



*"Gaining Ground
for a Winning Cause"*

First Downs for Down Syndrome (FDFDS) teams up with the Kansas City Chiefs Offensive Line to raise money for the Down Syndrome Guild, the Down Syndrome Clinic at Children's Mercy Hospital and other Down syndrome organizations.

A number of fundraising events are held each year to raise funds and provide greater awareness of Down Syndrome. Events are advertised in DSG's Connections newsletter and open to any interested parties.

- Huddle Time Sports Auction
- Private Cellar Wine Tasting and Auction
- Golf Classic
- Buddy Walk
- First Downs and Take Downs High School Fundraisers
- Dress Down for Down Syndrome Days

Thank you to the Kansas City Chiefs for their strong support!



For information regarding events or other fundraisers please contact, Amy Stoll, Executive Director, at 913.722.2499 or via email stoll@fdfds.org. You can also learn more by visiting our website at

www.fdfds.org



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Proudly serving Kansas City families and professionals since 1984!



Programs and Services Information



The Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City (DSG) is a nonprofit 501 c 3 organization whose mission is to provide support and resources to 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.

DSG provides programs and services to improve the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. DSG currently serves over 1000 families and partners with 40 school districts and 22 hospitals to provide current, accurate information regarding best practices on supporting individuals with Down syndrome.

Resources

24-Hour Phone Information Line

Anyone in the community can dial into our phone information line, 913.384.9898, to access information about support groups meetings around the Greater Kansas City Area, programs, services, events, research studies, fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, and age-specific events offered for individuals with Down syndrome.

Website

The award winning DSG website, www.kcdsg.org, receives thousands of hits each month. In 2007, significant enhancements were added to the DSG website which allow visitors to create a profile, register to receive mailings, register for events or to post questions or resources in the DSG forum.

Resource Library

Books, videos and brochures about Down syndrome are available on loan at no cost. The Guild maintains approximately 200 titles readily available for families and professionals.



Connections Newsletter

Connections is published bi-monthly and disseminated to over 2500 recipients. Connections covers educational information, medical and research updates, current events, success stories, community group listings, fundraising information and other pertinent topics related to supporting individuals with Down syndrome.



Down Comforter

The Down Comforter is offered to expectant parents to provide accurate and positive information on Down syndrome along with suggested reading materials, support information and adoption resources. Prenatally diagnosed couples and medical professionals can call the DSG Center to request copies of the Down Comforter.

New Parent Magazine

DSG's award winning New Beginnings Magazine is designed to educate and comfort new parents of a child with Down syndrome. The magazine is filled with accurate information, stories from families and lists of resources. New Beginnings is presented to parents as early as possible and at no cost. DSG works cooperatively with local hospitals and physicians to distribute New Beginnings to parents.

Sharing the News Brochure

DSG's Sharing the News Brochure is designed to help medical professionals effectively present a diagnosis of Down syndrome. Brochures are provided at no charge to area OB/GYN's, Geneticists and hospitals.

Education

Annual Conference

DSG is proud to host an annual educational conference which brings together experts in the field who discuss best practices in working with individuals with Down syndrome.



Conference Scholarships

DSG offers financial funding for families to attend other local and national conferences that will benefit their family.

Seminars and Workshops

DSG host seminars and workshops throughout the year to provide ongoing support. Some of our most popular seminars include: Mind Your Marriage: Couples reconnect and are counseled on how to relieve stressors in their marriage. Practical Solutions: A training for educators, parents and service providers and other interested parties to learn how to successfully engage, instruct and enjoy your student with Down syndrome.

Inclusion Solutions

DSG's award winning Inclusion Solutions newsletter is chock full of tips, strategies and resources for supporting and providing inclusive opportunities for students with Down syndrome.



Down Syndrome Specialists

DSG partners with 40 school districts who have named Down Syndrome Specialists. They serve as liaisons between DSG, families and their individual districts. Specialists are given free registration to all DSG educational events, a resource manual and are hosted for breakfasts twice during a school year to discuss the districts needs in serving their students and how DSG can provide assistance to meet those needs.

Outreach

Parent to Parent Network

As soon as the Guild is informed of a new baby with Down syndrome, a parent from our network contacts the new parents to offer support, friendship and information on how to receive support from the Guild and other local resources.

Support Breakfasts

Quarterly new parent breakfasts are hosted at the DSG Center to welcome new and young families and provide them much needed support and resources. Toddler and Grandparent breakfasts were added in 2006 to broaden the range of supports DSG offers.

Birthday Club Program

Everyone loves to be remembered on their special day. DSG sends out a birthday greeting with a treat to each individual with Down syndrome in our database during their birthday month. It's our special way of reminding them how much DSG loves them.



Individuals with Down syndrome have unlimited potential when given opportunity and support!



Meal Voucher Program

Some of our families will spend an extended amount of time in the hospital with their children due to medical complications. DSG will provide meal vouchers to offset expenses incurred while staying in the hospital. Families can also request a visit from another member of the Guild during their stay in the hospital.

Changing Lives Presentations

Parent led panel presentations educate physicians on best practices support when giving the diagnosis of Down syndrome. Presentations break down stereotypes, provided accurate information quality of life for people with Down syndrome and ensure a positive experience for newly diagnosed families.

Community Groups

DSG provides administrative support and funding to 14 community groups who meet throughout the Greater Kansas City area. Groups provide social and educational opportunities.

Social

All Guild Social Events

DSG hosts several events each year for all members to come together and fellowship one another. Among these events are the Easter Eggstravaganza, Red Barn Farm outing, and Holiday Party. Families look forward to these events as an opportunity to network and share information and resources with one another.



Elementary Group

Activities designed to bring peers together to interact, build friendships and learn and enhance social skills.



Infant/Pre-School Group

Playgroups gather at Gymboree or other local venues to participate in developmental play which leads to opportunities for socialization.

Adult Group

Individuals with Down syndrome over the age of 18 meet for social activities such as dinners, bowling, movies, parties and dances.



Buddy Walk

The KC Buddy Walk is one of the largest in the nation with over 5,000 participants. The walk is the primary fundraiser for the DSG with proceeds providing 90% of the funding for DSG programs and services. Please make a team to increase awareness and support our mission!

Teen Group

This group provides independent social opportunities for teenagers with Down syndrome. Teens gather in a safe social environment to interact with each other as well as typical developing teens. Parents are encouraged to drop off their teen so independent skills may develop.