



Team Captain Packet

The Toledo Buddy Walk® is DSAGT's signature event, in which more than 1,200 people participated in 2023. The event is celebrated around the world - each city having its own flair. Toledo stays true to it's roots, by celebrating awareness with each Buddy Walk® team tailgating before, during and after the walk. The day provides entertainment for all ages, including: vendors, face painting, balloon artists, cheerleaders and food!



Dear Families and Supporters,

It's that time again...pre-Toledo Buddy Walk time! We are writing today to encourage your support of our 23rd annual Toledo Buddy Walk®. This exciting awareness and fundraising event brings over 1,200 people together to recognize the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome. Family, friends, and community supporters come together each fall to share stories, build friendships and raise money to support the services and programs of the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo. This year, we need YOUR help to make it our best year yet! To get you even more excited, here are a few updates:

- Your loved one with Down syndrome will truly be celebrated - he or she is invited to attend the Toledo Buddy Walk at NO charge! (Please still have your extra amazing person register to ensure proper t-shirt count.)
- This year, any teams that secure event sponsorships (see enclosed information at the end of this packet) will have those funds counted toward their team total!

The Buddy Walk® program was established in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome and to recognize Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October. The name Buddy Walk® promotes inclusion between friends, regardless of ability.

The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo supports over 450 individuals with Down syndrome and their families across 17 counties throughout Northwest Ohio, as well as parts of Southern Michigan. The mission of the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo is to empower all individuals with Down syndrome to achieve their goals and reach their fullest potential by providing support, education and advocacy not only for the individual, but also their families and communities. We accomplish this mission through a wide array of educational and social programs, support groups, and access to information for new parents experiencing Down syndrome for the first time. It is our vision to achieve a community where all individuals with Down syndrome are accepted, included, and given limitless opportunities to pursue their dreams as respected members of society.

Thank you for working together, as we strive to provide support and encouragement to so many wonderful individuals with Down syndrome and their families in the Greater Toledo area!

Sincerely,

Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo



facebook.com/dsatoledo



[@dsatoledo](https://twitter.com/dsatoledo)



[DSATOLEDO](https://www.instagram.com/dsatoledo)



About DSAGT

The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo (DSAGT) is dedicated to enhancing and celebrating the lives of individuals with Down syndrome. DSAGT educates the public about Down syndrome, provides family support and advocates for inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome.

Our Services

Babies and Toddlers School-Aged

New Parent Packets

We provide packets of up-to-date information and resources to hospitals and local boards for new parents, in addition to providing baskets of goods to new babies with Down syndrome.

New Parent Mentorship

We connect new families with trained DSAGT parent mentors to help guide them and be a support system for their first year.

New Parent Breakfast

Our annual New Parent Breakfast provides a safe and welcoming space for new families to connect with their peers and get acquainted with DSAGT.

Music and Movement

A music and movement class for little ones with Down syndrome between the ages of 1 and 4.

Smart Start

Smart Start is a program designed for Kindergarten readiness.

School Outreach

DSAGT provides "Book Bundles" to schools throughout the DSAGT service area to promote Down syndrome awareness.

Little Learners Educational Program

Students will have the opportunity to work in small groups with peers at their same ability levels and each month, work on their **reading and early math skills** in addition to their **speech and fine motor skills**, while also taking into account their individual IEP goals. Meanwhile, our parents will have the chance to connect and learn how to better educate their students and advocate for them in the school system.

Teen & Young Adult

Society 21

Once a month our teens and adults get together for a fun experience in our community, whether that be putt-putt, dancing, volunteering or a craft!

OpenSpot Theatre

Participants work on teamwork, cooperation, belonging, work ethic, memory, leadership, and social skills while learning about the 3 pillars of theatre, singing, dancing and acting!

All Ages

Social Outings/Holiday Party

Providing families the opportunity to meet and socialize.

Scholarships

Various financial assistance opportunities to encourage community involvement.

Seminars & Lectures

Featuring local speakers that explore topics ranging from educational advocacy to new research in Down syndrome.

Social Groups-Mom's/Dad's Night

All parents are welcome to partake in our regular social groups whether they are a virtual online meeting or a night out to discuss all things parenting and Down syndrome

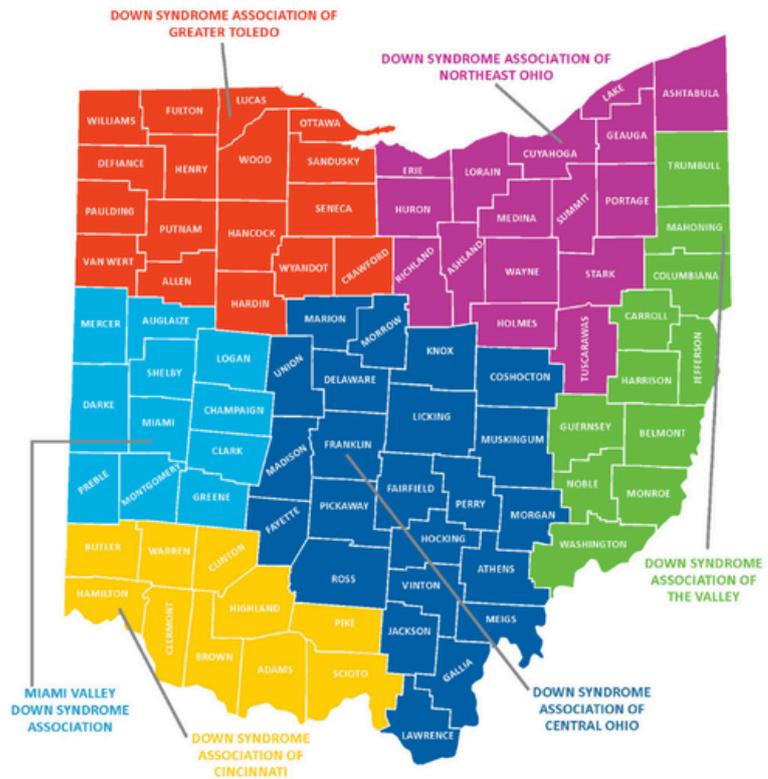
Our Service Area

Ohio Counties:

- Lucas County
- Wood County
- Hancock County
- Hardin County
- Fulton County
- Henry County
- Putnam County
- Allen County
- Williams County
- Defiance County
- Paulding County
- Van Wert County
- Ottawa County
- Sandusky County
- Seneca County
- Wyandot County
- Crawford County

Michigan Counties:

- Monroe County
- Lenawee County
- Wayne County
- Hillsdale County
- Washtenaw County
- Jackson County



Our Events

The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and contributions are fully tax-deductible. Membership is free and open to anyone with an interest in Down syndrome.

DSAGT depends on donations and fundraisers to provide programs and services and meet operational costs. It is only through the generosity of many individuals and corporations that DSAGT is able to provide quality programs and services for individuals with Down syndrome and their families in the 17 counties we serve.





October 6, 2024 | Owens Community College

The Toledo Buddy Walk® is DSAGT's signature event, in which more than 1,200 people participated in 2023. The event is celebrated around the world - each city having its own flair. Toledo stays true to it's roots, by celebrating awareness with each Buddy Walk® team tailgating before, during and after the walk. The day provides entertainment for all ages, including: vendors, face painting, balloon artists, cheerleaders and food!

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Monetary Sponsorships
- Sponsor a team
- Donate products/services for raffle
- Be a vendor
- Register for the event





BUDDYWALK[®]
national down syndrome society[®]
EDUCATE | ADVOCATE | CELEBRATE

Important Dates



MARCH

Toledo Buddy Walk[®] Website and Registration Opens

Encourage friends, family and co-workers to register for the Toledo Buddy Walk[®] or donate to your team and remind them to submit their corporate matching requests, if applicable. Or, think of your business contacts - remember, any event sponsorships brought in by your team count toward your team fundraising total!



SUMMER

Plan a Third Party Fundraiser to support the Buddy Walk and Your Team Fundraising Goal!

(Let us know if you need ideas!)



AUG/SEPT

Back to School!

Near the start of the school year, encourage your child's classmates and teacher to join your team. This is a great way to promote inclusion and awareness in your child's school.

9

SEPTEMBER

DEADLINE for pre-registration

Registrants after this date are not ensured a Toledo Buddy Walk t-shirt.

4

OCTOBER

Last day to register Online

You can register at
www.dsagt.org/Buddy-Walk

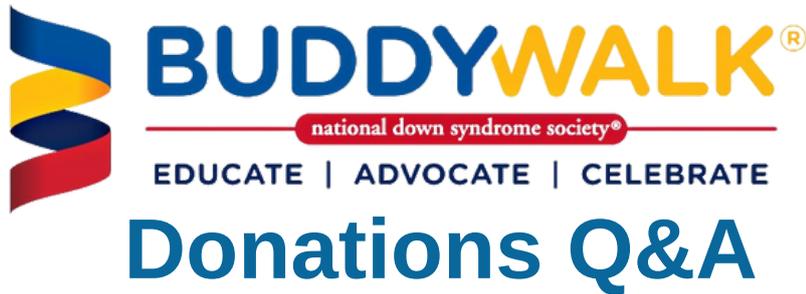
Sunday, October 6th Toledo Buddy Walk!



Team Captain Checklist

- Create a Team Name
- Register Yourself and your team at:
<https://charity.pledgeit.org/toledobuddywalk>
- Set a Fundraising Goal
- Customize your team page
- Upload a photo of your buddy or your team
- Email link of your team page to your friends & family
- Get the word out on Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- Send out email and text reminders throughout the fundraising season
- Recognize Team members on social media
- Send each donor a personal email through your team page
- Share updates on your team's progress towards your team goal
- Decide if you would like to host a tailgate for your team at the Buddy Walk
- Pick-up your teams shirts from the DSAGT office during t-shirt pick-up times & distribute to your team members

TOLEDO



ARE DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

» Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law. The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo is a registered 501(c)3 organization. Our tax ID number is 34-1354191.

WHERE DO I GET DONATION FORMS?

» A donation form is enclosed in this packet

WHO SHOULD TOLEDO BUDDY WALK CHECKS BE MADE PAYABLE TO?

» For tax purposes, please make checks payable to the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo or DSAGT. Checks should not be written to Buddy Walk teams, team captains or individual participants.
» Please ask donors to submit their corresponding donation forms with their checks so your team will be properly credited for your fundraising efforts. If this is not possible, please ask donors to indicate which walk team they are supporting and your name on the memo section of the check.

DO I HAVE TO SEND IN MY DONATIONS? CAN I BRING THEM WITH ME TO THE WALK? CAN I CONTINUE TO COLLECT DONATIONS AFTER THE WALK? WHAT IF MY DONORS DON'T WANT TO DONATE ONLINE? WHERE DO I SEND THE CHECKS?

» While you can always bring your donations to the walk, it is preferable that you mail them in as soon as you can to: Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo INSERT BUDDY WALK TEAM NAME P.O. Box 298, Sylvania, Ohio 43560 . Once DSAGT receives your checks, your team will be credited online towards your team fundraising goal.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE BEFORE THE CHECKS I MAILED SHOW UP ON MY PAGE? » Please allow two weeks for your donations to be deposited, processed and approved by DSAGT. Donation Information DSAGT, P.O. Box 298, Sylvania, OH 43560 | Ph: 567.742.4004 | www.dsagt.org

WHAT IF PEOPLE WANT TO GIVE ME CASH?

» It is safest and best for record-keeping that you convert all cash received to a check. If you are able, the safest option is to send a personal check covering the full amount, along with the corresponding donation forms to the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo. We will be able to credit your friends and family for their generosity. If this is not possible, you can also always bring the cash donations and appropriate donation forms to the walk.

WHAT IF I KNOW A BUSINESS INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THE EVENT?

» We love when families help us secure Corporate sponsors for the Toledo Buddy Walk! Every sponsorship secured will go towards your team goal as well, so for example, if you secure a \$500 sponsor, that's \$500 towards your team Buddy Walk goal!

TOLEDO



Event FAQs

WHAT IS THE REGISTRATION FEE?

» The registration fee is \$20/adult, \$10/child. Your registration fee includes an official commemorative Toledo Buddy Walk® t-shirt. Individuals with Down syndrome have free registration, but must still register.

SHOULD I REGISTER MY KIDS?

» Yes, please register everyone who will be attending (even toddlers in strollers). This helps us plan for the day of the event, plus only those who register, receive t-shirts.

I HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER WHO WANTS TO JOIN MY TEAM BUT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE WALK. CAN THEY STILL JOIN MY TEAM?

» Yes, family members can still support you by joining your team and fundraise as a team member even if they are unable to attend.

WHAT IS THE CUT-OFF TO JOIN A TEAM?

» You can register online up to October 4th, before the event. Please have everyone register before September 9th to give us a good headcount so that we can plan for a better event. Registrants after the September 9th deadline may not receive a Toledo Buddy Walk shirt.

SOME OF MY FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO COME, BUT NOT WALK. DO THEY NEED TO REGISTER?

» We encourage every participant to register by September 9, 2024. A limited number of t-shirts will be available for purchase the day of the walk but we cannot guarantee your desired t-shirt size if you have not registered by September 9, 2024. Only those who register and pay the registration fee will receive a t-shirt.

IF I AM REGISTERED, DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING ELSE TO BE PRE-REGISTERED?

» No, if you are already registered online, you are all set.

IS IT BETTER TO REGISTER ONLINE OR REGISTER THE MORNING OF THE WALK?

» There are many advantages to registering before the walk, for example: knowing how many people to expect will help us plan for a better event for everyone. DSAGT, event sponsors and vendors order all items based on how many people we have pre-registered for the walk. Plus, registering before the walk will alleviate registration lines at the event and you will be able to enjoy the event from the moment you get there. Each individual and team that registers will receive a webpage within the Toledo Buddy Walk website. This will give friends and family a place to go where they can donate directly to you online. You can also customize this page with a photo and special message.

Fundraising Incentives

2024 TOLEDO BUDDY WALK

\$150 GIFT CARD

1st place team - most funds raised

\$150 GIFT CARD

1st place team - most registered team members

\$100 GIFT CARD

2nd place team - most funds raised

\$50 GIFT CARD

3rd place team - most funds raised



The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo
Presents



Chamberlains
crew



Raise \$100 by
September 1st to receive
a custom Buddy Sign!



Have 10 team members
signed up by September
1st and you'll receive a
special Buddy Button of
your loved one!



Raise \$1,000 by
September 1st to have
your team name on the
back of over 1,000 Buddy
Walk shirts!

**ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES AND PRIZES WILL BE
ANNOUNCED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA LEADING UP
TO THE EVENT!**



Sponsorship Commitment Form

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

Please print below exactly how you would like your company name to appear for recognition purposes:

Contact Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

To pay by check: Please make check payable to "Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo"

To pay by credit card: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover ___ American Express

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CV2 _____

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Billing Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FUNDRAISING EVENT SPONSORSHIP LEVELS OF COMMITMENT:

Please clearly mark which fundraising level you would like to provide funding for in the form of a sponsorship.

Please return this form to DSAGT at information@dsagt.org.

___ Presenting Sponsor | \$8,000

___ Platinum Sponsor | \$5,000

___ Gold Sponsor | \$2,500

___ Silver Sponsor | \$1,500

___ Buddy Sponsor | \$500

___ In-kind Donation Sponsor



Presenting Sponsor - \$8,000

- Naming rights to event, example: Toledo Buddy Walk presented by "Your Company"
- Recognition by logo as Presenting Sponsor on all print and electronic marketing materials, promotions, event day signage, social media, etc.
- Prime logo placement on over 1,000 Toledo Buddy Walk t-shirts
- Prime booth placement to pass out information and engage audience of 1,200 people
- Recognition at event as Presenting sponsor and opportunity for short sponsor remarks from the stage
- Logo featured on post-event materials
- Inclusion in all press releases regarding Toledo Buddy Walk
- Opportunity for 20 employees to participate in Toledo Buddy Walk

Platinum Sponsor - \$5,000

- Recognition by logo as Platinum Sponsor on event postcards, event website, event day signage, social media, etc.
- Logo placement on over 1,000 Toledo Buddy Walk t-shirts
- Inclusion in all press release regarding the Toledo Buddy Walk
- Booth placement on the plaza day-of to pass out information and engage audience of 1,200 people
- Logo featured on post-event materials
- Opportunity for 15 employees to participate in Toledo Buddy Walk.

Gold Sponsor - \$2,500

- Recognition by logo as Gold Sponsor on event postcard, event website, event day signage, social media, etc.
- Logo placement on over 1,000 Toledo Buddy Walk t-shirts
- Inclusion in all press release regarding the Toledo Buddy Walk
- Booth placement on the day-of to pass out information and engage audience of 1,200 people
- Opportunity for 10 employees to participate in Toledo Buddy Walk

Silver Sponsor - \$1,500

- Recognition by name as Silver Sponsor on event postcard, event website, event day signage, social media, etc.
- Name placement on over 1,000 Toledo Buddy Walk t-shirts
- Booth placement on the day-of to pass out information and engage audience of 1,200 people
- Opportunity for 5 employees to participate in Toledo Buddy Walk

Buddy Sponsor - \$500

- Recognition by name as Buddy Sponsor on event postcard, event website, event day signage, social media, etc.
- Name placement on over 1,000 Toledo Buddy Walk t-shirts