



Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana  
1413 West Coliseum Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FORT WAYNE, IN  
PERMIT NO. 1219

April 2006

## DSANI Star Awards



**STEVE & MITZI STEWART** Steve & Mitzi have sponsored a golf outing in Columbia City for the past 3 years

to benefit DSANI. They have also attended numerous Buddy Walks in recent years and have been faithful supporters of DSANI.

**STEVEN MIKULSKI** Steven has volunteered for 2 years at the Buddy Walk to lead the self-advocate group and this past year joined the Buddy Walk committee as a valuable member



of the planning group. Steven wrote articles for the newsletter and created a strong and vibrant group of self-advocates to work at the Buddy Walk. Steven is an inspiration to all of us with younger children.

## SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSROOM

**TEAM AT HAVERHILL** This team provides instruction for students with a variety of special needs including Down syndrome. Their performance



in the classroom goes far beyond their position requirements. In addition to academic instruction, they deal with social and self-help skills each student will need for a happy and productive life. They provide all of this with true compassion and devotion to each child. They also give of their time to support Buddy Walk and Special Olympics This team is truly exceptional in their dedication to the children trusted to their care.

## AUBURN MOOSE FAMILY CENTER #566

For the past 2 years, under the guidance of members Jeff & Kari Minch, the Auburn Moose #566 has hosted an event to benefit DSANI. This event has not only raised several thousand dollars for DSANI but also awareness of our organization and individuals with Down syndrome in the Auburn/DeKalb county area.



## mark your calendar

### Self Advocate Bowling

Bowling every Tuesday at 7:00 pm at Wayne Recreation and every Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Westwood Lanes.

### April 23, 2006 at 2PM

#### DSANI Wizards Game

Family Day at Memorial Stadium. Tickets free of charge and \$10 Magic Money. Call DSANI at 471-9964 for reservations.

### May 31, 2006

#### ISDF Annual Meeting

Riley Auditorium. Featuring speaker Dr. William Cohen.

### July 21-23, 2006

#### THE 34th NDSC National Convention Marriott Marquis, Atlanta Georgia

Don't miss this chance to attend the nation's largest convention for people with Down syndrome, their families, friends and the professionals who work with them! Contact NDSC at [www.ndsccenter.org](http://www.ndsccenter.org).

### August 7-11, 2006

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Red Cedar Camp for People with Down Syndrome

DSANI is once again partnering with AWS and Camp Red Cedar to offer a one week camp specifically designed for people with Down syndrome, ages 6 and up. Contact Red Cedar at 637-3608 for more information.

### August 22-26, 2006

#### 9<sup>th</sup> World Down Syndrome Congress Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

The NDSS is co-sponsoring this conference instead of conducting a U.S. national conference in 2006. The world congress is held every three years to provide leading edge, broad based information providing a balanced perspective on current issues of concern for people with Down syndrome, their families, the professionals who work with them and researchers. [www.wdsc2006.com](http://www.wdsc2006.com).

### October 7, 2006

#### DSANI Buddy Walk

10am at Foster Park, Old Mill Road. Registration at 9:30 am, walk begins at 10 am. Call DSANI at 471-9964

### Saturday, October 28, 2006

#### "Afraid to Look Down" IPFW

Told with unflinching honesty and humor, "Afraid to Look Down" is a play that explores the journey actor/playwright Cullen Douglas took in becoming a first-time father to his oldest son Gabriel- born with Down syndrome. [www.afraidtolookdown.com](http://www.afraidtolookdown.com).

### Wednesday, November 22, 2006

#### Auburn Moose Lodge Fundraiser

3rd annual event to benefit DSANI. Contact DSANI at 471-9964.



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260.471.9964 877.713.7264  
[www.dsani.org](http://www.dsani.org) [dsani4u@aol.com](mailto:dsani4u@aol.com)

*"The Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana exists as an advocacy organization to enhance the lives of individuals with Down syndrome, provide information and support to families and professionals, and promote awareness and acceptance of individuals with Down syndrome within our community."*

### DSANI Board of Directors

Senior Advisors.....Tom & Rita O'Neill  
President.....Julie Tutwiler  
Vice President.....Brenda Amburgey  
Secretary.....Marsha Scheitlin  
Treasurer.....Theresa Bickel  
Newsletter/Website.....Open Position  
Programs.....Karen O'Boyle  
Outreach.....Jessi Kamleiter  
Administrative.....Marilyn Miller  
Buddy Walk.....Jennifer Mihuc  
Self Advocate.....David Miller  
Self Advocate Coordinator.....Pat Nuffer

DSANI is an affiliate organization of the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) and the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC).

national down syndrome

**ndss**  
Education. Research. Advocacy.

NDSS  
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**NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME CONGRESS**

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## Annual Meeting Recap

On Monday, March 20, DSANI held their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting with featured speaker Joan Medlen. Joan spent the afternoon with a group of DSANI self-advocates and AWS clients as we expanded our palates and tried new, healthy foods. In the evening, Joan offered tips to parents and professionals to encourage healthy eating in our children with Down syndrome. DSANI also presented the annual Star Awards to several deserving individuals (see separate article) and President Julie Tutwiler presented Joe Bockerstette, DSANI member and NDSS Board member, with a check for \$15,000 as our donation from the 2005 Buddy Walk.



## Self-Advocate Update

Readers' Bible study is about to conclude its year long study of the Gospel of John. Eight young people, 4 of whom have Down syndrome, meet for supper, then go to the Concordia Theological Seminary for Bible study. Perhaps other adults will consider joining us next fall when we start up again. Contact Pat Nuffer if interested, 483-1241.



**MOMS OF OLDER KIDS MEETING**  
Tues, April 18, 2006 at 7 pm at Barb Feasby's home in New Haven. Speaker is from Indianapolis "A Place to call Home: strategies for affordable and accessible housing." This is a dynamic program that explores all types of housing options and strategies to make them possible. Call Pat Nuffer (483-1241) for more details or directions. If you have not received an invitation to our past meetings, please email me with your address – send to pnuffer@comcast.net to be added to our mailing list.

## New Postsecondary Scholarship Opportunity!

NDSS is excited to announce the second year of The Joshua O'Neill and Zeshan Tabani Enrichment Fund. This fund was established in January 2005 by Zeshan Tabani to honor his friend, Joshua O'Neill. Joshua was fortunate to participate in a postsecondary education experience and he benefited greatly from this opportunity. Financial aid for postsecondary education is rarely available to individuals with Down syndrome, and while many young adults want to continue to enrich their lives through further education after high school, they frequently do not have the financial means to do so. The Joshua O'Neill and Zeshan Tabani Enrichment Fund offers financial assistance to young adults with Down syndrome who wish to continue to enrich their lives by participating in postsecondary education programs or enrichment courses to obtain gain employment and other important life skills contributing to their independence.

## "Life Goes On" - The Complete 1st Season DVD Release

"Life Goes On"-The Complete First Season will be released on DVD on May 9, 2006. Pre-order your copy at major retailers today and stay tuned for more Life Goes On news from NDSS in the coming weeks.

The fund will award five (5) grants of up to \$1,000 to individuals with Down syndrome who wish to enroll in a postsecondary education program or an enrichment course at their local community college or other educational institution. We encourage all individuals who meet the eligibility criteria to apply for this grant. The applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria: individuals with Down syndrome who are 18 years old or older; and intend to enroll in a postsecondary education program or enrichment class that will enrich their life, through employment, independent living skills, life skills or another way. Completed application packages must be returned to NDSS by May 1, 2006. The grants will be awarded no later than July 15, 2006. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Erin Geller at [egeller@ndss.org](mailto:egeller@ndss.org). Visit [www.ndss.org](http://www.ndss.org) to download a scholarship application.

## Yahoo Groups

Join us and chat with other DSANI parents. Visit [www.yahogroups.com](http://www.yahogroups.com) and join the DSANI email loop. If you don't already have one, create a yahoo ID and password. Then you can find the DSANI group either by going to the "Find-A-Group" feature or go to <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/groups/DSANI/> and join the group. Members can discuss issues of interest, get info on DSANI events and much more. Join the group today and let's "chat"!!

## Get Involved!

We are looking for a few good men and women!! Get involved with your DSANI – join a committee, chair a committee or serve on the Board. To learn more about opportunities to assist in the planning for DSANI, contact Brenda Amburgey, Nominating Committee Chair, at [brendadbug@verizon.net](mailto:brendadbug@verizon.net).

## Safe & Sound All Around Program Recap



On Saturday, March 25, a group of 22 children, young adults and parents attended the first special needs safety program at McMillen Health Center. Attendees learned strategies to stay safe within the community. This event was sponsored by DSANI.

SUNDAY  
**APRIL 23**  
GATES OPEN **1:00PM**  
GAME TIME **2:00PM**

vs. Swing of the Quad Cities  
(St. Louis Cardinals)

# DSANI ANNUAL FAMILY OUTING

## MAGIC MONEY

- Each family will receive \$10 in Magic Money

## FAMILY FUN!

- Fun Family Entertainment and Baseball Too!

## ON-FIELD PROMOTIONS

- All of the fun of on-field games

## CLOWNS & FACE PAINTERS

- Free for the young and young at heart



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE DSANI ANNUAL FAMILY OUTING - SUNDAY, APRIL 23

RESERVE VIA EMAIL TO  
**DSANI4U@AOL.COM**  
EMAIL TODAY!

Fort Wayne Wizards • 1616 E. Coliseum Blvd • Fort Wayne, IN 46805  
FAX: (260) 471-4678 • Phone: (260) 482-6400