The Columbus Foundation
The Washington Post Company
Thompson Hine, LLP
Truist
U.S. Bancorp Foundation
United Way of Central Ohio

**The Funny Bone Comedy Club
Benefit Night**

*A special thanks to Sunny 95 radio
personality Dino Tripodis for raising
\$7,000 for DSACO programs!*

Dave Gregory Electric, Inc.
Funny Bone Comedy Club
Smith-Purdum & Associates

THE BIG GIVE

DSACO thanks to those who supported the Association through the Columbus Foundation's philanthropy program, THE BIG GIVE. THE BIG GIVE leveraged more than \$8.5 million for 502 central Ohio nonprofit organizations. Your gift will go a long way toward supporting programs and services for families and individuals with Down syndrome in our community.

*Donors*

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**Dancing with our Stars Gala
Fund a Program Donors**

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Tiffany Perrine
Pat Priest
Jessie Prokup
Danielle Stigler
Carrie Wheeler
Ashley Yassall

Little Buddies and 3-6 Year Old Groups

Meet on the 4th Monday of the month:
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Worthington United Methodist Church
600 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Refreshments and childcare will be provided.

Little Buddies Contacts:

Lisa McCarty
(614) 871-1940
liserah@sbcglobal.net

Dona Holmstrom
(614)305-1396
dmhkmh@gmail.com

3-6 Year Old Contact:
Susie Magyar
(614) 760-5938
6magyars@gmail.com

Weekend Play Group

NEW! Your infant or preschooler with Down syndrome will love playing with other kiddos and siblings! You will enjoy meeting parents in an informal, relaxed atmosphere.

Meets the 2nd Saturday of the month:
10:00 a.m.-Noon
Location varies

Contact:
Andrea Bartosch
(614) 395-1095
andreabartosch@live.com

Susie Jones
(614)216-1379
susiejones828@yahoo.com

Ross & Pickaway Counties Support Group

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at:
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tyler Memorial UMC
260 Mill Street
Chillicothe, OH 45601

Refreshments and childcare will be provided.

Contact:
Kim Kuehnle
(740) 412-8548
Kimberly.turtle@gmail.com

Delaware County Play Group

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month:
6:30-8:30 p.m.
7991 Columbus Pike
Lewis Center, OH 43035

Park in front of building and use front entrance.

Contact:
Bethany Mirka
(740) 666-2222
tbmirka@hotmail.com

Walking Club for Teens & Adults

Meets Mondays Beginning May 14
7:00 p.m.
Antrim Park
799 Greenridge Road
Columbus, OH 43085

Antrim Park provides the perfect setting to walk a one mile loop around the scenic lake. The group meets at the bulletin board in the lower parking lot.

Advance registration is required.

Contact:
Marge Barnheiser
(614) 263-6020
mbarnheiser@dsaco.net

Adult Stamping Club

Meets 1st Wednesday of the month:
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Urban Coffee meeting room
7838 Olentangy River Rd
Columbus, OH 43235

Fee is \$5 per person and registration is required.

Contact:
Marge Barnheiser
(614) 263-6020
mbarnheiser@dsaco.net

D.A.D.S. (Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome)

Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month:
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Logan's Roadhouse
3969 Morse Crossing
Columbus, OH 43219

Contact:
Shawn Neighbor
(614) 545-8152
Shawn.neighbor@gmail.com

Bob Buczek
(614) 307-9015
Nj5150whit@yahoo.com



