

# Down Syndrome Development Council

September/October  
2009

Down Syndrome  
Development Council

## 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.

## Meeting Place

**Community**

**Protestant Church,**

**418 N. Prairie,**

**Mundelein, IL**

**Second Thursday of  
the Month**

## Remember the Buddy Walk!

Sunday, September 20th

Lambs Farm, 12:00pm till 5:00pm



DDC New Baby Social Update Coming Soon! In the meantime if you have any questions or you want to get on our email list contact Jennifer Jenkins at [only\\_connect@msn.com](mailto:only_connect@msn.com), or (847-970-6797).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monthly Meeting, September 10
- Buddy Walk, September 20
- Playgroup, October 21st

ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND ELECTION AT THE SEPTEMBER 10TH MONTHLY MEETING! COME TO THE BASEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY PROTESTANT CHURCH 7:00PM AND ENJOY DELICIOUS ICE CREAM AND HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gianna Falk  
Michelle Anderson  
Lydia Barten  
Kirsten Benson  
Rachel Munsterman  
Justin Olson  
Kevin Paff  
Thomas Pappas  
Clark Pawlak  
Nicole Romeo  
Macey Staff  
Grace Donnellan

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Jared Bjork  
Mary Claire Boyd  
Jessica Grace Gianopoulos  
Ross Hoary  
Annie Jennings  
Hayden Johns Mueller  
Jacob Nelson  
Jordana Sotelo  
Aileen Sotelo  
Anna Stowe  
Matthew Stubbs  
Matthew Weisberg  
Charlie Williams

## Help Wanted!

Are we missing a birthday? Is your name spelled incorrectly? Please let us know! We are also looking to update our mailing lists and data base so that we are able to get in touch with everyone about events, news and information that you may find interesting or useful! So please let us know you are out there and where you might be contacted.

**We don't want  
anyone left out!**



## Freedom Rally, A Learning Experience

by: PennySue McKenzie

On May 21, 2009 a bus left a parking lot in the Oak Brook Shopping Center quite early in the morning. It wasn't just any bus, it was a bus to the Freedom Rally in Springfield. The Freedom Rally was hoping to bring a change to Illinois that is desperately needed for our friends and family members with developmental disabilities. The rally was hoping to bring attention to the citizens of this state who are in desperate need of more community support and respect than Illinois has so far allowed into its budget. We were armed with a schedule, suggestions and tips for meeting with our legislators. When we arrived in Springfield the meeting point was the Lincoln statue in front of the Capital Building where we were encouraged by speeches from citizens and officials. Inside the Capital there were tables full of information and more opportunities for learning from various speakers in the rotunda all full of hope and encouragement. Some Freedom Rally members started in right away looking for their legislators, some were lucky enough to schedule appointments in advance but most of us had to go to the offices of our representatives and senators and try to catch them on the run. Again, some of us spoke to them as they were running off somewhere else, some legislatures had enough time for a brief chat and some photo opportunities. We were also able to wait outside each meeting room and pass notes into the hall asking our various legislators to come off the floor of the House or Senate so we could speak with them., some were lucky enough to get this opportunity. An important note here is that the Freedom Rally wasn't the only special interest group in the building! There were tour groups, school groups, professional lobbyists, unions and other special interest groups we had to jostle for space! I personally had been on protest marches but had never been inside a government building where I had to be heard individually, it was a true learning experience. At this point in time we all know how things turned out. Not the way we needed them to. Do not be discouraged! We had our voices heard and WE WORKED TOGETHER!!! **Thank you NADS, UPS for DownS and Gigi's Playhouse for organizing the trip, from the bus to the snacks and to the information packets.** Regardless of how the vote ended, the trip was a success.

### **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>	Vacant	vacant	vacant
<b>**Secretary</b>	Jennifer Jenkins	847-970-6797	<a href="mailto:only_connect@msn.com">only_connect@msn.com</a>
<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>
Playgroups	Belinda Hidalgo	847-838-4398	<a href="mailto:belinda.hidalgo@alere.com">belinda.hidalgo@alere.com</a>
FORO Newsletter			
(Spanish Issue)	Anna Roeser	847-362-0980	<a href="mailto:roeser1984@yahoo.com">roeser1984@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	PennySue McKenzie	224-643-7923	<a href="mailto:pennyontheverge@gmail.com">pennyontheverge@gmail.com</a>

**Remember the Buddy Walk, September 20, 2009, Lambs Farm**

## **Summer is winding down, kids are going back to school . . . yep, it's "the most wonderful time of the year" . . . the annual Buddy Walk!**

On Sunday September 20, from 12-5 p.m., at Lambs Farm in Libertyville (just off I-94, at Route 176, also known as Rockland Road) we invite you all to take part in this fantastic event (part-fundraiser, part-community awareness, part-fun fest) – in addition to the usual joy involved with this annual occasion, this year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the DDC, and some of our “pioneers” will be present to help us lead the Walk itself around the grounds. The Walk symbolizes our coming together – both as a network of families of people with Down syndrome and as a larger community of towns throughout the Chicagoland area and beyond – and we welcome all family members, friends, and teachers who make up this strong web of connections to join us for this brief but significant stroll!

### **Popular features of the Buddy Walk return this year, in the form of the following:**

- A number of inflatables for kids of all ages to enjoy **(come and bounce!)**
- A wonderful array of items in our silent auction and basket raffle tent **(come and bid!)**
- A variety of DDC/Buddy Walk-themed items (e.g., t-shirts, car magnets, tote bags, even stunning pendants!) available for purchase **(come and buy!)**
- An info tent chock full of resources from various organizations that work with and for people with special needs **(come and learn!)**
- An enticing menu of food items, courtesy of Scott Dogs **(come and eat!)**
- Access to the delights of Lambs Farm's petting zoo and rides **(come and enjoy!)**
- A full schedule of entertainment on our main stage, featuring the talents of various special-needs groups, as well as our ever-popular father-and son DJ team **(come and dance!)**
- The Walk itself, led by DDC luminaries **(come and strut!)**

### **This year's auction/raffle includes . . .**

- gift certificates to local restaurants
- passes to area museums and other attractions
- baskets of items gathered around a wide range of "themes" (e.g., sports, Disney, wine/spirits, scrapbooking, cooking, kids' books)
  - a beautiful selection of hand-made gifts by local artisans (clothing, glassware, etc.)
- Tickets to win an Apple iPod Shuffle, a Nintendo Wii game system, and \$500 cash (available for purchase before, and on the day of, the Walk)  
\*\*\* ( AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST . . . ) \*\*\*
  - a vacation stay in a luxurious condo in Mexico (complete with maid service!).

### **Who could ask for anything more??**

Come for a little while, or come for the day – just come! And bring others!

Celebrate all that our kids have to offer!

**Be a part of something larger than your child, larger than your family, larger than your school –  
be the DDC!!**



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

CONTRIBUTIONS

- Abbott Laboratories Employee Giving Campaign
- Allstate Giving Campaign
- Knights of Columbus - Cardinal Stritch Council #3674
- Sheila Schaeffer-Hirsh
- Wal-mart Foundation-Community Grant-Antioch

**Gigi's Playhouse, McHenry, is planning their second annual "Getting down with Fashion" fashion show and brunch for Sunday, November 1st. This year it will be held at the Bull Valley Golf Club in Woodstock. Contact Gigi's McHenry for details!**



DDC has earned a total of \$733.00 from the eScrip program through June, 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 "escrip.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

Dominicks  
"eScrip"  
Fundraising  
Program  
Update

The artwork from the Trillium Project will be available as pendants at the Buddy Walk. These pendants are an opportunity for you to let the people in your life know how much you care, giving them a piece of a life story, and a chance for all of us to remember that everyone is unique, just like oh, say, a handmade pendant.

Remember the Buddy Walk, September 20, 2009, Lambs Farm



Pam Labellarte, Special Education Advocate, sends out so many informative emails that it is impossible to fit all of that knowledge into this newsletter. Check out her website, [www.fromadvocacy2action.com](http://www.fromadvocacy2action.com), there is bound to be an answer for a question you have been asking!

### **STARS North Skating Program for Athletes with Special Needs**

Karen Kay Lavris, a professional skating coach, her coaching staff and selected peers will offer our athletes on and off ice training opportunities and extensive training, competitive and performance opportunities.

All interested skaters and their families are invited to meet Karen, tour the facility and ask questions. During this time Karen will evaluate skaters, so skaters bring your skates as you will be taking the ice! All skill levels are invited to the Glacier Ice Arena, 670 Lakeview Parkway, Vernon Hills, Sunday, September 20th, noon-2:00pm. If you have questions please contact Patty Hermann, [pattyhermann@aol.com](mailto:pattyhermann@aol.com) or [elitefoundation@aol.com](mailto:elitefoundation@aol.com).

You may also contact Karen directly, [Karen@glacierskate.com](mailto:Karen@glacierskate.com).

Fees, various opportunities and your intentions for your athlete will be discussed at the September 20th meeting.

## **Playgroup**

Our monthly playgroup now meets on the **3rd Wednesday 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 **Wednesday** evening playgroup includes a light dinner. A Spanish language

interpreter is available with advance notice.

These playgroups are completely free of charge and open to all DDC member families! Here are the playgroup dates for the rest of 2009:

Sept. NO Playgroup due to the Buddy Walk

Wed., Oct. 21st

Wed., Nov. 18th

Dec. No Playgroup due to the holidays

If you are planning to attend a playgroup, so that we can properly plan on the amount of food, please notify Crystal at 414-688-9174 or email, [engspaninterprete@yahoo.com](mailto:engspaninterprete@yahoo.com).

**A new website to check out for eyeglass wearers! [www.specs4us.com](http://www.specs4us.com) "Precision eyewear for children who are special."**

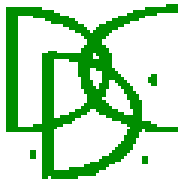
**The new edition of the Parent Rights booklet: Educational Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Special Education in Illinois is now available online at [www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/parent\\_rights.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/parent_rights.htm).**

**It was not yet available in print at the time of this newsletter.**



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.



Down Syndrome Development Council  
P.O. Box 906  
Mundelein, IL 60060

