

Making The Connection

Second Quarter 2009 Edition • April - June

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COME JOIN US FOR
THE 6TH ANNUAL BOWL-A-RAMA FUNDRAISER


BENEFITING
THE DOWN SYNDROME CONNECTION OF THE BAY AREA

WHEN:
**SUNDAY MAY 3RD, 2009
12:30PM - 3:00PM**

EARL ANTHONY'S DUBLIN BOWL
6750 REGIONAL STREET

PLEASE SEND SPONSORS TO:
WWW.DSCONNECTION.ORG/EVENTS/BOWLARAMA

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CONNECTION

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WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

National Down Syndrome Society
www.ndss.org

National Down Syndrome Congress
www.nDSCBAcenter.org

Education Research
www.downsnet.org

Special Olympics
www.specialolympics.org

Wrightslaw
www.wrightslaw.com

Disability Solutions
www.disabilitysolutions.org

Down Syndrome Quarterly
www.denison.edu/dsq/

Woodbine House
www.woodbinehouse.com

Regional Center of the East Bay:
www.rceb.org

CARE Parent Network
(925) 313-0999
www.contracostaarc.com

Family Resource Network
(510) 547-7322, e-mail address
0-FRNOAK@inreach.com

MATRIX Parent Network
& Resource Center
(415) 884-3535
www.matrixparents.org

Parents Helping Parents
(408) 727-5775
www.php.com

Support For Families of
Children With Disabilities
(415) 282-7494
www.supportforfamilies.org

Give Books
www.givebooks.org/DSCBA

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A NOTE FROM NANCY



Let the sneezing begin! Spring is here with bright light and new life blooming in and around our communities. At the Connection our focus is on planting positive seeds, cultivating strong relationships and maintaining the great foundation we have today. Community is key! The definition of community to me is “a collection or group of people who have something in common and interact.” I believe our “family” at the Connection fits that definition nicely.

The current economy drives the need for community more than ever as “it takes a village” and everyone doing a small amount makes a BIG difference. We have 3 main fundraisers each year that make up 40% of our income, Bowl-A-Rama, Cajun Fest and the Buddy Walk. We cannot keep our doors open without these events.

As members we ask that you collect sponsors twice a year (May and October) for the Bowl-A-Rama and the Buddy Walk from your family and friends. We’ve made it simple by automating the sponsorship process on our website at www.dsconnection.org. We also ask that you think about us when it comes to corporate or foundation contacts you may have as there are many folks who want to give they just need to know about us.

As members I ask that you do your part in the cultivating and building of our community by assisting with an event committee, fundraising, attending our events and spreading the word about our organization. We also have a few positions on our Board open. Next Board Meeting is April 21st from 7-830pm in Danville. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month and it’s a great group of dedicated volunteers that make things happen!

Welcome to our newest additions to the board, Treasurer Dave Weingart, Secretary Tammy Garcia, Luz Moreno, Maura Perkins and Joanne Leach.

In addition to our fundraising, the 4th of July Parade will be a chance to build positive community awareness about the Connection and the beautiful folks that benefit from our services. Come walk with us or ride on the float. Last year was a lot of fun!

Have a wonderful spring and a joyous summer and I hope we can count on your help to keep our crops growing and our grass very green!

Sincerely

Nancy LaBelle
Executive Director



Confessions of a Grandpa

By Steve Schendel

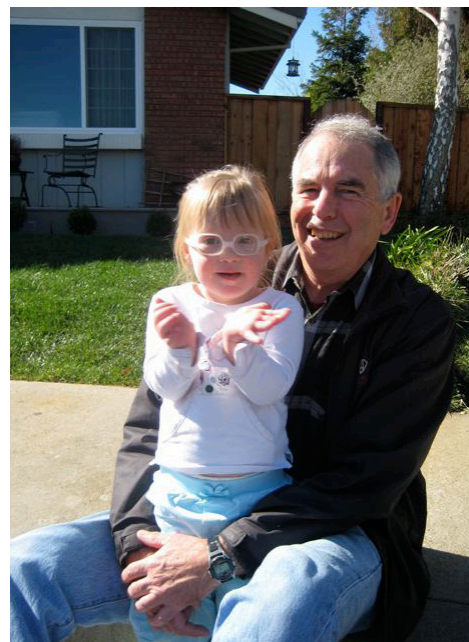
I recall the trepidation I felt when I first met my granddaughter Grace at the hospital, and learned she was born with Down syndrome. I was heartbroken, knowing her parents Traci and Mike would forever have to care for a special needs child, and would never have the satisfaction and pride I had enjoyed as I watched Traci grow up, becoming independent, winning accolades and honors in school, setting swim team records, graduating from college with honors and then watching her become a skilled intensive care nurse.

After a short time, I began to realize that the same satisfaction and pride I had enjoyed with Traci is there for all of us, Grandpa included, as we watch Grace learn and develop. She probably won't get straight A's in school, and I doubt she'll set a swim team record (but I do know she'll try!). However she just might win a dance contest. She is learning and

dealing with her physical handicaps, beating her goals, and amazing her teachers and therapists at an amazing pace. Best of all, she is doing it with the quirkiest sense of humor I've ever seen, with patience and an insatiable zest for life, and with a smile that fills my heart with joy every time I see her. In short, she is living her life without holding anything back – as I like to say, with amazing grace.

When Grace was about one I remember going to a group meeting at the Down Syndrome Connection, where I listened to a new grandparent express his fears and concerns. He admitted he hadn't yet told his friends his grandchild was born with Down syndrome. I tried to assure him he wouldn't feel that way for long, but I don't think I did a very good job. I hadn't really thought about what allowed my fears and concerns to melt away so quickly and completely. Later I knew what I wanted to tell him. Quite simply, it was love, the complete love and trust that emanates from each and every sweet child.

Grace will be four in June. I'll be at her birthday party, along with her other relatives, her buddies and cousins, maybe a teacher or two. She'll smile at me, and call out "Gampa", and come over and pull on my eyebrows. And at that moment I'll be the happiest and proudest grandpa in the world.



Steve Schendel
Grandfather of Gracie Mae Cannon
Gig Harbor, WA



CAJUN FEST NEEDS YOUR HELP!



We are in need of great auction items for our upcoming Cajun Fest. This event is in honor of Amelia Bibles and is a great evening of food, drink, live music/dancing and silent auction. Check out our website at www.dsconnection.org/events/cajunfest for more information. This is a great way for people who offer services to showcase their items and gain new clients. Popular auction items in the past.....rental homes for a weekend away, wine packages, jewelry, art, electronics, cases of wine, baskets with various items, sports memorabilia, etc. Please help us make this a great event and thanks for your support!



Ava Can READ

By Amy Parham



Ava has always had a great fondness for books and reading. Both of my kids have. I sometimes think to myself “How many more books can we squeeze on the shelves?” But there always seems to be room for more.

So it wasn't unusual that on a sunny spring day, after her nap, Ava and I were snuggled up on the sofa together with a book. We were reading a very simple book, one with a word on one page followed by the same word with an uncomplicated illustration. The entire book was in black and white.

We were reading along, enjoying ourselves with laughs, sound effects and sign language. When I turned to the page that read “ball,” she signed ball, *before* I read it.

“Did she just read the word ‘ball’?” No--it couldn't be. She's only 3 and has Down syndrome to boot. But then we got to “bird” and she did it again. In about a minute, she had signed the words ball, bird, house and eat--all before I had read the words.

I called my husband at work. “I think Ava just read the words ball, bird, house and eat.” His response: “*Really?!?*”

It seemed crazy, but we both started working with her and quickly realized that yes, she was indeed reading those words. All on her own. In all kinds of books and on flash cards. It was an amazing moment for us--and one that we completely didn't expect.

Today, at 4 1/2, Ava has very limited speech skills and also has the diagnosis of Childhood Apraxia of Speech. But she can sign up a storm, and thanks to *her* showing *us*, she is now sight reading well over 100 words. Her current IEP includes the goal that she will be sight reading 200+ words come April 2009. I'm thrilled to say that she's closing in on that goal. For over a year now, Ava receives weekly 1:1 tutoring in reading from Natalie Hale, Founder of Special Reads for Special Needs. We are also looking into getting Ava a touch screen computer to help enhance her reading skills.

I'll never forget a conversation I had with a kind nurse-turned-friend in the hospital when Ava was born. Nurse Chris has a son with DS and was a very welcome sounding board in those first few days. I very quickly realized how much Ava was going to teach me after I made an ignorant comment and Nurse Chris said to me, “Never, ever, underestimate your child.”

How right she was. And how much I have to celebrate in all of Ava's abilities!

Amy Parham lives in Los Gatos, CA, with her husband Sean, son Reid (6 3/4 as he's sure to tell you), and Ava. She and her husband have a blog at www.parham.org. She's still new to California and always looking to connect with more families of children with Down syndrome. She can be reached at amy@parham.org.

Special Reads for Special Needs is located in Los Gatos, CA. For more information, visit www.specialreads.com.

READING TUTOR OPPORTUNITY AT THE CONNECTION

A few weeks ago we had the pleasure of meeting with Natalie Hale of “Special Reads for Special Needs” at the Connection. Natalie is a private reading/writing tutor for children (age 4+), teens and adults with Down syndrome and has had much success. As Natalie said, “it's never too late to learn to read”. The materials she has created are amazing with a goal of “fast success”. She has separated illustration from text, used larger type, added extra spaces and uses hot topics for kids and more. Martha cried as she came to the realization that it may not be too late for Blair to read a USC book or a program on Neil Diamond. Natalie is offering her services to our organization and will come to the Connection in Danville every Friday. Her fees are \$65 for a private 45 minute session which can be tailored to your child's needs. For more information you can visit her website at www.specialreads.com.

Natalie Hale will be at the Connection on Friday, April 24th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm to give an overview of her programs and speak to families about getting on board. If you are interested, please call the Connection to RSVP for this meeting and bring your lunch if you like.



What a Difference a Good Speech Therapist Makes!



I had been talking with Martha and she suggested that it was time for us to look into a private speech therapist for our daughter Rachael who had just turned four years old. I remember thinking; I do not know of any good speech therapists and where in the world do I start looking, again?

Then we were blessed with winning three sessions with Heather Peterson at the Buddy Walk. After our first session, I could not believe how well she worked with Rachael! I immediately noticed Heathers love for our children. I saw how she follows the child, she didn't make Rachael sit at a table and try to get her to say words from pictures. She asks Rachael, "What would you like to play with?" Then while playing, Heather is amazing at encouraging Rachael to use new words and practice old ones, so that they sound better. Rachael does not realize that she is in a speech session. She thinks it is play time.

Heather also knows sign language! For the first three years of Rachael's life I looked for a speech therapist that could sign and I could NOT find one! Rachael loves to sign and now she has Heather who understands her signs and is really good at getting her to talk!

We have now been with Heather for two months and I hear a difference in Rachael's speech! She is saying many more words spontaneously! Heather is also training me on getting a little bit more than Rachael wants to give. For instance when Rachael asks for crackers, Heather asks me to have Rachael say, "crackers please" or "I want crackers please." In the past, I would give her the crackers just with the sign. At school they tell me that Rachael has been talking more! They have even noticed a difference.

I believe that Heather is the Down Syndrome Connections best kept secret! I wanted to make sure that anyone who is even thinking about speech, knows about Heather. She LOVES our children, LOVES her work, follows the child, signs, and is very encouraging! Most importantly Rachael LOVE'S to work/play with Heather. What more could you ask for.

Sincerely,
Natalie Burbach



BUDDY WALK

Come one and all..... join the Buddy Walk team!

We are in need of committee members for our Buddy Walk to be held on October 11th. We need people to fundraise and donate time to make this event a great day. We also need people for all day help at the event. Please contact Jo or Tammy for the date of the next Buddy Walk Committee meeting. We look forward to working with you!

Jo Kelly Cell Phone: 925/285-4031
Tammy Garcia Cell Phone 510/579-1541
Email address: tammygarcia09@yahoo.com



HIGHLIGHTING ABILITIES



Olivia Byers-Straus, 16, is a sophomore at School of the Arts, a public alternative high school in San Francisco. Last fall Olivia was encouraged by one of her teachers to audition for the school's spring musical, "Wedding Singer." Happily, she landed a spot in the ensemble and can be seen here in one of several of her dance numbers. Rehearsals for the musical began before the winter break, and a total of 13 performances were given over three weekends in March.

Olivia has been taking dance lessons since she was three years old, studying

tap, ballet and jazz at the Steppin' Out Dance Studio in San Francisco, where she lives. She also takes gymnastics lessons, participates in Special Olympics, and she works one afternoon a week running the snack bar at AcroSports, her gymnastics school. And, of course, she loves to go to SF Step meetings every Tuesday afternoon! Someday she hopes to go to a college where she can continue to dance. You go, girl!

THE BEAR

By Kathy Harkins (proud Mom)

Patrick has had the opportunity to participate 2 years in art classes at his middle school. He loves water colors, clay and pencil drawing. When presented with a project all at once, he often got overwhelmed. But when the project was broken down-he flourished! Picking his own colors and style-wow! This picture is of a bear done earlier this year. He was able to trace the bear sometimes with the help of an assistant (another student); then the art teacher used masking tape to cover everything but the section Patrick was painting. He then painted section by section. He did have help with the mouth and teeth. The picture was then hung at school in the front office with other art projects. Students then voted which project they liked the best; the students did not know the names of the artists. Patrick's picture made it into the District Office Art Show and received honorable mention. It also hung in the district office for a week.



THE JONAS 3D MOVIE

By Marissa Erickson

Do you like the Jonas Brothers? If you are a fan you should see the Jonas Brothers 3D movie. The 3D glasses are really cool and it is just like being at a live concert. The special guests are Taylor Swift and Debbie Alvaro. At the end of the movie Miley Cyrus comes out to see Joe (her old BFF). The Jonas Brothers have also been special guest on The Hannah Montana Show, and they are getting their own show on the Disney channel soon.



STEP IN Folks Give Back to the Community that Gives so Much

By Virginia Bonham

In the spirit of community service and it takes a village to raise us all..... Step in students K. Leigh, Nicole, Blair, Theresa, Katrina, J. R., and Stacey, want the DSCBA community to please help feed the hungry in Contra Costa County by donating to the Food Bank. The Food Bank has placed a barrel in the family room at the Connection for the collection of dry goods. Let's all donate a can of soup, box of cereal, bag of pasta, or can of tuna etc. Feed the hungry and give back to the community that gives us so much.

Working at the Connection

By Marianne Iversen

Students in the Transition 1 Class in the SR-VUSD helping out with mailings at the Connection in Danville. Marianne Iversen, Board Member and the teens Para-Educator says, "This is a great way for the students to increase their vocational skills while at the same time helping to ease the workload of the Connection staff ..it's a win-win situation".



Agnes Davis, Malia Ramsey and Stuart Fountain



STEP IN ROCKED THE HOUSE

By Nancy LaBelle

Local contractor and drummer Eric Wood brought his entire drum set to the Connection on March 12th. The STEP IN team was joyfully surprised when they saw all of the colorful drums and they smiled from ear to ear. Eric is a friend of Nancy LaBelle's and wanted to do something for the Connection so he used his talent of 24 years of drumming to give back.

If anyone in Danville was napping they were wide awake at 4:30pm when the drumming circle began. Everyone played drums, symbols, used sticks, brushes and learned new terminology and techniques for drumming.

It was LOUD and FUN!

Eric plays with local bands by night and by day he's a licensed contractor with E.A. Wood & Company where he focuses on quality remodeling of kitchens and baths. For a free estimate, you can find Eric at: www.eawoodremodeling.com or by phone at 925-229-5870.



Behind the Scenes

GRANTS, GRANTS and more GRANTS!

By, Erica Robertson, Director of Development



Q: What is a grant?

A: A grant is a monetary award given by a funder, such as a government agency, a foundation or a corporation.

Q: What is a foundation?

A: A foundation is an entity that is established as a non-profit corporation or charitable trust, with a principle purpose of making grants to unrelated organizations, institutions, or individuals for scientific, educational, cultural, religious or other charitable purposes.

Did you know that forty five percent of the DSCBA's income is made up of grant money received from foundations? It's true! We rely on foundations (along with individual donations and fundraising- that's where you come in.....) to keep our doors open and our programs running. Even though foundations are developed in order to assist worthy causes, they aren't seeking those causes out. We have to find them. That's my job.

What does it take you ask? Hours of research to find the foundations or corporations that make grants to organizations like ours. Once I find a foundation or corporation, I study their purpose and interests to confirm it is a match. On to understanding requirements, which vary from a letter of inquiry, an online application or a full blown proposal? No two foundations require the same information! Typically they want to know: Who we are, what needs are we addressing as well as what we do to address the need and who benefits from our services etc. Foundations require supporting documentation: proof of non-profit status; a Board of Directors list; budgets (for the program and the organization) and much more.

On a weekly basis I send out many applications, letters and proposals, sticking to any deadlines there may be and then we patiently wait. Every now and then we will find someone who believes in our mission and rejoice over an acceptance letter. Local foundations might visit us in Danville to see our programs prior to funding. When we do receive funding, the work does not stop there. Funders typically require interim and annual reports with detailed information on what we accomplished and how we utilized the money. After a year, it's time to apply all over again.

It's easy for me to ask foundations for support of the DSCBA because of the wonderful work we do. The current economic situation makes it much more difficult to find new monies, however we are always busy looking so that our members can continue to benefit from the DSCBA's programs and services.

We are counting on your help! If you know of a foundation that may give to programs like ours or you have a corporate contact you can send our way it would be greatly appreciated.



SF and Step Out Groups Celebrate

By Jamie Lantz

San Francisco Step and Step Out in Oakland celebrated the winter holidays with our traditional Solstice Party. We celebrate Solstice because it is a holiday that includes everyone and we are all about inclusion! We celebrate by each getting a candle lit and having our friends say what they like or love about us. We really know and care for each other and this is our chance to share it. Sometimes it is hard to take it in, to really listen to what our friends love about us. We all like saying what we like about each other and it can be quite moving to hear what others like about us. Our circle shines in the light we share together which the pictures show. When we've gone around the circle we make a wish for the new year, sing happy birthday to the new year and blow out all the candles.

Step Out got to meet at Annika and Erica's new apartment in El Cerrito and Janis rejoined us on this special occasion. As if that wasn't exciting enough we celebrated Erica's birthday, too! We loved being in their beautiful new apartment with the cheery holiday decorations. Thanks Erica and Annika for hosting this wonderful party.

This winter we have been talking about things we like

about ourselves as a part of are "Self-portrait" collage mural art project. We like the saying "Don't Dis My Ability", because it focuses on the things we can do... our abilities. We think that we have different abilities (sometimes more developed than 'typical' folks) that we like a lot. We tend to be quite open, kind and caring, for example, and most of us have a keen sense of rhythm, music and dance. We make really good friends. So, we came up with a word we like better than 'disabled', its "Diff-Abled". This word shows how we may be different (often in a great way) and how we like to emphasize our abilities, first.

Want to join our Diff-Ability Movement? Come on! With love, your friends in SF Step-Emma D., Emma Y., Jackson, Marissa, Nina M., Nina K., Marcus and Oliva and Step Out-Annika, Athena, Bobby, Erica, Janis, Joey, Tamika, Teodros



MARTHA'S THOUGHTS

By Martha Hogan



One of the most rewarding things about working at the Connection is meeting and helping new families that come our way when they have had a baby born with Down syndrome. This may sound strange because this is primarily why we are here.....however there are many facets to what we do around the Connection. I just have the pleasure and the privilege of working with new families as they come to us for the first of many times.

Meeting with parents as individuals or in group as they struggle with the newness of their child's diagnosis is to me, viewing life in its purest form. We are all newborns so to speak, with all the vulnerability that life can hand us. We most often are shattered, frightened, feel alone, angry and lost. We are in many ways dependent on the knowledge of others, have to trust unconditionally and have to learn how to walk (so to speak) before we can reenter the life we knew before our dreams were altered. You might ask where is the reward in all of this? To share in grief, sadness, confusion and whatever else parents bring with them for the first of many meetings can't be all that exhilarating. And to be honest it isn't. It is moving to say the least. It brings back many memories for me about the birth of my own son born with Down syndrome 31 years ago. And yet it is well worth the sadness I often feel right along with everyone else. For you see sadness is followed by new growth in each parent that I meet. It's the growth and acceptance that leads to joy, happiness and appreciation of a new life that brings the reward. It's sharing the struggle and finding new strength in each other that brings the reward. It's the laughter and tears that brings the reward. It's the unconditional love and growth that I see in all of you that brings the reward. And it's learning that our children will help us to appreciate their life to its fullest, no matter what the cost, that is the reward.

Thank you for this most precious privilege.

"BUDDY PLAY"

To promote natural interaction and learning between kids with special needs and their typical peers.

COME JOIN US FOR A SCAVENGER HUNT!

We Care Services for Children and the Autism Family Support Project is partnering with Buddy Play to have an outdoor scavenger hunt that will end in a nature artifact art project. This hunt will take place outdoors in and around the children's play area. Please bring a bag lunch or hearty snack for each child attending. Light snacks and drinks will be provided.

Date: Saturday, April 25th
Time: 11:00am to 1:00pm
Place: We Care Services for Children
2191 Kirker Pass Road, Concord
RSVP: Bernadette Fatehi: Berns1971@yahoo.com or 925-788-6846
Dues: \$5 per child attending

Please specify children's names, age, and special needs (if any) so we can match up "buddy" teams for this activity ahead of time. Thanks!

Space is limited! Please email or call to RSVP by Wednesday April 23rd.



2009 SUMMER PROGRAMS



Baby Steps - Danville
Facilitator - Martha Hogan-
Wednesday's 10:00am - 11:30am
June 10, 24
July 8, 22
August 5, 19



Small Steps - Danville
Teacher - Laura Briggs
Monday's 3:30pm - 5:00pm
June 29
July 6, 13, 20, 27
August 3



First Steps - Danville
Teacher - Laura Briggs
Wednesday's 3:00-4:30
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
August 5

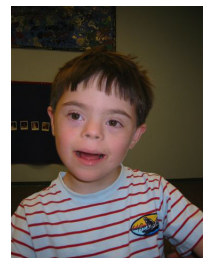


Parent Support Group - Danville
Facilitator - Martha Hogan
Tuesday's- 7:00pm - 9:00pm
June 30
July 28
August 25



Buddy Play – Various Locations
Facilitator – Bernadette Fatehi

See: www.buddyplay.org for scheduled play dates
Next Buddy Play: Colors of the Rainbow
Wed. 4/8/09 - 3:30-5:00
Hope Center, Pleasant Hill



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR'S
SUPPORT THE DSCBA
UPCOMING FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS EVENTS.
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU TO GET INVOLVED!**

MAY

BOWL-A-RAMA – SUNDAY MAY 4TH AT EARL ANTHONY'S DUBLIN BOWL - 12:30 -3:00PM
GO TO WWW.DSCONNECTION.ORG/EVENTS/BOWLARAMA FOR REGISTRATION FORM
AND INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP FUNDRAISE FOR THIS EVENT

JUNE

ELLIOTT'S BAR "KIDS IN NEED" GOLF TOURNAMENT
THIS GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITS THE DSCBA AS WELL AS OTHER CHILDREN'S CHARITIES
PLEASE SUPPORT THIS GOLF TOURNAMENT

JULY

2009 KIWANIS DANVILLE 4TH OF JULY PARADE
THIS WILL BE THE 2ND YEAR THE DSCBA WILL HAVE A FLOAT IN THIS PARADE
COME AND CHEER US ON OR CALL THE DSCBA TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP OUT
WITH THE FLOAT ETC.

SEPTEMBER

2009 CAJUN FEST – A MEMORIAM FOR AMELIA BIBLES, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH.
COME JOIN US FOR FOOD, DRINK, LIVE MUSIC/DANCING AND A SILENT AUCTION TO
CELEBRATE AMELIA'S LIFE. SHADELANDS ART CENTER IN WALNUT CREEK FROM 6-MIDNIGHT.
WWW.DSCONNECTION.ORG/EVENTS/CAJUNFEST

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST JOAN OF ARC COUNCIL 9206 – ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
THIS GOLF TOURNAMENT, DINNER AND AUCTION BENEFITS THE DSCBA AND WILL BE HELD
ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH PLEASE SUPPORT THIS TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER – NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH!

OCTOBER 11TH – BUDDY WALK – JOIN US AT HEATHER FARMS PARK IN WALNUT CREEK FOR A
MILE WALK TO PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE AND AWARENESS TO BENEFIT THE DSCBA AND THE NDSS.
GO TO WWW.DSCONNECTION.ORG/EVENTS/BUDDYWALK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

DECEMBER

HOLIDAY PARTY - DECEMBER 5TH – COME CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH OTHER MEMBERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES. SIT ON SANTA'S LAP, ENJOY CRAFTS AND YUMMY TREATS.



DSCBA PROGRAMS CAN ONLY CONTINUE WITH YOUR HELP!

43% OF OUR INCOME COMES FROM DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS. HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

CASH DONATIONS

Send a check to:

Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area
117-A Town and Country Drive
Danville, CA 94526 - Phone: 925-362-8660

DONATE WITH PAYPAL

The Down Syndrome Connection is a member of PayPal, a free service which allows you to purchase or donate using your credit card or PayPal account on a secure website. PayPal deposits your donation directly to our account. PayPal is FREE to you, the donor. Visa and MasterCard are accepted. Visit our site www.dsconnection.org/donate

DONATE AN AUCTION ITEM TO THE CAJUN FEST

This is a great opportunity to showcase your business products and services or to give a great tax deductible item to be auctioned at one of our events. Some past items that are popular are wine packages, vacation homes, sports memorabilia, fine art, jewelry, spa packages etc.

SPONSOR AN EVENT

Sponsor an event at a level that works for you. Publicize, advertise and show off your company logo while giving to a worthwhile cause. Have a booth and speak at our event.

HOLD A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE CONNECTION

We are looking for community service organizations or businesses to hold a benefit in our name. One way to do this is to have a Charity Golf Tournament, Auction/Dinner or Crab Feed to name a few. Have ideas? Please call the Connection.

VOLUNTEER

Do your community service with us! Volunteer your time and work at an event, spend time in one of our classes, come help out with newsletter mailings and other project. Call us for more information.

CORPORATE GIVING AND MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Sign up for your corporate giving program at work which automatically can be taken out of your paycheck. Some companies even have matching programs which doubles your giving ability.

ATTEND A FUNDRAISING EVENT

We would love to see you at our fundraisers such as the Bowl-A-Rama, Cajun Festival and the Buddy Walk. Your participation and support makes a huge difference and our events are a lot of fun!

DONATE YOUR CAR

Call us at the Connection at 925.362.8660 to find out how you can donate your car and in turn give back to the Connection. You may also call (877)700-GIVE or visit www.carsforcharities.com/DSC.htm

SIGN UP FOR THE ESCRIP PROGRAM

eScrip is an easy way to give back to the Connection! Just register your grocery, debit or credit cards at merchants such as Safeway, Macys, Nordstrom or EBAY for example. A portion of your purchase will be donated to the Connection. Visit www.escrip.com to get started.

USE GOODSEARCH.COM AND GOODSHOP.COM WEBSITES

Choose the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area at www.goodsearch.com and start your search engines running! The more you use this site as your search engine, powered by Yahoo, the more money the DSCBA raises. You can also use www.goodshop.com and when you shop you donate too!



**WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE TIME, TALENT AND TREASURES
OF SO MANY WHO SUPPORT OUR MISSION**

IN MEMORY OF:

Lotte Gottschlick, From the Scherberts
Louise Smalley, From the Scherberts
Alvin Scherbert, From the Scherberts
Karolyn Lloyd, From Eugenia Carter
Betty Kovacich, From Eugenia Carter

IN HONOR OF:

Blair Hogan, From Mary Miles
Katie Buckman, From Erika Walters

**FOUNDATIONS/GRANTS AND
AWARDS:**

- The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation
- Kiwanis of Pleasanton
- Noll Foundation
- Woodlawn Foundation
- Thomas J. Long Foundation
- Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation
- Target Stores Community Giving Program
- Marin Community Foundation (The Benton Family)
- Barr Family Foundation
- Y&H Soda Foundation
- Kiwanis of San Ramon Valley
- Jam Handy Character Building Foundation
- Charles Simonyi Foundation
- William and Taryn Calhoun
- Anonymous Donor

**CORPORATE GIVING AND
MATCHING CAMPAIGNS:**

CHEVRON:
Robert Alfrey
Paul Casadont
Scott Truger
Mark Janke

AT&T:

Raymond Rhodes
Joanne Leach
Ana Marsh
David Kimble

VISA:

Ross Snailer

WELLS FARGO:

Felora Fatehi
Melissa Foltz
Jacqualine Renner

GENERAL DONATIONS:

Velma Magnani
Wil & Taryn Calhoun
Maura Perkins
Laurie Jarrett
Richard Neifert
Kelley-Snow Weingart
Jeffrey Jones
Erica Santos
Karla Cruz
Janet Richman
Kathy Youngson
Jason Hooker
Laurie McGrath
Steve Wilcox
Paula Ridley

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT:

Albany Unified School District
Kendall Financial Services
Jay-Marie Insurance
Temescal Arts Center
John O'Connell High School
Minuteman Press of Walnut Creek
SunDesign Studios
Eric's Computers

PLEDGES:

John Glover
Pamela Brady

AVON FUNDRAISER- Laura Kahapea

DONATION OF TIME AND TALENT:

Amein Punjani-Board Retreat facilitator

2008 APPEAL LETTER:

The Shofner Family
Brian & Tammy Garcia
Paul & Carol Rioux
Shannon Wilhelm
Kathy Finger
Heidi Phan
Dan & Nada Nakahara
Erika Walters
Barbara & Michael Gabriel
Chip & Mary Miles
Chris & Joanne Leach
Richard & Cherie Zocchi
E. Solorzano
Barbara Strehlitz
Evelyn Chumbley
Elizabeth & Tom Llewellyn
Terese Ghilarducci
The Gagnon Family
Grant & Sue Inman
Garrett & Cathy Girvan
Steve & Lizette Miller
The Cooper Family
Peggy & Mike Torpey

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE WONDER-
FUL VOLUNTEERS AND ANYONE
ELSE WE MIGHT HAVE MISSED
ABOVE.....**





**The Down Syndrome Connection
of the Bay Area**

117-A Town and Country Drive
Danville, CA 94526
Phone: 925-362-8660
Fax: 925-362-8663
www.dsconnection.org

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COME WALK OR RIDE ON OUR FLOAT.....

Support the Down Syndrome Connection and
promote positive awareness and acceptance in the Kiwanis Danville

4th of July Parade!

Saturday July 4th - 9:00am - 12:30pm

Hartz Ave and San Ramon Valley Blvd

(If you can help out with the float please contact the Connection.)



National Down Syndrome Congress presents

2009 Annual Convention

July 31 - August 2, 2009
Sacramento, California

Keynote Speakers for the General Session



Friday, July 31st 6:30-7:45pm

We're More Alike Than Different: Self Advocates Speak to the Nation

presented by NDSC's Carlene Mattson and Sue Joe
and Self Advocates, Karen Gaffney, Meredith Martin and Lee Jones.



Saturday, August 1st 8:30-10:00am



Claire Pomeroy,
M.D., M.B.A., Vice Chancellor
for Human Health Sciences,
University of California, Davis;
Dean, UC Davis Medical
School, Sacramento, CA



Rosario Marin,
Former Treasurer of
the United States; author,
*Leading Between Two
Worlds*; mother of a son with
DS, Huntington Park, CA



Eleanor Bailey,
Community Advocate;
Student, Portland State
University Transition
Program, Portland, OR

Saturday, August 1st 3:30-4:45pm



Barbara Ransom,
J.D., Senior Attorney,
Disability Rights
California,
Sacramento, CA



Wayne Godwin,
Executive Council to
the PBS President
and Immediate Past
COO, PBS; father of
a daughter with DS,
Alexandria, VA



Christi Hookel,
Self Advocate;
Courtney Clerk,
Safeway,
Walnut Grove, CA

Sunday, August 2nd 8:30-9:30am



William C. Mobley,
M.D., Professor and
Chair of Neuroscience,
University of California,
San Diego, CA



Self Advocates: Become empowered by real leadership opportunities and life lessons.

Parents: Unparalleled access to hear from worldwide experts and share with other families.

Educators: Engaging environment to learn the newest research and proven strategies.

Siblings: Share and learn with peers and professionals.

Make Your Hotel Reservations, Now.

Call: SCVB Housing Hotline (866) 870-3303

Click: www.NDSCcenter.org and click on the housing link for easy online reservations.

The NDSC convention rate expires on July 8, 2009.
Space is limited and may fill before the cutoff.

For more information...

NDSC Center
800-232-6372 or 770-604-9500
www.ndsccenter.org





**ELLIOTT'S BAR, VOLVO CONSTRUCTION
EQUIPMENT & VFW POST 75
13TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Date: June 1, 2009
Time: 11:00 a.m. Shotgun
Place: Crow Canyon Country Club
Price: \$150.00 Per Person (Dinner Only: \$30.00)**

Price Includes:

Green Fees, Cart, Tee Prizes, and Beverages on Course

**BBQ Lunch: Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
Cocktails & Appetizers Following Golf at Crow Canyon**

DINNER AT THE VFW POST 75 IN DANVILLE

**Cocktails: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m. - BBQ New York Steak & Chicken**

Raffle Prizes & Auction – After Dinner

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT OUR CHARITY -
"KIDS-N-NEED"**

**Sign Up At: Elliott's Bar
Attention: Jimmy Wadsworth or Dale Stockbridge
Telephone: 925-890-6807
925-837-9955**

Tax I.D. #20-2263601

