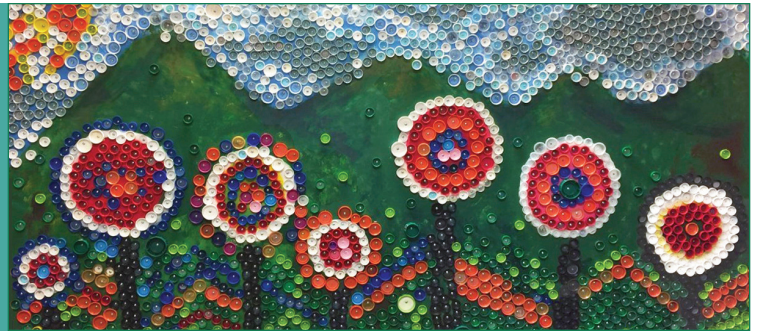




**Down Syndrome Connection  
of the Bay Area**  
*Empower • Inspire • Support*

# Making the Connection

Volume 9 No. 1 • January 2017



*Above right:* Danville's Young Adult class bottle cap mural is the inspiration for the upcoming DSCBA art exhibit at the Village Theatre Art Gallery in Danville.



DSCBA staff and board members happily accept a check for \$10,000 from PG&E.

## Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area Wins \$10,000 and the Title of *Favorite Bay Area Charity!*

**EVERY YEAR, AS THE HOLIDAYS** approach, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and 7x7 present an opportunity for Bay Area nonprofits to be acknowledged by the community. This is done through The Bay Area's Favorite Charity Contest, now in its seventh year. In November, 7x7 put out a call to action for nominations of people and organizations making an impact on the community.

It was wonderful to find out we were nominated, and we were grateful to make the list of top 100 nominations. Finding out we made the top 49 was exciting, and things started to get serious for the \$10,000 prize. Thousands of people from all over the world voted for the DSCBA — that took us straight to the top seven. PG&E and 7x7 held a lovely reception at the Hotel Zeppelin in

San Francisco for the top seven winners. There, we were surprised to learn that DSCBA won first place and the \$10,000 grand prize from PG&E. It was a humbling experience to win among so many hard-working organizations that impact people's lives every day. Each of the other six organizations won \$2,000 to further their good works.

Our win reaffirmed that our members, their families, the greater community, our

supporters, volunteers, and many friends of our organization value what we do and recognize the great impact we make. DSCBA Community Outreach Associate and Self-Advocate Marissa Erickson and 13 other staff and board members from the DSCBA were on hand to accept the award. It was an honor to be chosen and wonderful to meet all the folks from the other charities.

— *Nancy LaBelle*



Together, Building  
a Better California



"PG&E" refers to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation.  
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**Nancy LaBelle,**  
**Executive Director**

## DSCBA Matters

# Happy New Year, Everyone!

**LAST YEAR WAS ANOTHER YEAR** of significant growth in membership, programs, and geographic reach, as well as financial and volunteer community support. DSCBA is going into our 19th year, and I cannot believe I am starting my 9th year as executive director.

In 2016, our grantors, several who are new to our mission and many who have been with us for years, contributed over \$400,000, which gave us the ability to make our budget, expand, and accomplish our lofty goals. For example, the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation has been with us from the very start, and the Thomas J. Long Foundation, the Noll Foundation, and the Quest Foundation have been supporting us for many years. Together these foundations have contributed \$185,000 in 2016 alone. We are grateful to also have strong corporate support from Chevron, Macy's, and Wells Fargo. Every dollar of community funding we receive literally keeps our doors open, programs in motion, and support services strong, as we remain nongovernment funded for going on 19 years.

Congratulations and thank you to our members and the greater community who stepped up big time in 2016 and raised a record \$320,000 from our Step Up Walk and spring gala. The excitement about and growth in fundraising dollars tells me our families and the community deeply understand our impact and continue to value what we provide.

This increased fundraising effort also shows that the community recognizes we must maintain vital partnerships such as our Medical Outreach and Education Alliance programs. These two programs are unique, making significant impacts: the way beautiful babies born with Down syndrome are welcomed into the world; fostering acceptance and friendship through ability awareness training for students without Down syndrome; and education for students of all ages who happen to have Down syndrome, based on their individual needs with a supported education team.

I couldn't be prouder of our team at the DSCBA. Our staff is dedicated, hardworking, and passionate about breaking down barriers and empowering our members. Our board of directors, newly led by Chairman Tom Deleplane, is committed to oversight and supporting the staff. Tom has implemented several board committees and is actively seeking new board members who are strategically connected in the community and who have the time and passion to serve as a member of the board. If this is you, please email us for more information at [dsdba@dsconnection.org](mailto:dsdba@dsconnection.org).

Lastly, I'm happy to say we have secured our Danville location for another five years and will be doing an office renovation this summer that will accommodate our future growth. Our expansion strategy for the coming years involves keeping our home base in Danville where we have a strong presence, loyal community, staff members, and a large membership base. You will see us expand geographically with satellite locations as we identify need throughout the Bay Area for direct services. We have had adult programs for many years in four locations and plan to expand into Berkeley this year. We continue our vast Bay Area and beyond reach through our New Family Services. And we have successfully delivered Music Therapy as well as our Medical Outreach Alliance and Education Alliance into the South Bay and Peninsula communities.

We are currently looking for new funding opportunities to assist with expansion as well as to sustain our growth. If you can help us with this, please email me at [nancy@dsconnection.org](mailto:nancy@dsconnection.org).

**MEDICAL OUTREACH ALLIANCE**

Cathleen Small, Medical Outreach Alliance Coordinator, presents training classes to provide hospital staff and medical professionals with current information about Down syndrome, how to give a diagnosis, and how to best support families receiving a new diagnosis.

**2016 TRAININGS PRESENTED TO:**

 Nurses at Mills- Peninsula Medical Center, Burlingame	 Social workers in the South Bay	 Genetic counseling students at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford	
 Nurses at John Muir Hospital, Walnut Creek	 Geneticists and genetic counselors at Kaiser, Oakland	 Genetic counseling students at Kaiser, Oakland	 Geneticists and genetic counselors in the South Bay

**UPCOMING TRAININGS**

 Medical professionals who attend our trainings gain strategies they can implement when working with families receiving a Down syndrome diagnosis.

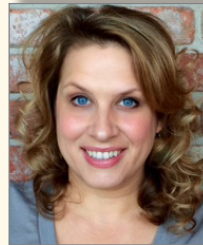
 Pediatric Grand Rounds at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital of Oakland on March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day

 2017 Developmental Disabilities conference at UCSF

**TRAININGS ARE AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR!**

## DSEA News

**WE WANT TO INTRODUCE OUR NEWEST DS EDUCATION ALLIANCE** (DSEA) team member, Elizabeth Lewis. Elizabeth comes to us with over 15 years of training and background in education and early intervention services. Most recently, she's provided one-on-one support for students in inclusive settings and continues to work with families and educators to improve awareness, develop effective teaching strategies, and implement best practices. Elizabeth as Education Support Manager will be working on Individual Education Plan (IEP) support and consultation with Jennifer Cooper. We are excited to have this new energy and talent on board!



Elizabeth Lewis

— Jennifer Cooper, Director of Education

## Swimming for Mason and the DSCBA

AT THE DSCBA, we are always thrilled when our members support us in fun and unique ways. Often, it's the young adults in our community that remind us that fundraising can be both inspiring and enjoying!



Mason and Talia

Talia Giannini, a seventh grader, does not have Down syndrome (DS), but she does have a friend with DS, Mason Zolnier. Talia and Mason met at church, when Talia was assigned to be his buddy at church activities. "I have to admit," she explains, "I was a bit nervous because I had never worked with anyone with DS and didn't know what to expect. But I soon realized that I was actually learning from *him* and *his* great attitude."

In short order, Talia had a great connection with Mason and his family, who are very active at the DSCBA, and wanted to do more to support the entire DS community in the Bay Area. She was able to combine her friendship with Mason, a school project, and her love for swimming into one event: a Swim-A-Thon!

On October 30, after collecting donations and pledges for her event, Talia swam 123 laps in one hour. Talia's efforts raised more than \$2,500 for the Down Syndrome Connection! "I was super humbled that so many of my friends and family supported me, and I'm really excited to help this amazing cause. I have learned that it takes a lot more effort and support for people with DS to learn, which is why it is so important to support them."

May Talia's efforts inspire us all! If you have fun and exciting ways to support the DSCBA, we are all ears! Bike, hike, dance, paint, run, walk, or sing! Email us at [dscba@dsconnection.org](mailto:dscba@dsconnection.org) with your ideas.

— Amy Parham

# Down Syndrome Education Alliance

## 2016 RECAP



I've been in the field for a long time and felt this was one of the **BEST COURSES** I took.



Anyone who works with a student with Down syndrome should be required to attend.

### ROAD TO SUCCESS

**9** training sessions for **543** educators

**27** families received **IEP & EDUCATION SUPPORT**

Educators from **42** **DISTRICTS & PRIVATE SCHOOLS** received training. A third of the sessions were assisted by a self-advocate, Eli Cooper.

### ABILITY AWARENESS

**39** presentations for **1853** students & **121** adults



Thank you for bringing this information in such an **APPROACHABLE WAY** to teachers.



Incredible workshop! It was **SUCH A GIFT** to experience someone Eli's age who had lived through and was living the stories being told.

Jennifer Cooper, DSCBA Director of Education, provides training to Bay Area education teams and ability awareness presentations to students throughout the Bay Area. The goal of the Education Alliance is to provide up-to-date information, materials, and strategies regarding best practices for educating students with Down syndrome as well as to facilitate honest and positive dialogue with K-12 students about Down syndrome.

# Future Connections

**GET READY FOR FUTURE CONNECTIONS!** The program will launch in the spring of 2017. There will be a limited number of openings for this trial eight week transition planning program. Depending on enrollment, the location is to be determined. Augmentative alternative communication (AAC) Specialists, Judith Lunger-Bergh, MA, CCC-SLP, Kati Skulski, MS, CCC-SLP, and Michaela Sullivan, MA, CCC-SLP, have created a curriculum that supports adolescents and young adults in identifying their preferences, interests, and needs as they plan their futures.

This is a crucial and often overlooked component of transitional and future planning. Our goal is for our participants to gain a confident voice in what is important to them and, with this focused awareness, begin to take steps to expand or make thoughtful changes in their lives. The curriculum is based on the Framing A Future (FAF) tool, published by the esteemed Bridge School (<https://www.bridgeschool.org/transition/faf/index.php>).

FAF is a self-discovery survey of 65 items organized around seven major life areas:

1. community membership
2. control of personal health and welfare
3. pursuit of lifelong learning
4. developing talents and interests

5. creating healthy relationships
6. self-reliance
7. developing a personal sense of spirituality

Multiple formats of FAF provide adaptations for users to accommodate visual, cognitive, and linguistic differences. FAF takes users through stages that address discovering the following:

- what is important to them
- how satisfied they are with benchmarks they consider important
- which areas are priorities for them, and
- what steps need to be taken to accomplish their priorities.



**Lifemap – After each lesson, participants create a life map to highlight their priorities.**

## Am I Satisfied?

SATISFIED	SORT OF	NOT SATISFIED
"I'm good!" "It's awesome!" "It's great."	"It's just okay." "Some days." "Not all the time."	"I wish it was different." "Things need to change." "It's not going well."

**Rating System – Given the varied abilities of each individual, visuals are provided to ensure that each person can fully participate in the curriculum.**

Future Connections' curriculum breaks down each life area into lessons using graphics, videos, personal collages, music, and role-play to teach the concepts of the tool. After participating in the program, participants will have individualized digital and hardcopy presentations reflecting their findings and opinions about targeted life areas.

These presentations will be invaluable in empowering our adolescents and young adults to advocate for themselves in their home, school, and professional lives. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Kati at [kaskulski@gmail.com](mailto:kaskulski@gmail.com).  
— Kati Skulski

## DSCBA Receives Grant from Million Dollar Round Table Foundation

THE MILLION DOLLAR ROUND TABLE (MDRT) Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area for New Family Services that will provide support—resources, monthly classes, education opportunities, parent mentorship, and more—for expecting families and those with a new child. Through its global grants programs, the MDRT Foundation is committed to building stronger families and communities around the globe. This year, the MDRT Foundation will award nearly \$1 million in MDRT member-endorsed grants to more than 100 charitable organizations worldwide. Representing the MDRT Foundation, Steve Wilcox, Partner and Financial Advisor at Summit Financial Group, presented the grant to DSCBA Leadership at the World Down Syndrome Day event in the park at Matteo's Dream Playground on March 20, 2016.

We at the DSCBA thank both MDRT for this generous gift and Steve for his ongoing support of our mission.



**Steve Wilcox, longtime DSCBA friend, here with his family, DSCBA members, and Concord Mayor Laura Hoffmeister**

Gold Sponsor



## Step Up for Down Syndrome Raises \$187,000 for DSCBA Programs!

**WE HAD A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR THE 2016** Bay Area Step Up for Down Syndrome walk and picnic. As many as 1,000 people attended, including 200 volunteers, to walk in unity, promote acceptance, celebrate abilities, and cheer for the many individual accomplishments at the finish line. A special thanks goes to Kshama Perera, Teresa Schaub, and the entire DSCBA staff for their work to create a wonderful experience for everyone.

We are grateful for Macy's fourth year of sponsorship and to Scott Ferguson, Macy's District Vice President, for bringing his crew out to celebrate and to give away prizes.

A big thank you to everyone that fundraised this year! We cannot do what we do without the funds from this event. A generous 2,013 people took the opportunity to donate via the fundraising webpages that 186 families created, ultimately raising a record \$187,000.

The top five fundraising teams—Team Tiny Tang, Team Drucker, Team Leah, Team Brandon G, and Team Dubh Nation—raised



**Team Tiny Tang, the first place fundraising team**

\$65,000! Top fundraising honors go to Team Tiny Tang. The Tang family, their friends and family, and other Peninsula-based DSCBA members joined together to raise \$17,000 for Team Tiny Tang! The award for most team members went to Team Saige with over 80 walkers.

The carnival, sports games, corn hole, and miniature golf were a big hit. Tattoos, face painting, and free popcorn and cotton candy were also very popular. Many of you brought your tents and a picnic lunch; lunch could also be chosen from various food trucks.

This year we were fortunate to have the Las Lomas Pep Band to entertain us and to cheer on the walkers. Dance teams from Carondelet added even more fun by starting the walk with a dance routine. We all got down to DJ

Joey's dance tunes and did the "Cupid shuffle." Everyone enjoyed our new team signs, which were proudly carried during the walk.

To our finish-line friends and volunteers, the Golden Gate Garrison 501st Legion Star Wars gang and the West Coast Avenger superheroes, we send a big shout-out for giving out the gold medals. Everyone enjoyed taking pictures of the characters and hanging with them throughout the day.

Last but not least, thanks to Lisa Upton of Lisa Upton Photography for taking team photos and to Julia Fuqua of Julia Fuqua Photography for taking the candid shots throughout the day.

Save the date for next year's walk: October 8, 2017, same location. We hope to see you there.

— *Kshama Perera*



**Marissa Erickson, left, and Luis Vivas and his family at the 2016 celebration**

*In recognition of the 21st annual World Down Syndrome Day*



**Sunday, March 19, 2017 • 11 a.m.**

**Matteo's Dream Playground  
at Hillcrest Park, Concord**

**Join us for some fun!**

# Holiday Party in Danville



The Ramos family

## The Ramos Family's First DSCBA Holiday Party

**MY FAMILY AND I HAVE BEEN COMING** to the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area since earlier this year when our youngest was diagnosed with Down syndrome in January 2016. It has been great getting to know everyone. We have been so welcomed by each member in their own way. Slowly, we are beginning to make new relationships through the Down Syndrome Connection of

*1st Ramos Family DSCBA Party from pg. 7*



Peninsula/South Bay  
Program Manager,  
Julie Tang

**PENINSULA BRAZILIAN JIUJITSU** in Foster City offers free jiu jitsu classes to DSCBA families twice a month. We offer a big thank you to Marco Nascimento and John Rockwell for their time, love, and support.

If you are interested in this class, please email DSCBA Peninsula/South Bay Program Manager Julie Tang at [julie@dsconnection.org](mailto:julie@dsconnection.org).



## Peninsula's Second Annual DSCBA Holiday Party

**DSCBA PENINSULA PROGRAM** Manager Julie Tang says, "It was a leap of faith that started a Peninsula DS support group in July 2015 — and look at where we are now. The connections made and the support we have received from each other have been amazing. I feel so fortunate to have my role as Program Manager with the DSCBA so I can assist with the growth of Peninsula based support and services."

A special thanks to so many as the Holiday Party would not have happened without the following people: Tina Ashamalla, Rob Glickman, Lisa Cassin, Hannah DeBono, Erin Donovan, Mike Regalia, Rod Ayers, Lisa Kuo, Jia Hu, Stephanie Ellis, Christi Woods, Karen Chiang, Grace Wong, Phyllis Larsen, and our local restaurant Village Hummus for their in-kind donation. Look forward to many more events like this!

— Julie Tang



1<sup>st</sup> Ramos Family DSCBA Party, from pg. 6

the Bay Area. The groups, support, people, and staff have helped add so much perspective to what life can be like and the opportunities to be had. The staff is so sincere and supportive to its members. It's no wonder we voted them one of the best non-profits in the Bay Area.

We recently attended the family Christmas party and enjoyed the great turn out, attention to family, and support for

siblings. We all enjoyed ourselves, and Santa was a hit. We hope to continue to attend this event annually and bring more of our family to contribute toward the love you could feel in the room. My kids were all smiles and my husband really felt grateful to have free services that support families like ours. Many thanks for a great party—we look forward to many more in the future.

— Raquel Ramos





Two photos below: Danville's Early Elementary class enjoyed some Halloween fun with self-decorated T-shirts and jack-o'-lantern drinks.



At right and below: Danville's adult class repurposes canvases to create one of a kind pieces of art for our upcoming art exhibit in May 2017.



Below: Danville's Young Adult class proudly displays their bottle cap mural. This beautiful piece was created with patience, love, and talent and is the inspiration for our upcoming art exhibit at the Village Theatre Art Gallery in Danville.



# THANK YOU

## **Foundations, family funds, and service organizations**

Anonymous Foundation  
Barr Family Foundation  
Alice Beckman Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation  
The Lowell Berry Foundation  
Brush Family Foundation  
CARH  
Charis Fund  
Chevron Corporation  
Disability Communications Fund  
Fidelity Charitable Grant – Calhoun Family Fund  
The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation  
The Global Down Syndrome Foundation  
Bill Graham Supporting Foundation  
Jam Handy Character Building Foundation  
Lencioni Fund  
Dean and Margaret Leshar Foundation  
Thomas J. Long Foundation  
Macy's  
The Marino Family Charitable Foundation  
Million Dollar Round Table Foundation  
Noll Foundation  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Quest Foundation  
San Ramon Valley Kiwanis Foundation  
San Ramon Valley Rotary  
Share the Spirit Program  
The Sidney Stern Memorial Trust  
Sing for America Foundation, Tracy Trotter  
The Special Hope Foundation  
The Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation

## **In honor of Angelis**

Rania

## **In honor of Darlene Bedell's birthday**

Jessica Frisz

## **In honor of Hailey Bornstein**

Steve Arntz

## **In honor of Kingston Brinkley**

Conrad Praetzel

## **In honor of T. J. Crawford**

Damien and Beth Campbell

## **In honor of Emery De La Cruz**

Robin Birakos

## **In honor of Dominic De Luca**

Thom Kam

## **In honor of Sam Dobruck, my beautiful, happy grandson who has Down syndrome**

Mary Ellen Dobruck

## **In honor of my grandson's first birthday, 2017-01-30 (Om gupta)**

Gail Pells

## **In honor of great-granddaughter Abbylu and her loving parents, Jacob and Deela Hubbart**

Lucille Brewer

## **In honor of Lulu Jensen and all the work you do with her**

UBS Financial Services Inc.  
(Scott and Karen Sommer)

## **In honor of Oliver Nakahara's birthday**

Julie Paulson

## **In honor of Blair Underwood and Abigail King**

David and Victoria Smith

## **In honor of Mason Zolnier**

Bella Menges  
Lisa Miller

## **In memory of Arthur Case, a wonderful, sweet man**

Peggy Alreck-Anthony

## **AT&T**

Anonymous

## **Car Donation Services**

Phillip Chiavetta  
James Cunniffe  
John Finney  
James Kwong  
William and Susan Montague  
Nicole Patton  
Emmett Peck  
William Pfann

## **Chevron**

Anonymous  
Paul Casadont  
Marian Cathedral King  
Jeff Swindell

## **Chocolate Bunny fundraiser**

Danville Chocolates

## **Chronicle Books**

Anonymous

## **Clorox Employee Matching**

Alan Burruel  
Tobby Gavino

## **General donations**

AmazonSmile Foundation  
J. H. and Betty Barr  
Bean Plant Co., Carissa Clark  
Marvin and An Ra Buchanan  
Julie Casadont  
Laurel Clark  
Patricia and Frank Elliot  
Barbara and Frederick Ellul  
Barbara Gabriel  
Aaron Garcia  
Jennifer Gong  
Kelly Huff  
Lynanne Jacob  
Scott Keever  
Chris and Joanne Leach  
Kim Lindeberg

Geetanjali Magodia  
Mike and Alicia McLeod  
Steven and Lizette Miller  
Laraine Moore  
Edward and Lois Oda  
Marilyn and Ray Perasco  
Tom Price  
Cathy and Jay Purchio  
Peter Ross  
Katie Skulski  
Anne Sweeris  
Toni Sweet  
Nancy Tan  
Yann Taylor  
Kevin Walsh  
Jack Yager  
Richard and Cherie Zocchi  
James and Kathy Zolnier

## **Give with Liberty**

Kerrigan Malek, in memory of Christian James, and John Najjar, on behalf of Sarah

## **Giving Tuesday**

Darlene Bedell  
Keisha Brown  
Rosemary Cannon  
Maureen Cummings  
Donna Duffy  
Marissa Erickson  
Louise Godfrey  
Elizabeth Llewellyn  
Karen Lochner  
Marsha Michie  
Kathy Miles  
Erica Milsom  
Amy Parham  
Matt Portoni  
Dan Sheehan  
Svetlana Walters

## **Giving Tuesday, in honor of Blair Hogan**

Terese Ghilarducci

## **Giving Tuesday, in honor of Martha and Blair Hogan**

Janet Richman

## **Giving Tuesday, in honor of Cole Kelley**

Jo Kelley

## **Giving Tuesday, in honor of Renato Simone**

James and Erika Tippet

## **Kennedy/Jenks Consultants**

Mike McLeod

## **International Money Fund**

James Corr

## **Jeffries LLC Matching**

Steve Kifer

## **Macy's Inc.**

Anonymous  
Scott Ferguson

*Continued on page 11*

Continued from page 10

#### **NVIDIA**

Niravkumar Patel

#### **PG&E**

Jenny Rios in honor of Bianca Rios  
Charles Seufert

#### **Pumpkin Patch fundraiser**

Castle Creek Company, Inc.

#### **Scholarship Fund**

Kristen Massa

#### **Speaker Donation**

GWFC Mount Diablo District

#### **Syantec**

Moumita Palit

#### **Talia's Swim-A-Thon for Mason Zolnier**

Jennifer Davis  
Kimberley Dow  
Nicole Ferland  
Gabriela Ghorbani

Benjamin Giannini  
Carol Giannini  
Katherine Giannini  
Michael Giannini  
Monica Gookins  
Ramie Hinkley  
Deborah Lewis  
Derek and Kerry Maunus  
Andrea McKee  
Janet and Patrick Nunan  
Christina and Randall Rasmussen  
Laurie Strauch  
Victor and Kathy VandenBerghe

#### **Tinsel and Treasures fundraiser**

GWFC Danville Women's Club

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

##### **Dedicated Classroom Volunteers**

Mia Anzilotti  
Grace Benzler  
Vanessa Boone  
Haley Chambers  
Amanda Di  
Maureen Hunter  
Brytney Lee  
Maddy MacDonald  
Joey Powada  
Stav Sendrovitz  
Gracie Sula  
Toni Sweet  
Lauren Viarengo

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!

**Empower ★ Inspire ★ Support**

**2017 Annual Spring Gala**

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

You are cordially invited to attend:  
**Empower ★ Inspire ★ Support**

An elegant evening of fine dining, auctions, and dancing

**Saturday, May 6, 2017**

5:30–11:00 p.m.

Diablo Country Club  
1700 Club House Road  
Diablo, California

To purchase your VIP table or tickets visit our website  
[dsconnection.org/gala](http://dsconnection.org/gala)

We are actively looking for event sponsors and auction items. If you know of an individual or business that would enjoy giving, please email  
[events@dsconnection.org](mailto:events@dsconnection.org)

### **Holiday Card Project**



Thank you to Castro Valley High School's student club Interact for creating holiday cards for DSCBA members and families.

#### **DSCBA Donation Idea**

### **Old Cars = New Support**



14 cars donated to DSCBA in 2016 provided \$4,656 in support to essential DSCBA programs and services. Thank you!

To donate your car, truck, van, motorcycle, RV or boat, call 1-888-686-4483 or visit [dsconnection.org](http://dsconnection.org)

All donations are eligible for a tax deduction; please talk to your tax advisor.



**Down Syndrome Connection  
of the Bay Area**

Phone 925-362-8660  
101 J Town & Country Drive  
Danville, CA 94526

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Follow us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/DSCBA](https://www.facebook.com/DSCBA)**

## 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.

## DSCBA UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                       |           |  |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>March 19</b>       | Sunday    | <b>Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day</b><br>Matteo's Dream Playground at Hillcrest Park, Concord. See page 5.  |
| <b>March 22</b>       | Wednesday | <b>Training Opportunity for all Bay Area Educators:</b> "The Road to Success for Your Students with Down Syndrome." Danville, location TBD, 4:00–7:00 p.m.   |
| <b>May 6</b>          | Saturday  | <b>Annual Spring Gala</b><br>Diablo Country Club, 1700 Club House Rd., Diablo. See page 4 for details.   |
| <b>May 18</b>         | Thursday  | <b>Recyclability Art Exhibit Opening ceremony</b><br>Village Theatre & Art Gallery, 233 Front St., Danville, 6:00–8:00 p.m. featuring Recyclability: A collection of unique creations made from recycled objects.        |
| <b>May 18–June 17</b> | Thursday  | <b>Recyclability Art Exhibit. Village Theatre &amp; Art Gallery</b><br>233 Front St., Danville. Come see the artwork created by our members from recycled materials.   |
| <b>June 12</b>        | Monday    | <b>Tips for Change Dinner</b><br>2065 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, 5:30–8:30 p.m.<br>Gianni's Restaurant. The DSCBA staff and board will be the wait staff.<br>All tips will benefit the Down Syndrome Connection. |
| <b>September 14</b>   | Thursday  | <b>Danville Area Chamber of Commerce After Hours Business Mixer</b><br>At the DSC, 5:30–7:00 p.m.  |
| <b>October 8</b>      | Sunday    | <b>Step Up for DS Walk and Picnic</b><br>Pleasant Hill Middle School track and field.  |
| <b>December 3</b>     | Sunday    | <b>DSCBA Holiday Party</b>   |

**Check out our website: [dsconnection.org](https://www.dsconnection.org)**