



Down Syndrome Association of Brazos Valley

November./December 2009

Newsletter

The mission of the Down Syndrome Association of Brazos Valley is to enlighten the public by promoting a positive understanding of Down syndrome in the community and be a source of support, information and education for families and individuals affected by Down syndrome.

This year's Buddy Walk was a success despite the rain. We had over 1000 people participate in the Buddy Walk. It was held on October 11, 2010 at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater. We raised \$23,815.98 at the 6th Annual Buddy Walk. We would like to thank the Brazos Valley for coming out and supporting Down syndrome awareness.

I would like to thank our sponsors without them this would not have been possible:

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Buddy Walk Supporters

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I would like to give a special thanks to some of our volunteers Project Sunshine, One Army and to all of the other volunteers that came out to help make this day special.

Our top fundraisers were Team Ava, Walk with Quentin and Hayden's Posse. Thanks to all who raised funds for our fundraiser.

We will be putting pictures up on the website in the next couple of weeks from the 6th Annual Buddy Walk courtesy of Captured Moments.

Mark your calendar for next year's Buddy Walk on October 10, 2010 at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater.



Down Syndrome Association of Brazos Valley 2010 calendars are for sale.

The calendars features some of our wonderful children. The cost is \$10 and make great gifts. See our website to purchase.

All paid members be on the lookout to vote for new board members. You will receive via e-mail beginning of November.

Upcoming Events

Fun for Adults with Down Syndrome and Special Needs What: Aggie Night, games and Aggie traditions

When: November 6, 2009

Time: 6 - 8:30pm

Where: Holly Cross Lutheran Church 1200 Foxfire Dr. College Station

RSVP: Christy Knight
979-778-7010

18 years and above

Buddy Skate

Arctic Wolf Ice Center

When: Sunday, Nov. 8th

Time: 11 - Noon

Cost \$5.00

The Buddy Skate is a skating session for people with Down syndrome and other special needs to ice skate with assistance in a safe environment.

Dance Party

When: Friday, Nov. 13th

Where: Lincoln Center

Featuring performances by various Texas A&M dance groups. A DJ will be at the party to rock the house and refreshments will be served.

Cost: \$5.00 proceeds benefit DSABV
Sponsored by Team ACDC of May's Business School BUSN 205 class

Practical Solutions for Education Students with Down syndrome

Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010

9 - 12pm

Down Syndrome Association of Houston

Resource Center; 7015 W. Tidwell Bldg. G Suite 108 Houston TX 77092

\$30 per person or \$50 per couple

Registration form on our website

Kase Marshall Benefit Golf Tournament

Date: Saturday, January 9, 2010

Where: Longwood Golf Course 13300 Longwood Trace Drive
Cypress TX 77429

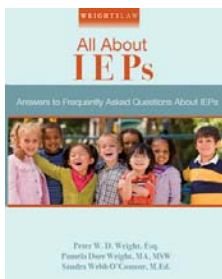
When: 11am Registration/Driving Range Open

Noon Shotgun Start with box lunch

6pm Post Play Dinner and Silent Auction for Golfers and Families

Format: 4-person Scramble

Why: To raise funds for Kase Marshall and DSABV. The Down Syndrome Association of Brazos Valley is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization comprised of families and friends of people with Down syndrome. Kase Marshall, son of Jean Anne and Matt was born on September 8, 2009 with Down syndrome in conjunction with a heart condition and will be needing numerous surgeries and therapies. We want to insure that Kase and his family have the financial means to provide this beautiful child with the best care possible.



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*“Participation in normal school and community events is a **right** not a privilege for which students have to qualify.”*

Quality Education for Students with Down Syndrome By National Down Syndrome Congress

In recent years there has been a growing commitment to excellence in education and a general recognition that it is the quality of education afforded its students that is perhaps the most important predictor of a nation's future.

Like their peers without identified disabilities, students with Down syndrome have the same right to expect a quality, education that prepares them for valued and productive roles as citizens of their communities. The purpose of this statement is to highlight features of quality programs for students with disabilities. Features of quality programs are derived from several sources: (a) the large research literature on effective schools, (b) research on the development and learning

capacity of individuals with Down syndrome, (c) model programs that demonstrate what is brought to bear to educate all students, and finally, (d) values regarding the rights of individuals with disabilities and their place in the larger society.

In 1975, Congress passed Public Law 94-142 (Education of All Handicapped Children Act), now codified as IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

This law is very important in the lives of children with disabilities. Under the law, early intervention services are provided to eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities, and special education and related services are made available to eligible school-aged children. The most recent reauthorization of the law is The Individuals with Disabilities

Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004) which was signed into law on December 3, 2004. Most provisions of the revised law take effect on July 1, 2005.

1. **Students Have The Right to Integrated Services in local Schools.**

Students with disabilities have the right to attend schools in their neighborhood along with brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors who have no identified disabilities. Attending an integrated and age-appropriate school campus provides important learning opportunities for all students. The neighborhood school should be the planning base for decisions about educational placement. The resources of special education should be available to educate a student in his or her home school. Eligibility for special education should not be tantamount to a

Continued : Quality Education for Students with Down Syndrome By National Down Syndrome Congress

transfer from the neighborhood school and a long bus ride.

School assignments for students with disabilities should be as stable as they are for students without identified disabilities. Continued attendance at a local school should not depend on the availability of space for a special classroom. Once a student is assigned to a regular building, he or she should continue there as long as others in his or her age group.

As a rule of thumb, a student with a disability should not be required to travel farther to his or her school program than does a student without disabilities.

Schools should provide structured opportunities for students to take social advantage of the close-to-home placement. There should be active efforts to promote friendships and build social networks that include students with and without disabilities.

2. **Students Have The Right To Be Taught Well..**

There must be high expectations both for students with Down syndrome and for the professionals who serve them. Students must be expected to achieve and professionals must be expected to promote achievement. Teachers must be trained to provide effective instruction and to accommodate individual differences. They must extend their skills as more diverse groups of students attend their schools and their classes.

School systems must provide services that students need, not only those services they presently know how to deliver.

Related services (such as speech and language, occupational and physical therapies) should be brought to the student rather than sending the student to the location of services.

Principals should be prepared to advocate excellence in education for all students, recognizing that excellence is not synonymous with improved achievement on standardized tests. Educational administrators must assume a leadership role in implementing best practices for all students.

3. **Students Have The Right To A Curriculum that Is Individualized, Functional and Future-Oriented.**

There should be a general absence of labeling. All students including those with disabilities are people first. Schools should actively promote respect for human diversity.

Students with Down syndrome should have the same access to the same events, facilities, and resources, as do students without disabilities.

Participation in normal school and community events is a right not a privilege for which students have to qualify. Students with disabilities must be recognized as individuals. Variation in behavior, affect and health are part of the human condition and not specific to Down syndrome.

4. **Students Have The Right To Be Treated With Dignity As Full Citizens Of Their School Communities**

There should be a general absence of labeling. All students including those with disabilities are people first.

Schools should actively promote respect for human diversity.

Students with Down syndrome should have the same access to the same events, facilities, and resources, as do students without disabilities.

Participation in normal school and community events is a right not a privilege for which students have to qualify.

5. **Students And Their Families Have The Right To Transition Support And Planning Throughout The School Years.**

Schools should promote active parent and family involvement in decision-making. It is the family, not the educational system, that has the most long-standing and vested interest in a child with a disability.

For more information about the National Down Syndrome Congress please visit www.ndsccenter.org or call them at 800.232.NDSC (6372)



Down Syndrome Association of Brazos Valley

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College Station TX 77845
Phone: 979-778-7010
E-mail: dsabv@yahoo.com
Web: downsyndromeofbcs.com

The Down Syndrome Association of Brazos Valley is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization comprised of families and friends of people with Down syndrome. Our goal is to provide information and support to anyone interested in Down syndrome. If you would like to get more information about our group please feel free to contact Christy Knight 979-778-7010.

If you are a new parent and would like information or a new parent packet please contact us via phone or e-mail and I will get this to you immediately.

We're More Alike than Different

Birthday's for October, November, December

Board of Directors

President—Christy Knight dsabv@yahoo.com
Vice President—Sondra White sondra@tamu.edu
Treasurer—Darla Dyke darla.shane@hotmail.com
Secretary—Heather Rutledge barrmri@yahoo.com
1st Member at Large—Ben Erdman berdman@tamu.edu
2nd Member at Large—Connie Weedon cweedon@mhmrbv.org

10/16 Allison Dohrman 11 years old
10/28 Ava Redman 4 years old
11/5 John Minke 5 years old
11/15 Hayden Bachmeyer 8 years old
11/18 Clay Brown 30 years old
11/24 Katie Marino 30 years old
12/3 Alice Robison 39 years old

More News

Brazos Valley Bank created the Investment Recycling Initiative as their way of giving back to the community. They have pledged 10% of their projected net income to charitable contributions for 2010. Please vote for our group at <http://www.bvbank.com/ClickforaCause>

We will also be looking for people to join committees the following are available: Education, Fundraising, Publicity, Advocacy, Social, and Volunteer committee. Please let me know if you are interested.

Membership Levels

For an individual or family membership the annual dues are \$30.00

To be a FRIEND OF DS OF B/CS, the annual level of giving is \$100.00. Business name/ Name on website

To be a PARTNER OF DS OF B/CS, the annual level of giving is \$200.00. Logo on website

Forms can be found on-line

Exercise Program

The idea is to MOVE and HAVE FUN for at least an hour. Nothing too strenuous or anything that involves special equipment. Our instructor would also include a few minutes of diet and nutrition advice / counsel. The class will meet for the 2009 fall semester on Saturdays at The Exit Teen Center on Rock Prairie Rd from 9 - 10am. If you would like more information or to join the class please contact Kristi Tackitt at fitness@downsyndromeofbcs.com or 281-387-1760. The cost of the class is \$25.00 per semester.

If you have ideas for classes or speakers that you would like us to get please let us know. We already have an exercise program, handwriting program, social events and a education day conference a year.

If you are looking for something in particular we are interested in hearing from you.

Upcoming Workshop

Teaching Math to People with Down syndrome and other Hands-n Learners
April 23 or 24, 2010
College Station Conference Center
More details to come

Newsletter will be published every other month.