



OUR MISSION

The Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support and resources for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. The Guild seeks to provide the entire community with information and education to broaden awareness and foster positive attitudes regarding people with Down syndrome.

OUR VISION

A community where individuals with Down syndrome are fully included valued members.

OUR BELIEFS

Individuals with Down syndrome:

- Are important members of society
- Are persons in whom all things are possible
 - Will achieve great things
 - Deserve full opportunities and community support

ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring genetic condition. Individuals with Down syndrome have an extra, critical portion of the number 21 chromosome present in all, or some, of their cells. This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down syndrome.

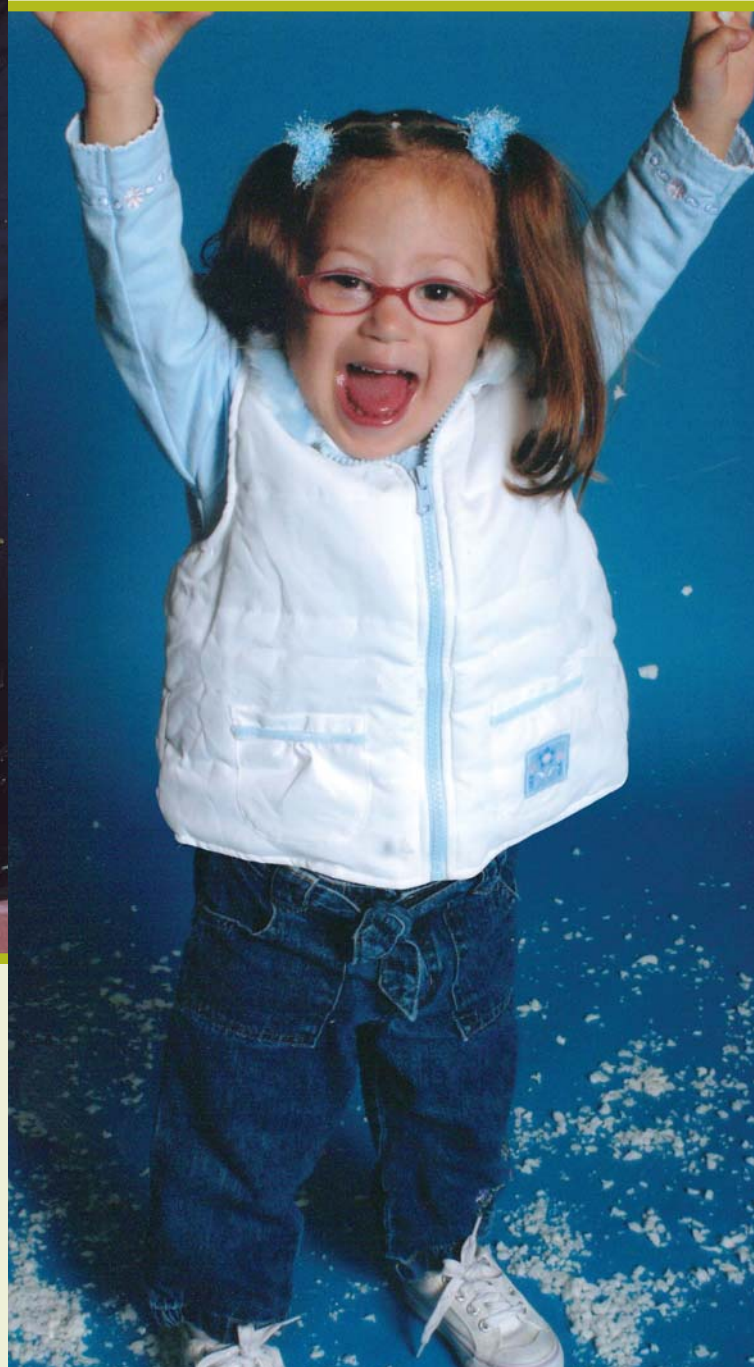
It is estimated that one in every 800-1,000 live births will result in a child with Down syndrome, representing approximately 5,000 births per year in the United States. There are approximately 350,000 individuals with Down syndrome in the United States today.

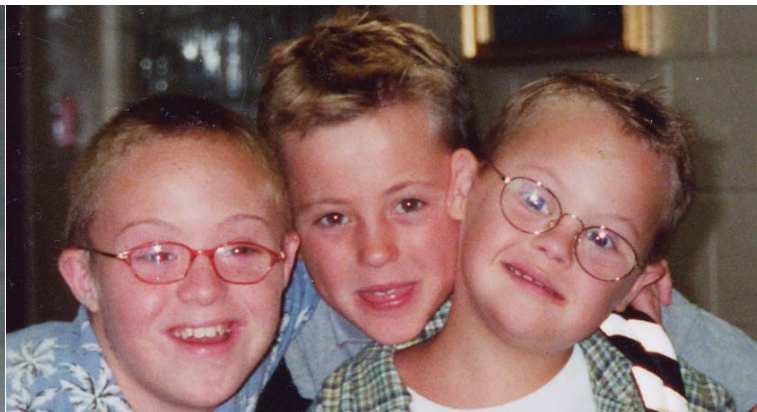
There is a wide variation in the abilities, physical development and behavior of individuals with Down syndrome. Each individual has their own unique personality, capabilities and talents. One should always use "people first" language. For example: a newborn is a baby with Down syndrome, not a Down's baby.

With appropriate education, therapy, social support and opportunity, the majority of individuals with Down syndrome will lead fulfilling and productive lives.



Contact us:
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WHO WE ARE

THE DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF GREATER KANSAS CITY (DSG) was formed in 1984 by a group of parents who recognized the need for supporting families who experience the birth of a child with Down syndrome. We continue to be a parent-lead organization seeking to be the number one resource on Down syndrome in the Greater Kansas City area.

The DSG expects 50 new babies will be born with Down syndrome each year in Kansas City and looks forward to providing support and resources to their families. We have more than 750 families in our database and are proactive in assisting these families and linking them to one another.

The DSG is proud to be affiliated with both national Down syndrome organizations. We work collaboratively with these organizations to break down stereotypes through education and awareness to achieve positive outcomes for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. Learn more about the National organizations by visiting their websites or calling them at:

NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME CONGRESS
www.ndscenter.org • 1-800-232-NDSC

NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY
www.ndss.org • 1-800-221-4602

HOW WE HELP

Comprehensive Website – www.kcdsg.org

New Parent Meetings

24-Hour Phone Information Line

Meal Voucher Program

Community Groups

Expectant Parent Packets

Seminars and Conferences

New Parent Magazine and Gift Packets

Scholarships to National Conferences

Connections Newsletter

Community Awareness Presentations

Lending Library

All Guild and Age Specific Social Activities

Birthday Club

WHY YOU SHOULD BE INVOLVED

- "Meeting other parents of children with Down syndrome really made a difference for my wife and me. Before we got involved we felt isolated and like we were on our own. Now we feel like we have an extended family that look out for us."
- "I enjoy going to the activities hosted by the DSG. It's fun to see kids with Down syndrome interact with one another and share resources between parents."
- "Volunteering for the DSG has been very rewarding for my family. We like meeting the individuals with Down syndrome and helping them have a good time."
- "I always enjoy volunteering at your events. Individuals with Down syndrome teach me something new every time I am around them."
- "Participating in the Buddy Walk is an amazing experience. It's a day full of joy, awareness and smiles. Thank you for all you do to promote greater awareness of the many abilities of individuals with Down syndrome."

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FIRST DOWNS FOR DOWN SYNDROME (FDFDS)

First Downs for Down Syndrome partners with the Kansas City Chiefs' offensive line to promote greater awareness of individuals with Down syndrome. FDFDS provides significant financial support to the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City, the Down Syndrome Clinic at Children's Mercy Hospital and other Down syndrome organizations.

For more information about FDFDS visit their website at www.fdfds.org or call 816-237-1200.

THE DOWN SYNDROME CLINIC AT CHILDREN'S MERCY HOSPITAL

The Down Syndrome Clinic is a multidisciplinary clinic, whose mission is to improve the quality of life of individuals with Down syndrome. The Clinic provides a comprehensive, coordinated program addressing the medical and therapeutic needs of children ages birth to 18 as well as offering support and education to their families.

For more information or to schedule appointments contact the clinic at 816-234-3784.

