

# Down Syndrome Development Council



Down Syndrome  
May—June 2009

## Down Syndrome Development Council

*Celebrating 30 Years*

Mission Statement:

To promote a greater acceptance and understanding of Down syndrome by enlightening the broader community to recognize the individuality, uniqueness and capabilities.

## Planning for the Future of Your Child

**When: Saturday, May 16th, 10:00am**

**Where: Protected Tomorrows, 103 Schelter Road,  
Lincolnshire**

**Who: YOU! DDC parents, grandparents, and anyone who would like to learn more about planning for our children's future (children ages 0 through adult)**

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Wednesday, May 13, to Janis Kern, at 847-548-4417, or by e-mail at [janiskern@comcast.net](mailto:janiskern@comcast.net)

Mary Anne Ehlert of Protected Tomorrows will present "Bring You Protected Tomorrows®: Creating the Future Care Plan for Family Members with Special Needs." This presentation is a 90 minute interactive workshop on a comprehensive life planning process which includes the educational, residential, financial, legal, health care, government benefits, employment and recreational needs of the individual with special needs. Her presentation provides a good basic understanding of some important facts, such as how to apply for government benefits such as SSI, SSDI, Medicare, and Medicaid and also reviews in an uncomplicated manner how to prepare financially, and how to have your family's will and trusts set up so as not to disqualify your loved one for benefits in the future. Finally, and most importantly, the topic of family communication is covered in a fun yet serious manner.

This workshop is being offered free of cost to DDC members (adults only) and guests. You might consider bringing family members or others who may be interested in helping plan for your child's future. Childcare will be available, but you must reserve a spot by Wednesday, May 13, to help us provide for the appropriate number of sitters.

### Meeting Place

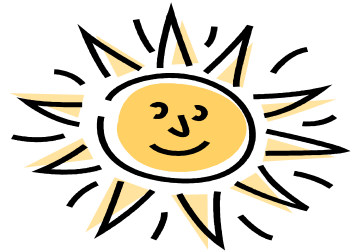
**Community**

**Protestant Church,**

**418 N. Prairie,**

**Mundelein, IL**

**Second Thursday of  
the Month**



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- New Baby Social
- Playgroup
- GEMS Cheerleading Registration
- Wrights Law Workshop, May 2009
- EDUKIDS Family Event, May 12
- May Annual Board Election Meeting, May 14
- Planning for the Future, May 16
- DDC Annual Picnic, August 2
- Buddy Walk, September 20

Check us out on the internet:  
[www.ultimateathletics.net](http://www.ultimateathletics.net)



## EDUKIDS, Connecting Families to Services for the Entire Family

### An Event for Your Entire Family

On Tuesday, May 12, 2009, from 4:00 till 7:00, EDUKIDS will be sponsoring an event for all family members at the Red Apple Academy. Family friendly resources, products and services will be provided by: Red Apple Academy; Lil Language Scholars; Advocacy in Action;

## Ultimate Athletics Presents **The Gems**

All-Star –Co Ed Cheer-leading for Special Needs Athletes ages 5 and up! No previous experience is necessary! Practices are held once a week from 12:30-2:00pm on Sundays. Two sessions will be held, session #1 will begin in June and end in late October.

*An Event... continued*

Shaklee Pediatric Interactions; Mathnasium; Nikken Wellness; Brainstorm, EdVenture Toys; The Guilt-Free Coach; Old School Montessori; Brennan Photography; Lake County Music; and Life Without Limits. A safe play area will be provided from 4:00—7:00 and special activities will be provide from 5:00—7:00. Along with these events there will be a 5:00 Spanish lesson Songs with Motion at 5:30, at 6:00 a game tournament and at 6:30 and art project.

**DOOR  
PRIZES!!!!!!!**

Session #2 will begin in November and end in late February.

The team will compete at three regional competitions during each session. Special needs tumbling classes are also offered once a week. An athlete is not required to be on team to participate in tumbling. The cost is \$120 for a ten week session Fees: \$50/mont h



plus a \$35 annual insurance fee.  
USASF

Certified Staff and volun-

teers knowledgeable in special needs will be present at all practices to ensure a safe and fun environment! For Additional Information or to Request a registration packet contact Ultimate Athletics, attn: Jenny or Heather,  
3093 Falling Waters Blvd, Lindenhurst, IL 60046 or call 847-356-3200.



## May Birthdays

Crystal Acosta	Talia Kotel
Eric Anderson	Lauren Lirgameris
Kenny Collins	Bailey Markko
Alexa Donato	Michael Novy
John Froemke, Jr.	Ashley Olaz
Amanda Garcia	Samuel Petri
Jacob Gartley	Chesea Rainish
Brandon Hagy	Michael Saavedra
Tristian Hidalgo	Amanda Garcia Tucker

## June Birthdays

Douglas Christolini	Max Kern
Nicole Elsey	Joshua Lawson
Maggie Filipiak	Hope Michelotti
Joshua Hintz	Genevieve Ortega
Robert Jacobs	Nickolas Pesce
Josh Nykiel Judge	Alexis Winegard

## Help with Insurance and Therapies, New Law Signed by Quinn

Under Senate Bill 101, signed by Governor Patrick Quinn, insurance companies will be required to pay for speech, physical and occupational therapies for children with developmental disabilities up to the age of 19. As a result, more children should start receiving habilitative therapies which could provide financial relief for some families. Habilitative therapies are therapies designed to teach a person new skills and maximize functioning as opposed to rehabilitative therapies which are designed to help someone recover skills that have been lost. Insurers have routinely denied reimbursement for habilitative therapy on the grounds that these are educational services and not medical. If a child walked and talked and then became unable to do so because of an accident, the same insurer often covered rehabilitative therapies as medically necessary. The new law won't allow those kinds of distinctions. It is important to note that the law doesn't require insurers to offer a minimum level of coverage and many insurers impose restrictions on any kind of therapy, these restrictions will still apply. Senate Bill 101 goes into effect January 1, 2010.



Dominick's  
"eScrip"  
Fundraising

DDC has earned a total of \$584.00 from the eScrip program through February 2009. Our monthly earnings continue to grow! This is an easy way for DDC to fundraise, and all you have to do is register your Dominick's Fresh Values Card! To find out more about the program, and how to register, please go to "TheDDC.org". You can register at "escrrip.com". The DDC is listed as Down Syndrome Development Council, Mundelein, IL 60060. If you have any questions, please contact Janis Kern, DDC Treasurer, at (847) 548-4417.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Abbott Laboratories Employee Giving Campaign  
Allstate Employee Contributions  
Susan Keating in honor of Peter Ryback  
Wal-Mart Foundation

The Down Syndrome Development Council extends a sincere *thank you* to all of the above donors whose contributions were received in March. Your generosity will allow DDC to continue to offer quality programs and services to our members!



## 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](mailto:Belinda.hidalgo@alere.com))

*If you would be interested in attending a Saturday morning playgroup, please contact Belinda.*

DDC Board Members 2008-2009 (\*\*voting board members)

<b>**President</b>	Patrick Collins	847-265-8482	<a href="mailto:rjohncol@comcast.net">rjohncol@comcast.net</a>
<b>**Vice President</b>	Mary Lou Paff	847-548-4852	<a href="mailto:mlpaff@aol.com">mlpaff@aol.com</a>
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<b>**Treasurer</b>	Janis Kern	847-548-4417	<a href="mailto:janiskern@comcast.net">janiskern@comcast.net</a>
<b>**Board</b>	RaeAnn Collins	847-265-8482	<a href="mailto:rjohncol@comcast.net">rjohncol@comcast.net</a>
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Newsletter Editor	PennySue McKenzie	224-643-7923	<a href="mailto:pennyontheverge@gmail.com">pennyontheverge@gmail.com</a>

## DDC New Baby Social

Are you the family of a “new” (ages 18 months or younger) little one with Down syndrome? An open house for the newest members of our extensive DDC family offers a chance to mingle with other babies and their families, to chat with other DDC parents of preschool-age children (we’re the hosts that day so our kids stay home so we can focus on yours!) Share information about Early Intervention and Early Childhood programs, swap contact info of favorite therapists, to get ideas about what to help your child do next, to eat a bagel or a donut, drink some coffee, and marvel at how lovely all our kids are! Siblings and grandparents welcome! It is an OPEN HOUSE so feel free to drop in any time one Saturday, every other month, from 9:30am-11:30am. For more information on the schedule or to get on our email list contact Jennifer Jenkins, [only\\_connect@msn.com](mailto:only_connect@msn.com) or (847)970-6797. See you there!

## The DDC Buddy Walk

The DDC Buddy Walk for 2009 is September 20 at Lamb’s Farm! The Buddy Walk is our biggest fundraiser each year and the proceeds help the DDC continue to provide workshops, gatherings, playgroups, newsletters, social events, movie lover’s club and many other activities, most being FREE of charge to participants. The Buddy Walk itself is free to attend! There will be raffles, food, DJ music, dancing, special performances, moon walks an information tent and much more. **We need volunteers to be successful each year and if you are interested in helping with the planning before hand or helping out the day of please contact a DDC Board Member.**

Looking for a good shopping spot? Check out this website:

[kidsheaveninlisle.com](http://kidsheaveninlisle.com) for gently used and new children’s items. Happy Shopping!!!



## Self Advocacy Group Meeting

The first meeting of the Self Advocacy Group for Teens and Adults with Disabilities will be **Thursday, June 4, 2009, 7:00pm**, at Protected Tomorrows, 103 Schelter Road, Lincolnshire, Illinois. Come and participate in the creation of an organization lead by individuals with disabilities with the focus on living the lives they want. **Who should attend? Teens and adults with disabilities and their parents, peer supports, friends, siblings, etc.** This group will meet monthly with possible discussion topics such as: voting rights and how to effect legislation; social security and employment rights; public transportation in Lake County; affordable housing; affordable healthcare; the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); self-directed services; transition planning; assistive technology; inclusion in education, recreation and the community. **For additional information and to RSVP, call or email: Pam Labellarte, (847)749-5005, [pstar280@tmail.com](mailto:pstar280@tmail.com).** This group sponsored by Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance for Change - ISSAC (funding through the Illinois Council for Developmental Disabilities- ICDD).

## A Picnic, A Picnic!

Remember last year's DDC picnic? Don't remember last year's picnic? Well join us this year, **August 2, 2009** and be one of the lucky ones to say, "I remember at the last picnic..." There will be fishing and food, games and food, bouncing and food, even food and food! And juice, water and soda at the very least! Fun and activities for everyone. So where will you be? **Remember, August 2 at the Half-Day Forest Preserve, shelter A, Lincolnshire!**

## A Gigi's Playhouse Update

- **May 10, Mother's Day**, Gigi's Playhouse will be featured on ABC channel 7. Karen Meyer and her crew went to visit the Chicago Playhouse and interviewed parents and kids! Watch the 8:00am news.
- **May 12 and June 9, Baby Signs Class** from 11:00am till noon, Hoffman Estates location. The Baby Signs program teaches simple movements that babies can use to communicate. Space is limited, to register email [info@gigisplayhouse.com](mailto:info@gigisplayhouse.com).

### Registration is required for Baby Signs!

- **Fox Valley, Gigi's Playhouse** is now open! Fox Valley held a ribbon cutting in March. Check out the Gigi's website for information and a calendar of activities.
- **McHenry, Gigi's Playhouse** celebrated it's one year anniversary on April 26, 2009!

Congratulations to our friends at Gigi's!

Teachers and Education majors— volunteer 45 minutes a week this summer as a tutor to teach a child with Down syndrome to learn how to read! Training is provided, and you will make a huge impact on a child's life.

Email

[literacydirector@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:literacydirector@gigisplayhouse.org)

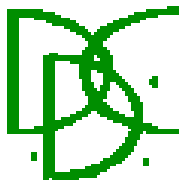
or call (847)885-7529.

PAM LABELLARTE, Parent Advocate, has a new website, [fromadvocacy2action.com](http://fromadvocacy2action.com). It is a beautifully easy to maneuver sight with easy to read information. Need help, have questions, not sure who to ask, check out this website..



Please note: The Forum newsletter is written on a volunteer, non-professional basis. Information presented should not be construed to be objective or definitive, but represents the opinions and understanding of the editor and its contributors. Your contributions are welcome. Please contact RaeAnn at [rjohncol@comcast.net](mailto:rjohncol@comcast.net) or PennySue at [pennyontheverge@gmail.com](mailto:pennyontheverge@gmail.com).

Downs (Down Syndrome) Development Council, DDC, is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization and volunteer support group established in 1978 by parents of children with Down Syndrome.



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