



# ANNUAL REPORT

## FY 2014

Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo  
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## Leadership Message

The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo is privileged to support individuals with Down syndrome and their family throughout the years – from those first tender moments in the hospital to the first day on the job. We aim to be a valued partner that provides resources, programs, and assistance along every step of the journey, and we recognize that individuals and families have different needs and interests at the different stages.

Our programs and resources provide opportunities to promote individual growth throughout the life of a person with Down syndrome. We send vital information to new and expectant parents, and then host fun opportunities for young children. When those young children transition into the school age, we offer training and resources for families and professionals to establish a foundation for a successful school experience. Then, when those children reach adolescence and become adults, we host events and refer job training for them to be successful, independent, and socially active members of their community. We strive to build communities of acceptance and inclusion that embrace people with Down syndrome through peer presentations and community events.

People with Down syndrome are living longer, healthier, richer, and more meaningful lives than ever before. This is largely due to families and communities embracing individuals with Down syndrome and working together every step of the way to ensure individuals achieve their goals and enjoy all of the opportunities that are available. The board, staff, and volunteers at DSAGT enjoy providing guidance and resources to help individuals with Down syndrome thrive and share their talents and gifts with the world.

Because of your advocacy and generous contributions, DSAGT is able to build a foundation that lasts a lifetime. However, there is much more work to be done. We have developed comprehensive goals for 2015 in order to broaden our effective capacity and meet the needs of even more families in our region.

Please join us in celebrating the milestones that we have accomplished with your support during 2014 and help us continue to build a network that strengthens our members throughout the years.

*Sherri Rogers*

Board President

*Rich Harris*

Executive Director

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## Mission Statement

The mission of DSAGT is to promote awareness of the individuals living with Down syndrome in our communities. We encourage self-advocacy and self-determination. We provide family support and educational resources for our members with Down syndrome, their parents, as well as their loved ones. We support inclusion as deemed appropriate on an individual basis.

## Vision Statement

The vision of DSAGT is to increase the public's awareness and understanding of Down syndrome by educating the public, professionals, and the local community regarding the abilities of people with Down syndrome... not their disabilities.

## Who We Are and Whom We Serve

DSAGT was founded in 1983 and obtained its 501(c)3 non-profit status that same year. We proudly serve 450 families within 16 counties of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Some of the services we provide at no charge to our members include prenatal diagnosis / new parent information and mentoring, family outings, camp and recreational scholarships, educational workshops, lending library & equipment, and fun social events for all ages.

The DSAGT is funded through individual and corporate contributions, grants and special events that include our annual golf outing, the mud volleyball event, and the Buddy Walk.

Our Federal Tax Identification number is **34-1354191**



## Prenatal Diagnosis & Expectant Parents



DSAGT currently partners with 26 area hospitals to ensure that medical professionals have a good foundation of resources with the most current information, research, and training to provide to families when they receive the news of a Down syndrome diagnosis. Members of our board, staff, or volunteers frequently visit new families while in the hospital to provide support and to make sure they are familiar with the organization and get introduced to the services available to them.

### **New Parent Packets**

A new parent packet is offered to all parents that welcome a baby with Down syndrome into their lives. These packets include valuable information about the National Down Syndrome Society, local resources available through DSAGT, personal stories from some of our members, educational books, a calendar that showcases some of our members, and more.

### **Mentors**

DSAGT also offers veteran parent and grandparent mentors that understand what families are experiencing at any given time. These mentors can provide support, guidance and information to new parents throughout the various stages of the process. This program is intended to better prepare parents for what may lie ahead for their family.

## Children ages (3-6)

### Smart Start Program

Thanks to the generous grant money awarded to DSAGT by Marathon Petroleum in December of 2014, we are proud to be able to launch the kindergarten readiness program known as Smart Start. This is a nationally recognized educational workshop series that helps parents learn skills and information vital to their child's successful transition into the school environment. The grant money covers all operational expenses associated with the program and allows DSAGT to offer this exciting new program at no cost to our members. We launched a pilot program in Q3 of 2014 and had six families' complete sessions I and II so far.



### Play Groups

Through a collaborative partnership with The Autism Center in Toledo, DSAGT hosts monthly play dates for the toddlers to have a chance to experience some fun and fascinating sensory friendly equipment while parents get an opportunity to build relationships with other families in similar situations.

## Teens & Young Adults (Ages 13-25)



**Dances** – DSAGT hosts themed dances every quarter that include a professional DJ, food, games and prizes.

We typically have 40-60 people in attendance and everybody has a blast! We are fortunate enough to always receive support from local high school students that enjoy cooking, serving, and dancing with our members to provide the same experience one would expect to see anywhere else.

**Community Outings** – Held once per month, these events allow for our teens to socialize and explore new things in the community. DSAGT covers all associated expenses for the member and an escort if needed. There are usually between 20-40 attendees.

**Camp Scholarships** – The recreational scholarships are available to members of all ages, however, we typically see our teenagers enjoy the \$100 scholarship to offset the cost of attending their favorite summer camp. Thanks to our member support with third party fundraising, and our affiliation with SuperSchades Foundation, DSAGT was able to help send 22 kids to camp in 2014 and provide full ride scholarships to five individuals.

## Adult Matters (Ages 25+)

New in 2014, the Adult Matters Program focuses on reaching out to our members that are no longer children, however, may still require assistance with career placement, day programming or post-secondary education.



While not all persons with Down syndrome will be affected by dementia, scientific research shows that some individuals with Down syndrome have a greater potential of also showing signs of dementia as they age due to both conditions being associated with the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome. In an effort to empower our members and their families, DSAGT formed an alliance with the Alzheimer's Association to offer free educational workshops on a quarterly basis. These workshops provide families with vital information and resources to better understand the cross over signs and symptoms of Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease.

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## Family Social Events

All of the social events that DSAGT hosts are a great opportunity for families from around the region to get together, meet new people, share stories with one another and enjoy a relaxing time with their family. All expenses are covered by DSAGT.



### Event Attendees:

- Walleye Hockey Game = 200
- Mud Hens Baseball Game = 195
- Annual Christmas Party = 165
- Easter Party = 100
- Fall Festivities = 72
- Family Swim Night = 67
- Buddy Walk Appreciation Dinner = 45

## Community Fundraisers

The carefully selected fundraisers are the largest opportunities to join forces with local businesses, vendors, media partners, special needs agencies, neighbors, friends and family to help raise awareness and money to support the mission of DSAGT.



### **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Toledo Buddy Walk**

Attendees: Approximately 2,500

Funds Raised: \$47,120

### **Golf Outing**

Attendees: 30 Teams = 120 golfers

Funds Raised: \$16,105



**Little Caesars**

2014 Buddy Walk Title Sponsor

### **Inaugural Mud Volleyball Event**

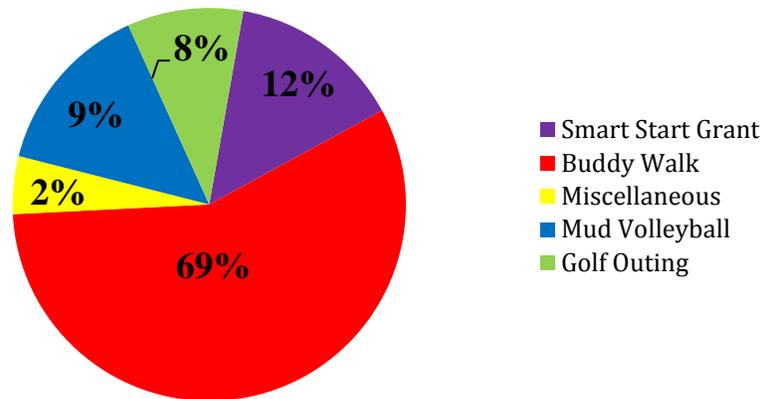
Attendees: 180 people

Funds Raised: \$7,961

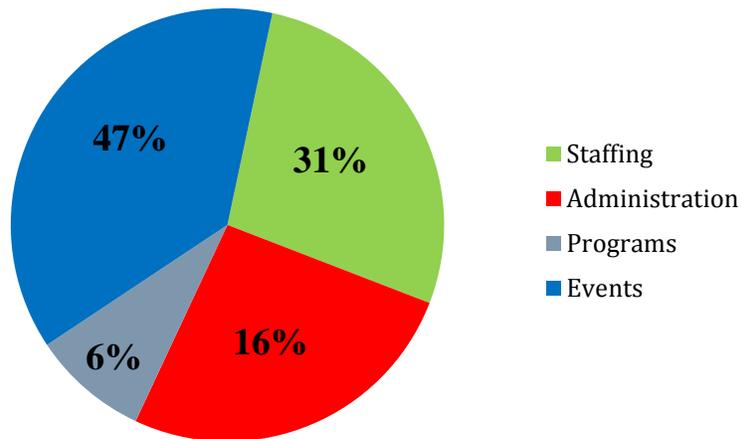


## Financial Summary

### DSAGT Revenue \$91,366.38



### DSAGT Expenses \$89,660.62



# DSAGT ANNUAL REPORT FY14

## Contact Information

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