Thanks for all your support!

The DSAGT would like to thank all of you that have enriched the association over the course of the last year.

We appreciate your efforts and support!

Velda Rolfes - Avon Monkey Fundraiser
Sandy Wiley and Tyler Wiley - Teen Events
Bev and Greg Zmuda - Teen Events
Diana and Tim Myers - Easter Party
Mary Sleek - Car Show / Beach Party Fundraiser
Lianne Beasley and Greg Meyer - World DS Day Fundraiser, Buddy Walk
TJ and Sarah Miller - Golf Outing, Buddy Walk, Mud Volleyball Event
Kim Miller - Mud Volleyball, Buddy Walk
Jeff Rehkof - Golf Outing, Marathon Classic
Lindsay Vallade-Maier and Family - Marathon Classic
Troy and Cassie Stewart - Golf Outing
Ed Perry - Golf Outing, Mud Volleyball, Buddy Walk, Calendars
Terry Malone - Teen Events, Christmas Party, Buddy Walk
London Mitchell - Buddy Walk
James Schade - Special Needs Planning, Movie Nights, Swim Night, Scholarships
Kelly Keel - Softball Fundraiser
Tony Snyder - Buddy Walk
Brad Eaton, Rena Van Horn - Mud Volleyball, Buddy Walk
Deborah Harris - Teen Events, Mud Volleyball, Buddy Walk
Lee Schuh - Golf Outing, Christmas Party, Buddy Walk
Steve Kiessling - Buddy Walk
Christine Folley - Buddy Walk
Tony Snyder - Buddy Walk
Mena Ayers - Buddy Walk

Teen Event Chaperones:
Ashley Folley, Morgan Folley, Katie Swartz, Jared Rettig, Connor Bowen, Jillian Banky, Jada Smith, Kristen Deal, Aaron Steward, Ian Steward
Hello families and friends,

2014 has been amazing so far, and we plan on closing out the year just as strong. Through our community outreach efforts, we have had many new families join our association as members from all over the region and we are pleased to welcome them into our family. While maintaining our existing programs and social events, we are very excited to be focusing on strategic growth in key areas such as:

The Smart Start Kindergarten Program
New Parent Packets to Local Hospitals
Monthly Play Dates for Toddlers
Special Needs Planning Series
Mom’s & Dad’s Night Out
Camp Scholarships

I am excited to announce we will soon be moving into our very own office space. This will give me and DSAGT a place to meet families, distribute reference sources and allows for a stronger presence in the community. I will be making more announcements with additional details as plans are finalized.

As we grow, our need for volunteers grows with us. If you find yourself with some extra time and would like to drop by the office to help, please let me know...any and all help is much appreciated. Some key areas in which we could use some assistance:

Administrative / Clerical Work
Social Media Engagement
Special Event Coordination
Website Management

If you ever have any questions about anything at all, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me. I look forward to another great year in 2015

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to all the wonderful people that help make the DSAGT a fantastic organization, working together to serve an amazing group of genetically blessed individuals!

Rich Harris
Executive Director
419-787-6781
The Smart Start Program

Session 1: (A)
When: Wed October 1st
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Where: Toledo Children's Hospital
Education Center rooms K & D

Session 1 (B) - Same as session 1 A—different time
When: Sat. October 4th
Time: 8:00 am -11:00am
Where: ED Center Rooms G & D

Session 2: (A)
When: Wed December 10th
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Where: Toledo Children's Hospital
Education Center rooms K & D

Session 2 (B) - Same as session 2 A—different time
When: Sat. December 13th
Time: 8:00 am -11:00am
Where: ED Center Rooms G & D

Send your child off to kindergarten with confidence

One of the best gifts you can give your child is a great foundation before they begin kindergarten. The DSAGT invites you to attend the four Smart Start sessions that will help you better understand what successful students with Down syndrome have in common. Entering kindergarten is a critical transition for both children and parents. The Smart Start program is for you if you have asked yourself any of the following questions:

* Will my child be safe?
* Will my child be included?
* Will my child have friends?
* Will my child succeed?

Parents often worry about whether their child is ready for kindergarten and wonder how to best prepare. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, learn about local resources, and meet other parents whose children are also preparing to enter kindergarten. You will better understand what successful students with Down syndrome have in common.

Session 1: Student Readiness - potty training, high expectations, following rules and directions, handling schedule changes, insistence on compliance

Session 2: Parent/School Relations - communicating effectively, common mistakes, addressing concerns, what your teacher needs to know

Sessions 3 & 4: Topics, dates and times to be announced in early 2015

The class is free, the food is free, and so is the childcare during all sessions!

To register or request additional information, please visit www.dsagt.org
Upcoming Events  (Please visit dsagt.org for more details)

September 27th
Buddy Walk Appreciation Dinner for all Team Captain’s, Sponsors, and Volunteers. Held at Grace Church from 5-7 pm.
Please register on website

October 18th
Fall Festivities: Family day at Fleitz Pumpkin Patch - Enjoy the corn mazes, sweet treats, and a free pumpkin!

November 6th
Sensory Friendly Movie Night “The Lego Movie” Rated PG
Sponsored by: Mass Mutual

November 18th
Special Needs Planning Series: Planning for your Child’s Future
Topic: Guardianship & Alternatives

Don’t miss this one!

December 14th
Family Holiday Party
St. Clement’s Hall
2990 Tremainsville Rd
Toledo, Ohio 43613
12:00-4:00 pm
Please register on website

Teen and Young Adult Halloween Costume Dance

Don’t miss the fun!
Saturday November 1st from 6:00—9:00 pm
Grace Church - 601 E. Boundary St. Perrysburg, 43551

DJ Terry is hitting the Beats!
As Tyler Wiley always says...“Bring Your Dancing Shoes”!

RSVP at www.DSAGT.ORG

A great big thank you to Little Caesars of Toledo for sponsoring the pizza for the dance!
New Play Group in Toledo!

Please join us at 3:00pm every third Saturday of each month at the Autism Center located at 2040 West Central Ave in Toledo, OH 43606

Parents and children of all ages! Bring toys/activities for your child (children) to play with, while parents converse and connect. Please bring your older children as well! We hope to make these regular events and possibly have older children monitor younger children, so that we can have topics discussions, guest speakers, etc..

Playgroup
Every 3rd Saturday at 3:00pm starting in November

Please RSVP at dsagt.org and come on out! New and current parents and children of all ages!

Mom’s and Dad’s Nights Out

Calling all busy Moms
Join us for an evening of fun!

OCT. 9 @ 6:30
Max N Erma’s (Dussel Dr.)

NOV 13 @ 6:30
BD’s Mongolian Grill
(Franklin Park Mall)

DEC 11 @ 6:30
Olive Garden (Monroe St.)

Please visit dsagt.org for more information on these events.

Calling all busy Dads
Join us for some fun!

OCT. 12 @ 6:30
BW3’s (Sean Dr. in Fremont)

NOV 12 @ 6:30
Bar Louie’s
(Levis Commons in Perrysburg)

DEC 9 @ 6:30
Nautica Coffee
(Mayberry Sq. in Sylvania)

All events are subject to change.

Fall 2014
Annual Events to Attend

Golf Outing - Always held on the Saturday before Father's Day in June.

This year the event was held at The South Toledo Golf Club and we had 30 foursomes, beautiful weather, and lots of cool raffle prizes.

We raised just over $5,000 for the DSAGT!

Thank you to our Sponsors: Stanley Steemer, Huston Trucking, Inventive Incentives, and Kohl's

Stay tuned for the next outing in June 2015

Inaugural Mud Volleyball Tournament

The brain child of Brad Eaton and Rena Van Horn

Held at the Ada War Memorial Park in Ada, Ohio

20 Teams showed up to compete in the mud.

We raised just over $6,000 on the first try!

Stay tuned for the 2nd Annual Event in June 2015

Thank you to our Sponsors:


Special thanks to Kish Ambulance, and all of Brad's family and friends for helping!
The 2014 Toledo Buddy Walk was held on September 6th at the Woodlands Park and Grace United Methodist Church in Perrysburg. We had our largest turnout ever with about 2,500 people in attendance!

$41,000 was raised...which resulted in a net profit of $27,000!

48 teams were represented with pride!

Congratulations to Jen Teed who won the 50/50 raffle... $5,000 cash!

Special thanks to: The Anderson's, Kohl's Department Stores, K Family Concessions, White Glove Cleaning, Hero's Party Supply, Kish Ambulance, JD from Monette's Market, Terry from Life Celebrations DJ Services, Grace United Methodist Church, and all the volunteers that helped make this year so successful!

See everyone at the 2015 Buddy Walk!

A BIG thank you to Little Caesars of Toledo for being our Title Sponsor this year!
Close to 70% of people with Down syndrome (DS) have at least one eye disorder. Normal vision is important for any person. However, in children with Down syndrome, an additional handicap of sensory impairment may interfere with their development even more and further limit their overall functioning. In addition, families, teachers and doctors may think that these delays in development and the learning problems are just “part of Down syndrome,” which can further delay the diagnoses of vision problems. Therefore, it is important for all individuals with Down syndrome to have regular checkups with an eye doctor who is knowledgeable about DS so that any problems can be found early and treated before they have a chance to interfere with development.

The eyes of individuals with Down syndrome tend to have a characteristic appearance. The outer corners of the eyes are up higher than the inner corners, giving an upward slant to the eye. There may be noticeable skin folds, called epicanthal folds, over the inner corner of each eye. People with DS may also have white speckles or dots, called Brushfield spots, on the colored portion of the eye (iris). Although commonly seen in people with DS, none of these characteristics have any effect on vision.

There are, however, a number of eye conditions which do affect vision. In the newborn period, 4% of babies with DS are born with congenital cataracts. Cataracts cause the lens of the eye, which is usually transparent, to become cloudy. It is important for the primary care physician to check each baby carefully with an ophthalmoscope for any evidence of cataracts. If there is any cloudiness in the lens, an immediate referral should be made to an ophthalmologist. Cataracts can also develop later in life. If the cataracts affect vision, they can be removed with surgery.

Refractive errors happen when there is a problem with the way the lens projects and bends light rays that enter the eyes. There are 3 types of refractive errors. People who have myopia, or nearsightedness, see well up close but objects in the distance appear blurry. With hyperopia, or farsightedness, people see well in the distance, but strain to see things close up. Misshapen corneas cause astigmatism. All 3 of these conditions occur more frequently in people with DS, but can be corrected with eyeglasses.

Over half of babies and young children with DS have strabismus. There are 3 types of strabismus, esotropia (when one or both eyes cross inward), exotropia (when one or both eyes look to the outside), and hypertropia (when one or both eyes look up or down). It is especially important to treat strabismus early in young children, because it can lead to permanent loss of vision in the eye that is not used as much. The usual treatments for strabismus are glasses, patches or eye muscle surgery, depending on the cause of the strabismus.

A cone shaped distortion of the cornea (front layer of the eye), called keratoconus, may occur in up to 30% of people with DS, usually during the teen years or in adulthood. Keratoconus can cause a decrease in vision, and when severe, may require a corneal transplant.

Other common eye conditions in people with DS include nystagmus, an involuntary back-and-forth movement or shaking of the eyes, blepharitis, an inflammation of the eye lids, and excessive tearing caused by congenital nasolacrimal duct obstruction (blocked tear ducts).

In summary, people with DS are at greater than normal risk for eye conditions, many of which can lead to visual loss if not diagnosed and treated early.

The American Academy of Pediatrics Health Supervision for Children with Down Syndrome guidelines recommend the following schedule for screening for visual problems:

By 6 months of age: Ophthalmologic evaluation by a pediatric ophthalmologist or an ophthalmologist with expertise and experience with infants with disabilities.

1 to 5 years: Ophthalmology evaluation every year

5 to 13 years: Ophthalmology evaluation every 2 years if previous exams were normal

13 to 21 years and older: Ophthalmology evaluation every 3 years if previous exams were normal

Of course, if any visual problems are found ophthalmology visits may need to be more frequent.

Eileen Quinn, MD
Meet our New Board Members

Ed Thompson is a financial planner with Financial Strategies Group in Findlay. He has many years of experience being on different Boards of Directors and enjoys organizing fundraisers. He looks forward to growing the DSAGT outreach for Special Needs Planning in the Findlay area and helping to bring DS families together through community programs and events. He is the proud grandfather of 4 month old Sailor Ann Tracey, who is the daughter of Tracy and Shawn. Ed has committed to assisting the DSAGT with our growth efforts.

Welcome to the family Ed!
(Sailor and her parents live in Texas)

We’d like to welcome Lindsay Vallade-Maier as our new Secretary!

We would also like to thank our outgoing Board Members, Lisa Burke and Eileen Quinn for their many years of hard work and dedication to DSAGT.

Camp/Activity Scholarship

DSAGT offers a $100 stipend per year, per person to help offset the cost of any camp or activity for individuals with Down syndrome. This money can be used at any time during the calendar year. To apply, please provide the following information. Forms may also be downloaded at www.dsagt.org by searching under the “resources” tab and requests can be sent to: information@dsagt.org

Checks will be sent directly to the camp or activity location.

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Fall 2014
**MYTH:** Down syndrome is a rare disorder.

**TRUTH:** Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring genetic condition. One in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, or approximately 6,000 births per year. Today, there are more than 400,000 people with Down syndrome living in the United States.

**MYTH:** People with Down syndrome have a short life span.

**TRUTH:** Life expectancy for individuals with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent years, with the average life expectancy approaching that of peers without Down syndrome.

**MYTH:** Down syndrome is hereditary and runs in families.

**TRUTH:** Down syndrome is hereditary in approximately 1% of all instances. In the other 99% of cases Down syndrome is completely random and the only known factor that increases the risk is the age of the mother (over 35). Translocation is the only type of Down syndrome known to have hereditary link. Translocation accounts for 3 to 4% of all cases of Down syndrome. Of those, one third (or 1% of all cases of Down syndrome) are hereditary.