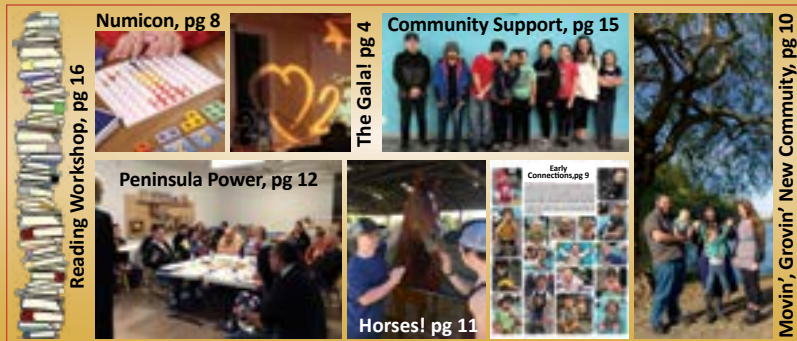




Connecting Families for More Than 20 Years
 Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area
 Empower • Inspire • Support



Our Little Miracle

Ella Drucker

MY DAD HELD MY MOM as she cried in his arms. I stood there wondering what was wrong. That's when my parents told my brothers and me. I was only five years old, but I distinctly remember the moment I found out that my new little brother was going to be different than me. I didn't know what Down syndrome was, or how it would affect my family in the future, but I knew that things wouldn't be the same.

William Clark Drucker was born on August 12, 2009, at John Muir hospital in Walnut Creek, California. He was only 5 lbs, 5 oz. Small as he was, he would make a big difference in our lives. Will was the newest treasure of the Drucker family.

When we brought Will home from the hospital three days later, all we wanted to do was hold him. To us, Will was just our newest brother. We didn't see him as different, and frankly, he wasn't that different. The only difference between Will and the rest of us is a single twenty-first chromosome. That extra chromosome didn't define Will. His sweet, kind, outgoing, and funny personality made all the difference. This difference would not define him. He is no less than anyone else; if anything, he is better.

As Will got older, he became noticeably more different. He didn't start walking until he was about two or begin talking until much later. To this day it is still hard to understand him sometimes, but as he learns to speak

more clearly and gets stronger, we learn to be more patient and compassionate. As we try to teach Will, he teaches us.

Having a brother with Down syndrome has connected our family to other families that have kids with Down syndrome. Before Will was born, our family was worried about having a child with Down syndrome, but with family, friends, and the Lord supporting us on our journey, Will is happy and healthy. When Will was only two years old, our family was blessed to connect with another family that was expecting a child with Down syndrome, but was considering abortion. We had the chance to educate that family about this chromosomal disorder and show them how special Will is to our family. After meeting with them, the family decided to keep their baby.

When Will began school at San Ramon Valley Christian Academy, he worked extremely hard to use the skills that God blessed him with. In kindergarten, Will was an incredible reader and kept up with the rest of the class. In first grade, Will was quick with his math facts and continued to flourish. As he grows older, he is struggling a little bit to keep up with his classmates, but he still works tremendously hard to memorize his Bible verses, learn adding and subtracting with larger numbers, and comprehend what he reads. We work hard with Will so that he can keep up with everyone else. Though he gets frustrated sometimes, Will doesn't easily give up. We all need to work harder at times, and watching Will improve really inspires me to work at everything with all of my strength.

My parents have found ways that help Will visualize what he is doing, which helps him learn. We use a system of grids and little blocks that help Will with his math facts, and we use sign language to help him with memorizing Bible verses. Will is very capable, which some people, including me, sometimes forget. He simply has his own ways of learning. Our family has all had to chip in at one point or another to help Will, but the lessons he teaches us are much greater than what we could ever teach him.

Will has taught me patience, compassion, a greater work ethic, and even how to be more loving. I also see that I need to work at everything I do with all of my strength. Finally, the love that Will shows is so incredible and can never be replaced. I only wish that I was able to bring people the joy that Will brings. His hugs and bright smile can light up a room. The lessons that I have learned from my youngest brother, I will keep with me forever. Without Will, my life would not be the way it is. I am so blessed to be educated about Down syndrome and I hope to further educate others who have questions about this disorder.



Ella and Will



Left: Ella and Will
 Below: the Drucker family





DSCBA Matters

I HOPE YOU ALL HAD a wonderful summer. It's been an impactful year as we celebrate our 20th anniversary. Since our last *Connection* edition we have had

another successful spring gala. The gala raised a record amount thanks to a very generous community who allows us to keep our programs going strong and to expand in 2018. DSCBA Peninsula celebrated its third year; we sponsored a new program in Oakland for young children ages 0-8; and we opened two Peer Development classes for teens and adults in San Mateo and Berkeley. Our renovation has been a blessing as our Danville-based programs continue to grow and thrive. Last year's 56 beautiful new babies have celebrated or are about to celebrate their first birthday, which makes our New Family support services important and full of amazing families connecting. Our medical outreach remains a high priority, and this year we have already opened our hearts and doors to 24 new awesome babies.

We have hired a New Family support Spanish-speaking assistant, a Development Manager, and employed our sixth adult with Down syndrome. We just completed our sixth year of summer school and have many upcoming empowering workshops lined up for both families and Bay Area educators.

We count on the community as well as our members to keep us going strong. We look forward to entering our 21st year in 2019, so please Step Up for Down Syndrome by raising funds and plan on joining us on October 7 to celebrate abilities.

We cannot accomplish all that we do without your support!



Welcome Annika Miller to the DSCBA staff!

Annika is employed as a Patient Assistant and Clerical Liaison at the Charles J. Epstein Down Syndrome Clinic at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland (through the DSCBA). We were happy to collaborate with Dr. Noemi Spinazzi to make this employment opportunity happen and work with Best Buddies for job coaching assistance.

Play the
MATCH GAME

|| My gift will be matched by _____ ||

Go to www.dsconnection.org/donate

Your gift will be matched by a grant from the Quest Foundation up to \$75,000!

Use our new search tool to check if your company will match your gift for an even greater impact!

Upcoming Schedule of Events

September 22, Saturday

FOSTER CITY READING WORKSHOP
with Natalie Hale *See page 16*

September 23, Sunday

DANVILLE READING WORKSHOP
with Natalie Hale *See page 16*

October 7, Sunday: *See page 3*

**STEP UP FOR DOWN SYNDROME
WALK AND FAMILY PICNIC**

December 2, Sunday: *More details online*

HOLIDAY PARTY

Join 4600+ now on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/DSCBA

STEP UP WITH THE DSCBA TODAY!



2018 BAY AREA STEP UP FOR DOWN SYNDROME WALK AND FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, October 7th | 10am - 2pm

Pleasant Hill Middle School | 1 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

ACTIVITIES, FOOD, LOGISTICS

- Flat Walk Around the Track (approx.: 1/4 mile)
- **Bring a Lunch or Purchase from Food Trucks**
- NEW THIS YEAR- Pumpkin Patch, decorate and take home a pumpkin of your choice
- Carnival Games, Mini Golf, Face Painting, Tattoos
- Popcorn & Cotton Candy
- Music & Dancing
- Team & Character - Photo Opportunities
- Macy's Prize Booth
- **Set Up Your Family Spot for the Day (Bring Tents, Blankets, Chairs, Tables)**

MEET SEAN MCELWEE FROM A&E's BORN THIS WAY



A chance to get autographs, photographs and purchase Sean's line of T-shirts, Seanese.com.

FREE ENTRANCE - REGISTER HERE: [DSCONNECTION.ORG/STEPUP](http://dsconnection.org/stepup)

THE GOAL: We are celebrating our **20th Anniversary** and **WE NEED YOUR HELP** to reach our 2018 goal of **\$225,000**. In 2017, with your help, we raised \$210,000!

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Please create a fundraising page and distribute it to everyone you know. Encourage others to create their own page or to pass your page along to their circle of friends.

IT'S EASY: Go to dsconnection.org/StepUp to register and start your page. Need help? Call us at (925) 362-8660 or email events@dsconnection.org.

VIRTUAL WALKERS: Can't attend the walk? You can still help! Please create a **Facebook Fundraiser** to support our Step Up Campaign. Ask friends and family to do it too. It's easy!

If you have not created your page or registered yet, we are excited to say we are using a **new platform called Stride** that was created by a family who has a young adult with Down syndrome specifically for Down syndrome walks.

We hope you find it easy and enjoyable to use. Stride is used all over the country by many Down syndrome organizations and has great reviews!

DID YOU KNOW: The Bay Area SUDS walk is currently the largest single revenue source that allows the DSCBA to provide vital programs and support throughout the Bay Area such as: 5-day/week phone & walk-in center, Medical Outreach Alliance, new family support & programs, Peer Development Classes for all ages, Education Alliance, IEP consultation & support, tutoring services, lending library, music therapy, Summer Communication Readiness Program & much more.

STEP UP FOR DOWN SYNDROME & **THE DSCBA** BY SIGNING UP TODAY!



101-J Town and Country Dr
Danville, CA 94526
www.dsconnection.org



NORDSTROM



A Golden Celebration at the 2018 Gala

Kshama Perera and Melissa Benavidez

OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA was held on April 14, 2018, at Diablo Country Club with 340 people who came to celebrate this milestone. We raised a record \$215,000; this amount of financial support will keep our programs going strong into 2019.

We were fortunate to have KTVU Fox 2 Sports Director Mark Ibanez once again as MC for this elegant evening. Chelsea Werner, a Special Olympics gold medalist and model, was our guest of honor. A video highlighting her achievements inspired all in attendance. We were also happy to acknowledge our Community Impact Award winners who go above and beyond for our families and impact the quality of people's lives every day because of the compassion they have for others.

During the event we premiered a short film created for our 20th anniversary celebration, produced by Barrett Rodda with Story Short Films. The film is a testimonial from 3 member families who have been deeply impacted by our services as far back as 20 years. You can view it at our website's home page, www.dsconnection.org.

After dinner, guests enjoyed dessert and participated in the live auction. Thank you to everyone who opened their hearts and wallets to make the fund-a-need and the silent and live auctions a huge success.

The live auction was followed by a glow-in-the-dark dance party, which got everyone dancing to the beats of DJ Warren, the Gameday DJ.

The gala would not be possible without the incredible support from businesses and individuals who donated over 360 auction items, many in-kind services, and over \$20,000 in sponsorships and cash donations. We had a record 16 VIP table sponsors this year, and we were sold out. Now that is a great way to celebrate an anniversary!

A big thank you to our Empowering Sponsor, Chevron, and our Inspiring Sponsor, Nordstrom, for your continued support. We would also like to thank Advertising Sponsor, Summit Financial Group; Event Sponsor, Diablo Country Club; and VIP Wine Sponsors Acumen Wines, Caddis Winery, and Las Positas Vineyards for their continued support.

Thank you to the many individual volunteers and groups who contributed time and talent to the event, including boys team charity of Lamorinda and National Charity League, Walnut Creek.

Save the date for the 2019 Gala, April 13, when we will celebrate 21 years. It's guaranteed to be a fun event because we are all about the triplication of the 21st chromosome, which is where we know awesomeness resides. *More 20th Anniversary Gala photos on page 5*

Our friends and community partners from Chevron enjoyed meeting our awesome DSCBA VIP's.







July 4th Parade Celebrating 20 Years of Serving the Community

Teresa Schaub, Program Manager

THE HISTORICAL MEANING behind this great American holiday originally involved our country's celebration of independence. Through the years it has become a favorite holiday for family and friends to come together, celebrating community and togetherness. The Danville July 4th Parade, hosted annually by the Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley, provides a festive platform for members, friends, and families of the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area to gather in celebration of abilities and to encourage awareness. This year was especially significant as the DSCBA celebrates 20 years of serving the community.

Just as our country has grown significantly since its great beginning, the DSCBA has experienced amazing growth within the past 20 years. This growth was evidenced by the abundance of spirited families who participated in this year's parade. Well over 100 DSCBA members, friends, and family enjoyed being with each other for the morning and decorating strollers, scooters, and wagons, while patiently waiting for the parade to begin. Once the DSCBA entourage began to walk, stroll, and roll down the parade route, it was immediately evident they were well received by crowds of enthusiastically cheering parade watchers. All DS Connection parade participants crossed the finish line together, filled with spirit and pride.

More July 4th photos on page 7



Communication Readiness Program

Marianne Iversen, Director of Programs and Adult Services

THIS SUMMER MARKS OUR SIXTH YEAR of offering our Communication Readiness Program (CRP). This highly successful six-week program concentrates on communication and school-readiness skills for children of ages four to seven. Staffed by experienced teachers, Speech and Language Pathologists (SLPs), aids, SLP interns, and volunteers, CRP offers

a rich environment of learning. Increased communication is at the center of the program's focus and is encouraged in all activities including snack and recess. Language, writing, and basic number and math concepts are included in the daily routine. Each child's communication needs are looked at individually to determine the best supports. In some cases

it might be as simple as a picture board and to others it could be a communication device.

This fall we will meet with each student's school team to ensure a smooth transition into the school year. This support and follow-through, which allow for a team approach to each child's education, are an important part of the program and the child's success.



July 4th photos continued from page 6



Numicon: Transforming the Way Students Learn Mathematics

**Elizabeth Lewis,
Education Support Manager**

THIS SPRING, DSCBA held a workshop that introduced families and educators to the world of Numicon, a colorful, multi-sensory, play-and-learn approach to mathematics that appeals to the visual thinking and memory strengths often seen in individuals with Down syndrome. Not only is this creative approach fun and motivating for the learner, evidence suggests that students with DS using the Numicon approach in class develop and improve their skills at a much faster rate than average. At DSCBA, we've seen our young learners make similar progress, so we are determined to get the word out to as many families, schools, and educators as possible!

Interested in exploring Numicon yourself or introducing the approach to your child's education team?

DSCBA provides loaner kits for in-home and school use. In addition to offering workshops and lending materials, we offer one-on-one academic tutoring support utilizing Numicon and other evidence-based approaches.

For more information about the Numicon approach, training opportunities, upcoming workshops, and one-on-one tutoring, please contact education support manager Elizabeth Lewis at Elizabeth@dsconnection.org.



The Power of Parents in Building Community at School

Laura Hawley, Co-Director of Education



I EXCITEDLY JOINED THE DSCBA TEAM as co-director of education in April. I have had the chance to meet many of you as I have been facilitating our support group for Parents of School-Aged Children for the last several years. For those of you who don't know me, I am a former general education teacher and mom to three boys. My oldest, Liam, is 12 and has Down syndrome. He just started fifth grade, and this time of year has me thinking about the importance of creating a collaborative community around our children at school. There are a number of practical steps parents can take that will reap big benefits over the years.

- The first step is to get involved and find a way to contribute to the larger school community. Consider joining the PTA and maybe even volunteer to be on a committee for one of the school fundraising events like the school walkathon. This is a great way to build relationships with staff and other involved parents. It makes your face known and communicates that you value and appreciate the school and are a team player. It provides opportunity for informal communication with staff and classmate's parents where you will learn so much more than in just a two-hour annual IEP meeting.
- Building relationships with your child's classmate's parents can lead to wonderful friendships for your child. Consider dropping off and picking your child up from school instead of utilizing the bus if possible, even if only occasionally. And if possible, instead of dropping off and picking up your child at the curb, arrive a few minutes early so you can park, walk in, and hang out with other waiting parents. This also allows for face to face communication with the classroom teacher. Volunteer in the classroom or chaperone a field trip if your schedule allows. You will likely make some friends of your own and from that will naturally flow friendship opportunities for your child. Invite one of these new friends and their child to come over for tea, meet at a park, or go out for ice cream after school.
- Start the year with positive communication with teachers, aides, and therapists at school. Provide a one- or two-page IEP at a glance that lists your child's goals, strengths, interests, and other important things to know about your child. Email therapists once a month to check in, ask how your child is doing, and ask if there is a way you could be supporting what they are working on at home. Always look for opportunities to show staff that you appreciate them such as sending a thank you note when someone goes above and beyond and giving gifts to school staff at Christmas and the end of the school year.

You don't have to try to employ all of these suggestions, just pick a few that work for you, and seek to make positive connections with those in your child's school community. I am happy to provide further information or support with any of the ideas I have mentioned. You can reach me at laurie@dsconnection.org.

Some of my Favorite Educational Applications

The Talking Kids Calculator application (\$1.99) is an interactive, talking calculator that is ideal for children learning numbers and basic math. It names the numbers as kids enter them into the calculator and also shows the full math problem (ex. $3 + 4 = 7$).

The PocketPhonics application (\$6.99) teaches kids letter sounds, blending letters to make words, and handwriting. It systematically progresses from simple short vowel words (ex. cat) to more difficult digraphs (ex. ch), long vowel patterns (ex. oa) and multi-syllable words.

Precious Young Ones

Nancy Ferguson, Director of New Family Services

WE RECENTLY ASKED EIGHT-AND-A-HALF-MONTH-OLD AVA'S PARENTS HOW THE DSCBA HAS HELPED THEIR FAMILY.

"You have provided us with resources to not only fully inform us on Down syndrome, but you have provided us with resources to allow us to become the best advocate, parent, teacher, and student we can be for our Ava [pictured below with a yellow bow]. You have connected us with our amazing pediatrician, Dr. Noemi Spinazzi. You have connected us with other families that are going through and have gone through the same emotions and experiences we go through. But most importantly, you have shown us we are not alone in this journey."

Hearing this from a family means so much. We are providing new and expectant families with the support and connections they need as they begin this journey.



Movin', Groovin', and Opening Doors into a New Community

Lauren Smith-Donohoe



HERE IN OAKLAND we have been movin' and groovin' with lots of friends— from babies to children aged six! Every fourth Saturday we get together at the East Bay Community Space to sing, dance, read, and play with a new special guest co-host.

“Movers & Groovers is a highlight of every month that my daughter and I dearly look forward to! Lauren, Robbie (and the whole family!) thoughtfully develop an empowering, inclusive, educational, fun-filled morning with so many friends, new and old. I love how they include and encourage time for the parents to connect as well.”

—Jamie Herslow, mom to Zoe, age three

I approached the DSCBA with the idea of Movers & Groovers because we have so many families here in Alameda County who want to connect with each other and just can't always make it out to Danville. It was important to create something really valuable and meaningful to bring us together. Those of us with young kids know the drudgery of frequent therapies each week (often after long waits), and sometimes we wonder if it is really supporting our child in the best way — especially

when all that time spent in individual therapy may cost our kids social opportunities. We needed something with immediate rewards for the whole family. Marianne Iversen and Nancy LaBelle have been enthusiastic supporters from the beginning and have really made it happen!

Movers & Groovers (M&G) is an opportunity for young kids with Down syndrome to socialize and make new friends as well as exercise their gross motor, fine motor, speech, music, and reading skills with fun activities that change theme each month. Families can learn new songs and games to play at home to enrich daily life and work on skills; they can also meet teachers and therapists in the community who may have something more to offer their child. One of the goals of M&G is to give lots of practice for group activities so that kids can move into community circle time spaces or school settings and participate with more confidence.

In May, the DSCBA sponsored us to have our first day at the Habitot Children's Museum in Berkeley. The museum was closed to the general public and our M&G group could explore all the exhibits and familiarize themselves with them. This way, when they return on regular public days, they will have more confidence to get right into the mix and play. We even got to turn it into a birthday gathering for M&G superstar Reimare! We are so thankful to the DSCBA for the opportunity. Please keep an eye out for another Habitot day in the near future.

So far this year we have focused on friendship, nature and seasons, gardens, numbers and counting, colors, and pride in our families. We even got to meet two very special Boston terriers in June. Stay tuned for alphabet, Spanish language, trains, and more! The DSCBA has extended our space for the rest of the year and is continuing to purchase amazing new materials for us, including large tumbling mats and instruments. Not only are we working on continuing enrichment in our monthly sessions, but we are also planning more

“I love taking my son to Movers & Groovers because the group is intimate and better suited for my son's needs. He enjoys singing along, and he likes to play with the materials. He gets overwhelmed easily and the space provides places for him to take a break and regroup.”

—Jaime Selby, mom to Matthew, age five



Opening Doors continued on page 11

Horsing Around with Friends

Marianne Iversen

DANVILLE'S Young Adult Peer Development class had the pleasure of a private tour of the Sherman Ranch, an Arabian horse farm in Pleasanton. Jill Sherman showed the class around and the participants were able to pet, feed, and, in some cases, kiss the horses. It was baby season during our visit so watching the newborns with their mommas was an extra special treat.

We are so grateful to our community that provides our classes with such valuable and memorable experiences.

Thank you, Jill and the Sherman Ranch, for the wonderful visit and the cool Sherman Ranch hats!



Above: Emma Tippettt thanks Jill Sherman for the Arabian horse farm tour



Above: Grant Riley feeding a horse



Christian James makes an equine acquaintance



At right: Emma feeds a horse



Above: this Arabian beauty was happy to meet Adam Ferguson and T. J. Crawford



Jill Sherman (center) introduces Pineapple to the group

Below: Sherman Ranch Arabian Horse Farm in Pleasanton has been breeding Arabian horses for over 35 years



At left sporting their new Sherman Ranch hats: Emma Tippettt, T. J. Crawford, Nicky Lowe, Patrick Harkins, Grant Riley, Adam Ferguson, Lucas Dillon

Below: T. J. feeding the horse

Opening Doors continued from page 10

community days. We are planning to visit the steam trains and the Little Farm at Tilden Regional Park and have a Halloween event, so please keep joining us and keep an eye out for more community events!

Movers & Groovers is co-hosted each month by Lauren and Robbie, as well as their three kids, Persephone, Dubhlainn, and Connolly. Please email any ideas for guests or community events to lesmith.donohoe@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MoversNGrooversOak>.



Above: This miniature donkey followed our group everywhere



The Power of Community

Julie Tang, Program Manager

CAN YOU BELIEVE WE JUST CELEBRATED OUR 3RD ANNIVERSARY?

As I reflect on what has happened these last three years, there are four words that keep coming up, and that is, *We are stronger together*. What we have accomplished these last three years did not just happen overnight, and it surely did not take only one person to do this. It took a *community*: a community of families, businesses, and various organizations to support our mission. It is our responsibility to continue educating and advocating for our children so that we can help build an inclusive community that not only accepts our children with love and compassion, but also eliminates all barriers and limitations. A place where our children can thrive and become the person they were created to be. Again, we can't do this alone. We need *your support, your voice, and your commitment* to join us on this journey. If you are interested in any of our events or services on the Peninsula, please contact Julie Tang at julie@dsconnection.org.

Sometimes the best way to express what our community means to our members is to have our members share what it means to them.

- "When our son Drew was born with Down syndrome (DS) just over three years ago, we heard about DSCBA and were excited to know it existed. But we quickly realized that our "local" DS organization wasn't really local to us. Nearly all its resources and services were more than a ninety-minute drive away. We met Julie and immediately embraced the small local support group of Peninsula families she drew together. In those first two years of Drew's life it was incredible to have a few DS families with whom we could learn, celebrate, and support each other. And now, just three years in, look where it's come! We now have more than 100 families on the list, and we are the DSCBA! By building our community, we brought the services, events, and people to us right where we are. And because of that, our amazing kids have access to marvelous resources, like music class, kid workshops, parent education opportunities, advocacy support, moms' pampering nights out, and above all, a loving and supportive community. A family. Right here where we live. We're so grateful." – *Becky Bausman*
- "The DSCBA Peninsula group provides many resources for their members. I have attended several support group meetings. The guest speakers are knowledgeable and relevant to the Down syndrome community. The music class is a form of therapy for my son. I enjoy being a part of this group; and they're closer to my house so I don't have to travel as far!" – *Jaime Selby*
- "The DSCBA-Peninsula is about community, support, and friendship. It means there is always someone who understands the ups and downs of having a child with Down syndrome. As a group we are able to accomplish much more for our children and have the power to implement programs to help them reach their fullest potential. We feel so blessed to be part of this wonderful community!" – *Lalaine Frankel*

More Community Power photos on page 13



Below: Musical theater workshop facilitated by Katie Kerwin-Gielniak from Broadway Babies and Kids

Bottom: Our 3rd anniversary celebration on July 14, 2018



Benicia Rock Stars Have a Rockin' Good Time

Martin Gonsalves and Lisa Martin

THE BENICIA ROCK STARS (the group's name for their Benicia Peer Development class) had a BBQ on June 10 to thank family and friends from the community who have supported us all year long. Our guests brought delicious side dishes and salads. Kathy Carlon brought us a cake to celebrate all our birthdays from the year. Amy Yacullo, who owns the Grocery Outlet in Vallejo, donated the rest of the food to us. She gave us hotdogs, hamburgers, corn, and chips in addition to juice boxes for kids, plates, and cups! Amy is the best; she rocks! We all had a super-cool time and got to hang out with our favorite people.

Thanks to everyone who came and supported us. This makes us (the Rock Stars) so happy.



Above: Guests enjoy the birthday celebration at the barbecue

Below: Left to right: The Benicia Rock Stars: Damien Carlon, Michael Rury, Natashia Carter, Andrew Vasquez, Gabriela Maldonado, Rachael Warren, Martin Gonsalves, Lisa Martin



Martin Gonsalves, Amy Yacullo, Lisa Martin

Power of Community photos continued from page 12



Above: Parents' Day Out Event, time to connect, create, and rejuvenate



To the right of the above photo: Peer Development class in action

At right: Our special guest Ellen Cookman presented "Tools for Special Needs Planning" at one of our Connection meetings on the Peninsula



THANK YOU

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Memorials and Honors

HAPPY 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SERVING FAMILIES AT THE DSCBA, NANCY LaBelle

IN HONOR OF LIZ BROWN'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

Amy Allison
Marisa Orielly

IN HONOR OF COLIN COOPER, ESQ

Zachary Tyler

IN HONOR OF ELI COOPER

Golden Island Acupressure
Company

IN HONOR OF MARIANNE IVERSEN

Sally Vickers

IN HONOR OF JEFF LEHNER ON WDSO

Carla Ardinger

IN HONOR OF KENDRA QUINTELLA

Lori and Ron Cheatham

IN HONOR OF JANELLE ANGELINE RUAN

Mariela Ruan

IN HONOR OF THE AMAZING ABIGAIL TEMPLE AND WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

James Button

IN HONOR OF MY GRANDSON WESTON

Benson and Fu Mei Choy
Christopher and Catherine
Crain

Susan and Kenneth Fusselman

Edmund and Barbara Gil

Elaine Graves

Ministry St. Joan of Arc Parish

Thomas and Terri Sharki

Ralph and Paula Sommer

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT BERG AND IN

HONOR OF HIS GRANDSON QUINN

Caroline Archambault

Michael and Karen Barletta

Daniel Brennan

Bill and Barbara Coffey

Carol Forest

Lynn Keene

Andrea Obston Marketing

Communications, Inc.

IN HONOR OF MY GRANDSON WILL CLARK

Susan Montague

IN MEMORY OF TOM FIELD

Robert and Leslie Baxter

Raelene Field

Anthony and Julianne

Maggiore

Stacie Shaw

Patricia Spragg

Joanne Thornton and
Tim Riley

Jack Von Rutenberg

IN MEMORY OF OUR SON NOLAN

CONCEPCION JACKSON

Philip Jackson

IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA REASONER

- LOVE, THE SOBIESKI COUSINS

Cheryl Lebert

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND, RON

Carol and Paul Rioux

IN MEMORY OF BEVERLY TANNER

Megan Portoni

THE SHEEHAN FAMILY IS VERY HAPPY TO

RECEIVE SERVICES FROM THE GREAT PEOPLE

THAT MAKE UP THE DSCBA

Danial Sheehan

Facebook Birthday Fundraisers

MAYLIN BRADLEY'S BIRTHDAY

Reuter Agulan

Susana Alcaraz

Janeth Cabello

Martha Castro

Glen Conti

Shalina de Dios

Elizabeth de Rivera

Anita Mostasisa

Jeff Ryan

Sonia Santizo

Ron Savedra

Ortega Solorzano

Claudio Velo

Angie Wagemann

ELI COOPER'S BIRTHDAY

Adam Ferguson

Nancy Ferguson

Marianne Iversen

Nancy LaBelle

Raulet/Connelly family

ELENA DYRDAHL'S BIRTHDAY

Valerie Adinolfi

Malaya Arevaldo

Luciana Cortez

Madeline Dyrdaahl

Andrea Finch

Monica Fong

Joleen Fraga

Mary Garren

Sharon Harper

Andrea Ibarra Tacdol

Fumiko Koike

Mark Lampkin

Becky Monroe

Denise Newcombe

Lisa Rockefeller

Michele Tagliaferri

Joanne Tumbale

Jen Williams

Vaughn Wooster

MACEE LeMOINE'S BIRTHDAY

Keiko Arimitsu

Larry Dangott

Ramsey Gardner

Nicole George

Bree LeMoine

Dave LeMoine

Laura LeMoine

Macee LeMoine

Jim Loos

Maureen Mukushini

Courtright

Bill Perman

SENJIA MUSINBEGOVIC HODZIC'S

BIRTHDAY

Max Bidasha

Alisha Born

Alma Hanic

Ann Krajcin

Anela McAdams

Senija Musinbegovic Hodzic

Marie Silva

REBECCA NYSTROM'S BIRTHDAY

Don Severn

OSCAR PALOMINO'S BIRTHDAY

Oscar Palomino

GABRIEL PINGARRON'S BIRTHDAY

Maria Cortez

Harold Dees

Gabriela Pingarron

Hector Salazar

DANIEL L. RODGERS' BIRTHDAY

Julie McGuire

Donna Rodgers

Lisa Rose

DANNY RODGERS' BIRTHDAY

Linda Jones

Tae Kong

David McGuen

Mahdee Shehadeh

DAZIAN SMITH'S BIRTHDAY

Alicia Dennis

Mo Finn

Kelsey McNickle

Erica Milson

Diane Nolting

CYNTHIA VARGAS-MCIVER'S BIRTHDAY

Donna Galbraith

Maria Magaata

Jennifer Pratt

Cynthia Vargas-Mciver

Marty Williams

Glenn Yamada

KRISTA VERI'S BIRTHDAY

Gail Adam

Dave Dalton

Jennefer Jones-Punjani

Nancy LaBelle

William McCormick

Kim Wolken

Employee Giving Campaigns

AMERICA'S BEST LOCAL CHARITIES

Anonymous

APPLE

Edwin Tang

AT&T GIVING CAMPAIGN

Therese Crispell

David Kimble

BANK OF AMERICA

Jessica Burnett

CHEVRON

Paul Casadont

Marian Cathedral King

THE CLOROX COMPANY

Tobby Gavino
CISCO
 Aparna Prasad
GENENTECH, INC.
 Christian Small
 Steve Vernay
GIVE WITH LIBERTY CAMPAIGN
 Kerrigan Malek, in memory of Kyle Martinez, for Christian James
 John M. Najjar, on behalf of Sarah Najjar
 Valerie Pool

GOOGLE, INC.
 Anonymous
KAISER PERMANENTE
 Anonymous
 Raymond and Anna Bernal and family
 Rick LaBelle

MACY'S EAST
 Alex Ferguson
 Scott Ferguson
PG&E
 Anonymous
 Ravinder Khangura
 Scott Lam
 Isela Lopez-Garibay
 Laura Martinez
 Rebecca Martinez
 Jennifer Nunez
 Jenny Rios, in honor of her daughter Bianca
 Charles Seufert
 Corbin Shields
 Ray Szeto

SCHOLARSHIPS
 Kirsten Massa
SPEECH SCHOLARSHIPS
 McKesson Foundation
 Mark Vukelich
UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN
 Jimmy Spearow
VMWARE FOUNDATION
 Anjali Chandrashekhara
 Geetha

WELLS FARGO
 Anonymous
 Mark McCormick
 Paul Rettig
WORKDAY, INC.
 Ahmad Jiwani
 Krista Veri

Other Fundraisers

ANASTASIA BURTON FOR WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY
 Anastasia Burton
 Carol Burton
 Audra Canaya
 Manuel Caneri
 Laura Joy
 Stephanie Klyver
 Dave Makaruk
 Irene Motoviloff

Arlette Novelli
 Ruth Quatremain
 Alexandra Roschkowsky
 Tatyana Sarandinaki
 Julie Searles
 Jessica Stark
FUN RUN FOR WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY
 Caitlin Shanley
KAREN GOSSER
 Jon Casadont
 Paul Casadont
 Barb Gosser
 Jeff Gosser
 Karen Gosser
 Tina Jennerjohn
 Amy Kohnle
 Arba LeClair
 Barbara Mirkes
 Krista Tahlman
 Lori Vorpahl
THE GROWLER COIN BOX
 Ruggie and Carole Van Muijen
MARIA INSAMLING FOR WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY
 Lexi Bar
 Maria Nussey
 Liese Santana
 Scott Wirick
JACK'S PIM BURGERS AND SHAKES
 Michael Mallie
NANCY LABELLE YEAR-END GIVING
 Gary Schroth
 Steve Wilcox
NANCY MAZZEO
 Margaret Bennett
 Dawn Gibson

Sue Presco
 Kyong Regalia
SO MUCH PREMIER AND AUCTION
 Wendy Citron
 Nancy LaBelle
 Michaelle McGaraghan
 Erica Milsom, in honor of Bruce
 Lee Payne
 Ches Wajda
ST. ISIDORE SERVICE PROJECT
 Erin Stein
 Lauren Torneros

Please know we work very hard to ensure your kindness is acknowledged. If your contribution to our success was received after the newsletter went to press, we will be honored to highlight your generosity in the next edition. Thank you!

Volunteers

DEDICATED CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS
 Lauren Cademartori
 Abi Coulson
 Dawn Handley
 Jana Labib
 Keaton Littlefield
 Benjamin Park
 Joey Powada
 Kathleen Stein
 Gracie Sula
 Toni Sweet
 Gabby Testa
 Lauren Viarengo

Message from Tom Delaplaine, Chairman, Board of Directors

Member Outreach



Dear Friends,

I am honored to be serving my third year as board chairman at the DSCBA. I'm reaching out to our members as I am interested in your thoughts and ideas about ways our board can expand its role in meaningful, useful, and productive ways to support the DSCBA.

Last year, 2017, was another great year for the DSCBA. The organization made outreach a top priority, and we welcomed 56 new little ones to our family.

This year is looking to be another great year for the DSCBA as we build upon our results from last year. Our organization is clearly making a difference in the community.

Can you give us some time? Can you participate?

Ways you might help or serve:

- Board service – We are expanding our board from 13 members to 15 and are actively looking for 2 new board members.
- Volunteer to support our staff

You in?

If so, please feel free to call me at 925-299-1930 or call the DSCBA staff at 925-362-8660.

Grateful for Our Community Support

Marianne Iversen

At right: Erin Stein and Lauren Torneros held a fundraiser at St. Isidore's to benefit the DSCBA. The girls raised \$250 by making and selling friendship bracelets. They presented the check along with friendship bracelets to Danville's Tween & Teen Peer Development class. From left to right: Joey Powada, Anthony Godinez, Jonah Zimmerman-Bloch, Rohan Bhupatiraju, Sandro Moore, Lauren Torneros, Erin Stein, Kathleen Stein, and Jane Pugsley.



At left: The Oaktree Racing Association awarded a \$2,000 check to the DSCBA again this year at the Alameda County Fair. This marks the fifth consecutive year that DSCBA was granted a donation by the association.

Making the Connection

Making the

Volume 11 No. 2 · July 2018



Down Syndrome Connection
of the Bay Area

www.dsconnection.org • Phone 925-362-8660
101 J Town & Country Drive Danville, CA 94526

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission

To empower, inspire, and support people with Down syndrome, their families and the community that serves them, while fostering awareness and acceptance in all areas of life.

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www.facebook.com/dscba

Reading Workshop with Natalie Hale for Families & Educators



Presented by the
Down Syndrome Connection
of the Bay Area
Empower • Inspire • Support



Natalie Hale

Natalie Hale is an award-winning author, innovative educator, and parent of an adult son with Down Syndrome (Jonathan, 33), and for over 20 years, a national and international speaker on the topic of teaching reading to learners with Down syndrome, autism, and other developmental delays.

SATURDAY, September 22, 2018
9:30am – 2:30pm

Peninsula Jewish Community Center
800 FOSTER CITY Blvd., **FOSTER CITY**

SUNDAY, September 23, 2018
8:30am – 1:30pm

Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area
101 J Town & Country Dr., **DANVILLE**

Bring your own lunch if you would like! • Light refreshments will be available

The workshop includes 3 significant topics

- 1 Whole Child Reading: Teaching learners with Down syndrome and other developmental delays
- 2 How to Create Personal Books
- 3 How to Modify Trade Books (DSCBA will supply)

Fee to attend: \$30 per registrant, space is limited

Register for the **FOSTER CITY** workshop:
readingworkshoppenninsula.eventbrite.com

Register for the **DANVILLE** workshop:
readingworkshopdanville.eventbrite.com

