



Down Syndrome Connection *of the* Bay Area



ANNUAL REPORT



2015





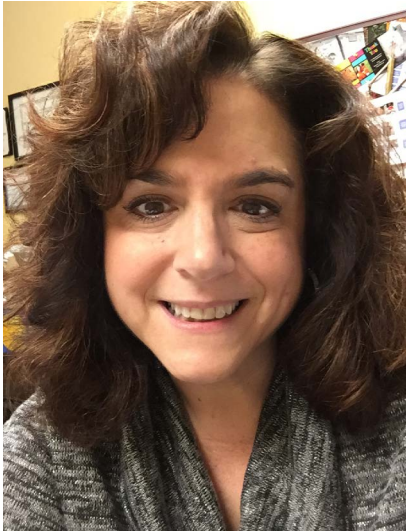
**I am not "Downs"
I am not "A Downs kid"
I am not Down syndrome**

I am Ella.



(bottom left) Welcome baby Brayden.

(Bottom right) A DSCBA mom and member Alicia and her son Simon.



From the DSCBA Executive Director

2015 was another year of hard work, dedication, commitment, and growth. Thanks to our staff, members, volunteers, board of directors, and generous funders we served more people with Down syndrome of all ages in 2015 than ever before. We also raised a record \$892,000! Thanks to a very generous community, this allowed us to carry over funds into 2016 to invest back into our vital programs. We pride ourselves on providing services that are in line with our members' needs and at the same time we make a significant impact on the community that serves them.

“

We pride ourselves on providing services that are in line with our members' needs.

NANCY LABELLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2015 we broke down barriers to success by providing resources, technology, and education through our Down Syndrome Education Alliance, Expression Connection, and Communication Readiness Program, as well as through Step classes, information and referral, medical outreach, new parent outreach, support groups, and more. Please read on about our program highlights and achievements that helped children and adults with Down syndrome, their parents, and their educators to strive for and reach their potentials!

Nancy LaBelle



The "Roos" class in the summer Communication Readiness Program. Each year we employ a stellar CRP staff. In 2015 all 15 students made significant progress.



Major Programs and Services

Step Classes

- ▶ 59 students ages 4-48 participated in Small Steps, Steppin' Up, Next Step, Step In (Danville), Step Out (Oakland), San Francisco Step, and Benicia Step
- ▶ Provided \$4,425 in scholarships



Down Syndrome Education Alliance

- ▶ Educated and provided tools to 635 educators (including special and mainstream classroom teachers, speech and language pathologists, school administrators, parents, occupational therapists, and others) through 14 in-person workshops
- ▶ Improved communication access directly to 60 children and adults with Down syndrome and their families through one-on-one consultation, the Communication Readiness Program (CRP) summer school, and Expression Connection (includes Augmentative/Alternative Communication—AAC—equipment loans and training)
- ▶ Dramatically expanded CRP with two classrooms and a total of 15 students
- ▶ Provided 840 typically developing students with a classmate with Down syndrome with 16 interactive in-class Ability Awareness workshops
- ▶ Reached another 500 students and teachers through one full-school Ability Awareness assembly

(above) Everyone makes friends at Early Connections support group. (below) Casey uses technology to choose her snack in CRP.

New Family Services

- ▶ Supported 49 families with a child age 0-3
- ▶ Held 23 Early Connections support groups for children ages 0-3 and their families
- ▶ Welcomed 18 new babies to the Connection!
- ▶ Met with 10 expecting parents referred by obstetricians, geneticists, hospital social workers, and by families themselves

“

We are so thankful to have the Down Syndrome Connection as a resource in our lives. Recently we were able to have an AAC evaluation at our school from the specialist at the Connection. I had never even heard of an AAC specialist before!

- PARTICIPATING PARENT

Adult Services

- ▶ Initiated relationships with over 20 area agencies to better assess and serve the needs of both young and aging adults; Completed a survey to parents and caregivers of children ages 16 and above to gauge their concerns and needs for their teens and adults
- ▶ Began collaboration with the Bridge School to create an implementation tool for the *Framing a Future* curriculum to help people with complex communication needs plan their future based on their interests, needs, and life priorities
- ▶ Formed a partnership with the Alzheimer's Association and held two support groups for parents and siblings of adults with Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease
- ▶ Held three additional workshops on the following topics: self determination, conservatorship, and sexuality and relationships

Support Groups, I&R, Music & Art Therapy

- ▶ Hundreds of hours of phone and in-person information, referral, and consultation through our 5 days per week, 8 hours per day Help Center
- ▶ Monthly music therapy to 32 families
- ▶ 17 expert-led support groups (11 for grandparents and 6 for parents of school-aged children)
- ▶ 9 art classes taught by a local artist

Employment Services

- ▶ DSCBA brought on two more employees, K. Leigh Alfrey and Marisa Erickson, in 2015 to make four part-time staff and self-advocates with Down syndrome.



(above) K. Leigh proudly displays her DSCBA business cards. She is an Assistant Teacher and Self-Advocate. (below) Music therapy at DSCBA.

Medical Outreach and Government Affairs

- ▶ Conducted Bay Area and statewide survey of DSCBA members about their experience receiving their diagnosis (58% in Bay Area and 76% statewide had received either no or outdated materials)
- ▶ Provided information and materials to 37 Bay Area hospitals
- ▶ Scheduled trainings with hospitals to be completed in 2016
- ▶ Delivered welcome baskets to several new families
- ▶ Following medical information & ABLE Act legislation, providing information & testimony

On-site Contracted Oral Motor and Speech Therapy

- ▶ 97 families provided with services
- ▶ 15 families in CRP summer program
- ▶ 1 seminar at DSCBA to Speech and Language Pathologists

On-site Contracted Reading Tutoring

- ▶ 12 DSCBA members weekly ages 4 to 68 years
- ▶ Reviewing the beginning reader program, Reading About Me!



Patrick, Adam, and Tatiana with the Albany High School Cougar Cheerleaders at the Step Up for Down Syndrome walk.

Events

- ▶ Step Up for Down Syndrome walk with more than 850 attendees and \$150,000 raised. Thank you to all who participated and made fundraising pages!
- ▶ World Down Syndrome Day at Matteo's Dream adaptive park with 250 attendees
- ▶ Gala for Giving with 230 attendees and \$121,000 raised. Thank you!
- ▶ Holiday Party with 250 attendees
- ▶ Forum on inclusion with 150 attendees
- ▶ Stride with Pride Bike Giveaway and Practice Day. We gave away 130 Strider bikes and helmets to kids and adults with Down syndrome from age 3 to 37. Participants learned how to ride without fear, braving obstacle courses and gaining balance and confidence. They now have two-wheeled bikes just like their siblings and peers!

Social Media and Marketing

- ▶ Worked to build our social media and online presence in 2015 by completing an 18-month marketing plan
- ▶ Added Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest pages
- ▶ Increased our followers on Facebook by more than 500 people, ending the year with more than 3,200 followers
- ▶ Thank you for following us!



Eli and Jennifer Cooper conducting an Ability Awareness workshop at a Bay Area school. (right) Mason learning to ride his new Strider bike.

2015 Board of Directors

- ▶ Mike Zolnier, President
- ▶ Kendra Quintella, Secretary
- ▶ Paul Crawford, Treasurer
- ▶ Isaiah Aguilar
- ▶ Thomas Delaplane
- ▶ Andreas Dereschuk
- ▶ Martha Hogan
- ▶ Janet Richman
- ▶ Eldeen Sheilds

Major Funders

Thank you to our major funders. We wish there was space to acknowledge all of our sponsors and donors throughout the year. Please know that you are appreciated and we could not do it without you!

- Barr Family Foundation
- Alice Beckman Fund
- Lowell Berry Foundation
- Build-a-Bear Workshop Foundation
- Calhoun Family Fund
- CARH
- Charis Family Fund
- Chevron Corporation
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Danville Children's Guild
- Disability Communciations Fund
- June & Julian Foss Foundation
- Fremont Bank Foundation
- Carl Gellert & Celia Berta Gellert Foundation
- Robert Half International Inc.
- Jam Handy Character Building Foundaiton
- KIDS-N-NEED
- The Lencioni Fund
- Dean and Margaret Leshar Foundation
- Thomas J. Long Foundation
- Macy's, Inc.
- Marino Family Charitable Foundation
- NAILBA Foundation
- The Noll Foundation
- Nordstrom, Inc.
- Quest Foundation
- San Ramon Rotary Foundation
- San Ramon Valley Kiwanis Foundation
- Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
- Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation
- Wells Fargo Foundation



Lucas shows that even with his extra chromosome, he is strong and nothing holds him back!

Financials

Income*

General Contributions	\$ 66,416
Fundraising Activities (incl. Walk and Gala)	\$ 345,053
Grants	\$ 369,877
Program Service Fees	\$ 39,423
Miscellaneous	\$ 137
Total	\$ 820,906

Expenses

Programs	\$ 644,265
Administration	\$ 92,882
Fundraising	\$ 83,843
Total	\$ 820,990
Net Income	\$ (84)

*Actual funds raised were \$893,406, of which \$72,500 in grant income has been reinvested into 2016 programs.