



Programs and Services



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 1100 families and partners with 45 school districts and 22 hospitals to provide current and accurate information regarding best practices on supporting individuals with Down syndrome.

Resources

DSG Center

DSG has a state of the art 4,000 square foot center which houses our staff, lending library and First Downs for Down Syndrome. The center is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. DSG regularly hosts seminars and trainings for families, educators and professionals at the center. Additionally, Coffee & Conversation sessions are hosted the third Thursday of each month from 9:30 AM-11:30 AM so parents can connect with each other and share resources.

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 post questions and resources in the DSG forum.

Resource Library

Books, videos and brochures about Down syndrome are available on loan at no cost. DSG maintains over 300 titles readily available for families and professionals to check out.



Connections Newsletter

Connections includes 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.



Expectant Parent Support

DSG's Down Comforter packet 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 are encouraged to contact DSG 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. Accurate information on Down syndrome, family stories and lists of resources are included. New Beginnings is presented to parents as early as possible and at no cost. DSG works cooperatively with 22 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. Medical professionals may request complimentary copies of any DSG publications.

Education

Annual Conference

DSG hosts 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 members to attend DSG sponsored, local and national conferences which highlight best practices regarding Down syndrome.

Seminars and Workshops

DSG host seminars and workshops on topics related to Down syndrome throughout the year to provide families and professionals ongoing support and education.

Smart Start Program

Smart Start is a series of four sessions designed to help parents prepare their child with Down syndrome for kindergarten. Student readiness, parent/school relations, placements and building friendships are covered.

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 45 school districts who have designated 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 quarterly during the 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 to help them welcome their new baby.

Support Breakfasts

Each quarter DSG hosts new parent, toddler parent and grand parent breakfasts at the DSG Center to welcome new and young families and provide them much needed support and resources.

Hospital Meal Voucher Program

Some DSG members will experience hospital stays as their children may have 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 and to be matched to other parents during their stay in the hospital.



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

Peer Presentations

DSG provides 20-30 minute classroom peer presentations which consist of reading books and hands on activities to help peers better understand how to support and be friends with students who have Down syndrome.

Changing Lives Presentations

DSG facilitates parent and staff led panel presentations which educate medical professionals on best practices for presenting a diagnosis of Down syndrome. Presentations break down stereotypes, provided accurate information on quality of life for people with Down syndrome and help insure a positive experience for newly diagnosed families.

Birthday Club Program

DSG sends a birthday greeting with a small gift 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.

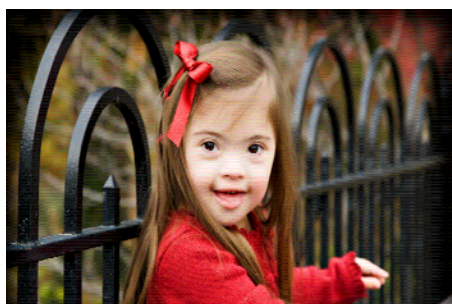
Community Groups

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 Opportunities

All Guild 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.



Infant/Pre-School Group

DSG hosts regular activities at local venues to assist parents in networking with others who have infants or toddlers with Down syndrome.



Elementary Age Group

DSG hosts regular activities for elementary age students which are designed to bring parents and peers together to build a network of support and enhance social skills.

STARS Teen Program

Special Teens Achieving Real Success provides social opportunities for teenagers with Down syndrome. STARS participants gather in a safe social environment while learning life, pre vocational and social skills which will help them succeed at home, school and in the community.

Adult Group

DSG hosts regular activities such as Dances, dinners, parties and movie nights for individuals with Down syndrome 18 and older to promote friendships and enhanced life skills.



Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk

The Step Up Walk is one of the largest in the nation with over 7,000 participants. The walk is the primary fundraiser for the DSG with proceeds providing funding for DSG programs and services. Please make a team to increase awareness and support our mission!



"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.

- Private Cellar Wine Tasting and Auction
- Huddle Time Sports Auction
- Golf Classic
- Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk
- First 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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Serving Kansas City
families and professionals
for over 25 years!