



TASH, a nonprofit advocate for inclusion and the human rights of people with significant disabilities, recognized the film *Just Like You – Down Syndrome* with their 2013 Positive Images in the Media Award.

The award, given annually, honors presentations in film, print and other media that promote positive images of people with disabilities. Awardees are honored for their contribution toward the elimination of harmful stereotypes by portraying those with disabilities accurately and with recognition of the complexities of being human.

"*Just Like You – Down Syndrome* is a remarkable film that shows, above all, we're people first," said Barb Trader, TASH Executive Director. "For years, the complete expression and availability of full inclusion in our communities has been denied to people based on a label of 'disability.' Media projects like this that dispel myths and bring viewers closer to the lives of people with disabilities are steadily breaking down old stereotypes to show how universal we all are in what we want in life."

www.justlikeyoufilms.com www.kcdsg.org

Just Like You-Down Syndrome was a two year long project jointly funded, produced and directed by two passionate Kansas City non-profit organizations. If this film moves you, we invite you to consider making a donation to help compensate for our production costs. If you would like information on how to host a screening for your organization or school, please visit justlikeyou-downsyndrome.org or send an email to justlikeyoudownsyndrome@gmail.com or 913-384-4848.

The Just Like You-Down Syndrome Film received the

2014 National Down Syndrome Congress Education Award

NDSC believes the film is a wonderful teaching tool to promote inclusion and acceptance of people with Down syndrome.

Justlikeyou-downsyndrome.org

Just Like You

Down Syndrome

Full Screen Presentation

A JUST LIKE YOU™ film in association with DSG

Starring SAM CHARPENTIER, RACHEL MAST and ELYSSA SCHMITZ Director of Photography ISAAC ALONGI Written and Directed by JEN GREENSTREET

2012 · COLOR · RUNNING TIME APPROX. 13 MINUTES

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justlikeyoufilms.com



JUST LIKE YOU - DOWN SYNDROME

JUST LIKE YOU – DOWN SYNDROME - explores the life, hopes, challenges and dreams of three teenagers living with Down syndrome. Elyssa, Rachel and Sam share personal stories to help viewers better understand their condition and why they wish to be treated just like you. Each of our stars has their own talents, characteristics, strengths and challenges. Down syndrome is just one part of who they are and this film identifies how to handle and accommodate differences while celebrating the many similarities our friends with Down syndrome have with their peers.

Kids are naturally curious and the special needs of peers with Down syndrome can raise a lot of questions. When questions are left unanswered it can lead to fear of the unknown, which may cause peers to lash out, ostracize or judge their classmates with Down syndrome.

Our teens in the film speak on behalf of all people with Down syndrome. Elyssa, Rachel and Sam look straight into the camera and into the eyes of their audience to tell them exactly what it feels like to be a teenager with Down syndrome and what you can do to support them and be a friend.

Medical and health concerns, communication difficulties, learning needs and friendships are explained with straightforward candor and humor. The stars of the film breakdown myths and stereotypes, educate kids about the unknown, illuminate the human ties they have to each other and allow them to look past labels and accept people for who they are on the inside.

The film's primary goal is to open hearts and change perspectives because, "when you have the knowledge you understand, and when you understand you can accept that kids with Down syndrome just want to be treated like any other kid, just like you."

Just like You, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit which makes films to answer kids' questions about unique circumstances. This film was made in collaboration with the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City with the hopes it will be utilized as a tool by parents and educators to open the door to inclusion, acceptance and friendships.

Justlikeyou-downsyndrome.org

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- * What was the filmmaker trying to communicate?
- * How did the film make you feel?
- * How does the portrayal of people with disabilities in this film coincide with the way you thought about living with a disability before watching the film?
- * Did watching the film change any impressions you have regarding the capabilities of people with Down syndrome?
- * What part of the film had the greatest impact on you?
- * Do you have a close friend with Down syndrome like the people portrayed in the film, and, if so, do you have anything to add?
- * After watching the film, please specify one or two new pieces of information you learned about individuals with Down syndrome.
- * The film addresses some of the challenges and strengths of people with Down syndrome. How do you think peers can include their friends with Down syndrome while also helping them cope with some of their challenges? For example, if your friend with Down syndrome has trouble reading, how can you include him or her in a group presentation at school? If a friend has trouble speaking clearly, how can you make sure he or she feels included at a party?
- * What difference, if any, can the film make in schools across the U.S.?
- * What difference, if any, can the film make in schools in other countries?
- * In order to sustain the knowledge, understanding and acceptance promoted by the teens in the film, what is your role-- as a parent, teacher, peer, administrator or community member to ensure this message extends past these theater walls?
- * Did anything about the film surprise you?
- * Do you think the message conveyed in the film will help open the doors to friendships and greater community inclusion for people with Down syndrome once they graduate?
- * Now that you have watched the film, what will you do differently in your home, work, or community life as a result?