

Down Syndrome Development Council

FORUM-June 2008 volume 21



Please contact us at:

DDC
PO Box 906
Mundelein, IL
60060

Our Meeting Place:
Community Protestant Church
418N. Prairie Mundelein,
Second Thursday of the month.

Our Mission:
To promote a greater acceptance and understanding of Down syndrome, by enlightening the broader community to recognize the individuality, uniqueness and capabilities of individuals with DS.

June Monthly Meeting June 12, 7pm

We are preparing for a beautiful day at Lamb's Farm, raising awareness in our community of what great people our children have and will become. There is so much you can do to improve this opportunity. First thing to do is come to this meeting. Babysitting is provided and the TV shows are reruns. It's fun.

Preparing for our Buddy Walk

Movie Lover's Club

The families of the DDC are invited to a free showing of the new Disney movie "Wall-E" Saturday June 28th at 9:30 am (doors open at 9:15am) at the Liberty Theatre in downtown Libertyville on Milwaukee Ave. The DDC covers the cost of admission, popcorn and soda pop are available to purchase. This is a private showing just for us; the lights are up a little and the children are free to move around, make noise and have a good time. We encourage the kids to sit together and make new friends.

For more info. Call Rae Ann Collins at 847-265-8482.



UPCOMING DDC EVENTS:

- 6/12 Monthly meeting: Buddy Walk 7pm
- 6/19 Thurs. playgroup, 5:30-7:30pm
- 6/20-21 Handwriting w/o Tears
- 6/21 Baby Social, 9:30am
- 6/28 Movie Lovers, 9:30am "Wall-E"
- 8/3 Family Picnic

For a current listing of the books available in the DDC library, go to our website:

www.TheDDC.org Our library is located at the Center for Independent Living. If you are interested in checking out a book please call Pam at 949-4440, ext.15. The office is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00pm.

Want to smile? Simply go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_0K-gPlyb0 and then send it on to the rest of the world. Let's see what will happen.



2008 BUDDY WALK

Sunday September 21, 2008
At Lambs Farm in Libertyville

Bring the family and friends to the key DDC fundraising event of 2008. However, the Buddy Walk is more than a fundraiser. It is a time to show how super our special-needs children, friends, and co-workers are and a time to celebrate their accomplishments. The Buddy Walk is also an opportunity to join other organizations in a National Down syndrome Awareness Event. By informing and educating the public, we are helping to provide for the future of our children.

The DDC needs you to make our Buddy Walk an outstanding event and a successful fundraiser. We need your community connections to obtain items, trips, gift cards, etc for a raffle and possibly a silent auction if some big donations are received (see below wish list). We also need them to obtain donations of food and beverages to decrease the overall cost of this event. Your community connections also can help spread the word of this fabulous event. The DDC has already put together a 2008 BW Donation Letter that can be used to send to potential donors. Donors are listed at the Buddy Walk and in the Forum.

If soliciting for donations is not your cup of tea, the DDC is always looking for volunteers to help with the Buddy Walk...such positions as parking attendant, greeter, food and beverage server, children's activity worker, raffle worker to name a few. We are only asking for 1 to 2 hour shifts from the volunteers.

You can also make a money donation to the DDC's Buddy Walk. These donations will be used to lower the overhead costs. Please support and join us in the 2008 Buddy Walk

The below is wish list of items that would help us have a successful fundraising event:

TIME SHARES
WISCONSIN DELLS PACKAGES (GET AWAYS)
ANY WATER PARK PASSES
GREAT AMERICA PASSES
FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, HOCKEY, (SPORT) TICKETS
THEATER - CONCERT TICKETS
GOLF - 2 - 4 SOMES
GIFT CARDS - (RESTAURANTS, OVERNIGHT STAYS, CAR WASHES OR DETAILS, GROCERY STORES AND CLOTHING STORES)
PAMPERED CHEF, TASTEFULLY SIMPLE, AVON, COOKIE LEE JEWELRY, CANDLES

For more information, please contact Director of Fundraising Deb Pogose at 847.973.1622 or beauvp@sbcglobal.net or contact any Board Member.

I have also included a copy of the donation letter that may be used by any DDC member to obtain donations for the Buddy Walk. If you need an electronic copy, please contact Deb Pogose, Mary Lou Paff or Patrick Collins.



Down syndrome Development Council
P.O. BOX 906
Mundelein, IL 60060

6/3/2008

Donation to Down syndrome Development Council Down syndrome "Buddy Walk"

I would like to request a donation for our 2008 Buddy Walk. The Down syndrome Development Council (DDC) is a not-for-profit, Lake County volunteer support group for families of children with Down syndrome.

On Sunday, September 21, 2008, the DDC is holding our 10th annual Awareness "Buddy Walk", at Lambs Farm in Libertyville, IL. Here are our goals:

- Raise awareness of the capabilities & potential of people with Down syndrome
- Advocate for the needs of individuals with Down syndrome
- Support research via NDSS, the National Down syndrome Society in New York City

In addition to its goal of promoting awareness of Down syndrome, the Buddy Walk raises money to support the education, research and advocacy programs. We are just part of the 215 affiliates nationwide representing the more than 400,000 Americans who have this genetic condition. We are committed to support & enhance the quality of life of all those who have Down syndrome so that they have the opportunity to realize their life aspirations.

DOWN SYNDROME is the most commonly occurring genetic condition & is caused by the presence of three, instead of two, copies of Chromosome 21. People with Down syndrome are unique individuals who possess a wide range of abilities & are active participants in the educational, occupational, social & recreational activities of the community.

I am asking for your support. Any gift you are able to give us such as **soda, water, juice boxes, hot dogs, hot dog buns, chips, pizza, tickets (airline, theatre, sports, etc.), gift certificates, timeshare vacations or overnight stays, donated services, raffle item, or cash donations** would be greatly appreciated! A list of contributors will be available at the 2008 Buddy Walk and we will also make special mention in our newsletter.

Profits from this year's walk will enable us to:

- Maintain our website (TheDDC.org) in order to help others keep well informed
- Continue our English and Spanish newsletters
- Continue our monthly bilingual playgroups
- Continue support, advocacy training, awareness and education
- Continue with our informational and educational seminars
- Support research via NDSS

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at 847-548-4852 or the Director of Fundraising, Debbie Poqose at (847) 973-1622.

DDC needs your photos. The DDC is putting together another brochure and we need pictures of your kids, all ages doing all things. These brochures are handed out at the Buddy Walk, DDC events, and by other Ds organizations to promote awareness about Down syndrome and the DDC. If you have a good quality picture of your child that you would like to submit for consideration in the new DDC brochure please send it labeled with child's age and name electronically to RaeAnn Collins at rjohncol@comcast.net and put DDC photo in the subject. Please note that by sending a photo to DDC you are giving us permission to use the image in DDC publications. If you have any questions please contact RaeAnn via email or phone 847.265.8482. Can't wait to see all those smiling faces.

Making friends. Sharing experiences. Laughing. Rejuvenating. Precious moments.
Summer.

DDC New Baby Social
June 21 from 9:30-11:30am

Saturday

These socials are intended to give parents with new babies a chance to meet and learn more about our children with DS. Our next Baby Social will be at the Fremont Public Library 1170 Midlothian Road, between Winchester and Route 176
Please RSVP to Jennifer Jenkins (847) 970-6797



CAMP SOAR IS THE BEST!



If you are interested in getting together weekly at a park playground please contact me by email so we can put it together.



What would be more fun than sunshine, fresh air, and making friends? It's like free social work hours with people who actually understand our kids. And it is total free!



Terri
christoliniben@comcast.net

2008 DDC FAMILY SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday, August 3, 2008

At Shelter A in the Half Day Forest Preserve

What activity is better to do on a nice summer day...stuff yourself with delicious hamburgers, hotdogs, salads and sweets, re-capture your youth by playing games and soaking up the sun; fishing for the "one that got away"; catching up on members' summer happenings and of course swatting that fly or other pesky bugs. Plus think of all the fun that our children will have.



Playgroup

Our monthly playgroup meets on the 3rd Thursday evening of the month. Families are encouraged to bring all of their children for an interactive group play therapy session, led by our developmental therapist Kris Murray and hosted by various DDC parents. The Thursday evening playgroup includes a light dinner. Spanish language interpreters are available with advance notice. These playgroups are completely free of charge and open to all DDC member families! For more information about the upcoming playgroup schedule and locations, please contact Kris Murray (847-630-4991) or Belinda Hidalgo (belinda.hidalgo@alere.com). **If you would be interested in attending a Saturday morning playgroup, please contact Belinda.**

For other summer activities check out:

GiGi's Playhouse
1720 N. Richmond Rd.
McHenry IL 60050



815.385.7539

Looking for a summer camp? Check out www.specialcamps.org

UPS for DownS is proud to announce the Katie Mac Donald Memorial Scholarships.

The scholarships will be awarded by UPS for DownS annually. The first awards will be made this summer. Two annual scholarships of up to \$2500 will be given on behalf of the Katie MacDonald Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Angel Run Marathon Teams and the Half Marathon Running Teams. One of the \$2500 will be awarded to an individual with DS who is pursuing full or part-time educational opportunities beyond high school, including but not limited to college, junior college, trade or vocational school or job training. Another \$2500 scholarship will be awarded to an individual who is pursuing post secondary education in but not limited to a disability related field, special education, special recreation, OT, PT or speech pathology. Candidates must be high school grads or seniors. Judging will be based on grades, extra-curricular activities, leadership, and community involvement. For applications go to

www.upsfordowns.com



SHOP AND FUND OUR PROGRAMS

Great news! Income from the eScrip program has started pouring in! We were off to a strong start to our eScrip program in 2007 with a total of 13 people signed up for the program by year end, and a total of \$120 received by DDC for 2007. As of March 2008, we have 29 people signed up for the program, and the total we have received for those three months alone is \$106. The majority of those contributions have come from members shopping at Dominicks, but there are many other merchants who also participate. So if you shop at Dominicks, *please* register your Fresh Values card at escrip.com. For those of you who are already participating – ***thank you!*** The income from this program will allow DDC to continue to offer quality programs and social events!

Dominick's fund raising program is called eScrip. Once an individual enrolls, up to 4% of your qualifying purchases are credited to our group every time you shop with your Dominick's Fresh Values Card. The advantage of this program over some of the previous "grocery store" type fundraisers is that once you enroll, you do not have to do anything different or special when you shop and use your Fresh Values Card. It does not involve a credit card, or remembering any coupons or receipts. Once enrolled with DDC as your recipient organization, you just shop! The eScrip program automatically tallies all benefits and forwards the funds to DDC. Just think how much income this program could generate for DDC if all of our DDC members signed up!

For those of you who are willing to register your credit card numbers with eScrip (I have), your purchases at other participating merchants will automatically result in a percentage of your purchase being donated by the merchant to DDC. I have had three different restaurants contribute a portion of my purchase back to DDC. At the time we ate there, we didn't even realize they participated!

All you have to do is go to escrip.com to register. It takes less than 5 minutes. All you will need is your Dominicks' Fresh Values card (and/or credit card if you wish to register those). When asked to select the organization that you will donate to, you can search by zip code, or by name. We are listed as Down Syndrome Development Council, Mundelein, IL, 60060.

Thank you for your participation. If you have any questions, please contact Janis Kern, DDC Treasurer, at (847) 548-4417.

HOW TO JOIN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

For residents of the following towns; Grayslake Community Park District, Village of Hawthorn Woods, Village of Lake Zurich, Village of Libertyville, Village of Lincolnshire, Mundelein Park & Recreation District, and Vernon Hills Park District you are members of SRACLCLC. **What is SRACLCLC?** The Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County was formed in 1976 to provide year round community based recreation services to individuals with disabilities and their families. They provide a catalog of their programs, which include the training programs for various Olympic sports. Bowling, basketball, soccer, track and field, golf and bocce are a few team and individual sports. The SRACLCLC is not the Special Olympics organization but does provide training and support enabling athletes to participate.

Special Olympics Illinois athletes range in age from 8 to over 90. Athletes train for a minimum of eight weeks and compete locally before advancing to the next level of competition. Seven state tournaments, including the Summer and Winter Games, allow the athletes to show their skills. The SRACLCLC is not the Special Olympics organization

Call SRACLCLC at 847-816-4866 or stop by at 290 Oakwood Rd., Vernon Hills. For info about all the camp and other programs available thru SRACLCLC you can go to their website, www.sraclcl.org. For more information about Special Olympics go to their site, www.soill.org

For the Summer games held in Bloomington-Normal on June 13 - 15, the following athletes will be attending and representing SRACLCLC:

Gymnastics

Joey Hanson
Kyle Tuckey
Kellie O'Donnell
Dena Skinner
Kevin Stith
Alexis Winegard

Track and Field

Bob Jacobs

Power Lifting

Chris Walti
Matt Tielke



Special Olympics

**GOOD LUCK TO
OUR FRIENDS!!!**

Need help teaching your child to ride a bike?

People call Richard Klein the Bike Doctor for his work in teaching special-needs children to ride their bikes. During the process, Klein replaces bike tires with a series of eight custom-built rollers. His process usually takes four to five days. Easter Seals has offered camps featuring Mr. Klein and his "Lose The Training Wheels" program.

**For more information visit
www.losethetrainingwheels.org.**



JUNE BIRTHDAYS!!!

Doug Christolini	1995
Nicole Elsey	1993
Maggie Filipiak	1992
Joshua Hintz	2003
Robert Jacobs	1975
Josh Nykiel Judge	1987
Max Kern	1996
Joshua Lawson	1999
Hope Michelotti	1998
Genevieve Ortega	1995
Nickolas Pesce	1998
Alexis Winegard	1993

Mommy had a Cocktail... or 2...

Everyone had a wonderful time at the Cocktail Party hosted by the Collins' over Mother's Day weekend. About 60+ people came and raised a glass... we had DDC parents and members, police officers who participated in the Illinois State Police Torch Run for Special Olympics (they helped raise over 2 million last year for Special Olympics... thanks guys), friends who participated in the Special Olympics Kickin' for a Cause Kickball Tournament fundraiser and a few neighbors who are always quick to give Sam a big smile or high five. We had an amazing spread and if everyone didn't get enough to eat, it was not due to lack of tasty treats...thank you everyone who brought something to pass. Thank you to Kristen from [Baby Brewing.com](http://BabyBrewing.com) who provided us with *Mommy Needs a Cocktail* tee-shirts... [Baby Brewing](http://BabyBrewing.com) is also donating 10% of the total sales to the DDC, so thank you to everyone who bought a shirt or two. We also want to send out a very special thank you to Dick Stark who volunteered his time to tend bar and he kept everyone happy all night long. Thank you Dick for helping to make our party such a success. Is it your turn to host the next DDC Cocktail Party? If you are interested in hosting a DDC Cocktail Party please contact RaeAnn Collins.

On February 27, 2008 the Prenatal and Postnatal Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act (S. 1810), co-sponsored by Senators Edward Kennedy (D.MA) and Sam Brownback (R.KS) was "voted out of the committee." This means that the next step is for the bill to be scheduled for a vote by the full Senate. Senate staff thanked NDSC and NDSS for our efforts in moving the bill. Although this is a great victory, our work is far from over! We will continue to track all developments in the Senate. The next step is for a bill to be introduced and passed in the House of Representatives. It is likely that a bill will be introduced soon and the process of moving it through will begin. We will, as always, keep readers updated and Call for Action at times when our advocacy efforts will be most effective. The bill that was reported out of committee will be posted on <http://thomas.loc.gov> soon. However, the precise time is not known. At that time we will publish a summary of the contents of the bill.

At the May monthly meeting the decision was made to keep the current board of directors in place. It was discussed that changes should be made to lengthen the term of service for the DDC treasurer due to the time required to master the job.

DDC Board Members 2007-2008

President	Patrick Collins	847-265-8482	rjohncol@comcast.net
Vice Pres	Mary Lou Pa	847-548-4852	mlpaff@aol.com
Secretary	Jennifer Jenkins	847-970-6797	only_connect@msn.com
Treasurer	Janis Kern	847-548-4417	Janiskern@comcast.net
Past Pres	Andrea O'Donnell	847-949-1975	odonna@sbcglobal.net
Playgroups	Belinda Hidalgo	847-838-439	belinda.hidalgo@alere.com
Board	RaeAnn Collins	847-265-8482	rjohncol@comcast.net
Newsletter	Terri Christolini	847-267-1169	Christolin@aol.com
Foro (Spanish Issue)	Anna Roeser	847-362-0980	roeser1984@yahoo.com