

# 2001 ANNUAL REPORT



## COMPLETES 2ND YEAR

During the past year, DSANI has continued to grow and provide additional support to Fort Wayne and surrounding communities. Our members are increasingly becoming more involved and are committed to improving the lives of individuals with Down syndrome. The Board added seven members this past year, as new people volunteered to lead in the areas that interested them. This involvement is what DSANI is all about! Some highlights of 2001 DSANI offerings include:

- The 3rd Annual Buddy Walk at Foster Park
- A fully operational lending library of up-to-date books and tapes on Down syndrome.
- The Infant/Toddler Program, providing informational speakers on a bi-monthly basis
- Family programs, including the Fort Wayne Zoo, Red Cedar, and the Holiday Party
- A presentation and luncheon discussion with Congressman Mark Souder
- The quarterly DSANI Star newsletter
- New Parent Packets for parents of newborns with Down syndrome

## DSANI STAR AWARD WINNERS

DSANI STAR Awards are given to individuals or corporations whose achievements or contributions further the mission of DSANI and its members. Candidates are nominated by DSANI members. Award winners are chosen by a selection committee comprised of three DSANI board members. This year there were fifteen nominations. The 2002 DSANI STAR Winners are:

Carl Nuffer, a self-advocate currently attending Taylor University

Dave Reber, owner of Tadpoles Inc., who provides individual swimming instruction for children with Down syndrome and other disabilities.

Lisa Root, of LA Premier Dance, who conducts an annual dance instruction class for children with Down syndrome.

Ed Pike, representing GE The Medical Protective Company, who has consistently provided important financial support to the Buddy Walk and also committed a substantial donation from a GE sponsored golf outing in 2001.

Mary Burke, preschool teacher at Kids Kampus in Huntington, who has served children with Down syndrome since 1985.

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### *Did You Know?*

#### **In 2001:**

- DSANI had about 80 member families
- Over 100 people attended the annual meeting
- 125 people attended the Christmas party
- About 450 people attended the Buddy Walk

## THE BUDDY WALK



The 3rd Annual Buddy Walk was held on September 29, 2001.

With a hefty goal of \$30,000, there was quite a bit of anxiety going into this walk. But, once again, our membership delivered beyond our expectations! The walk generated \$45,000 (including in-kind gifts).

Approximately 450 participated, which was a record attendance! Sheriff Jim Herman and Mia Peterson, a self-advocate, were the Grand Marshalls. Mayor Graham Richard attended for the 3rd year in a row.



3rd Annual Buddy Walk  
September 29, 2001  
Foster Park, Fort Wayne

The Buddy Walk provides the majority of the income DSANI receives. We contribute 30% of the money raised at the Buddy walk to the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) to help fund their advocacy and research efforts. The remainder provides our operating budget for the programs and services that we provide.

As always seems to be the case at a DSANI family event, the atmosphere was fun and chaotic. Children were running and playing everywhere, as photo buttons and games for the kids were a new feature. Overall the event went well, with Magic 95.1 providing the music and microphone. The Buddy Walk is solely a volunteer event and we would like to thank everyone who made the 3rd Annual Buddy Walk such a terrific success.

## OUTREACH

*"We are really excited about the variety of speakers we had this year and highly encouraged by the new families attending these meetings."*

*-Jenny Bockerstette*

The Outreach Team continued to support hospitals and new parents in the eleven Northeast Indiana counties with New Parent Packets, programs and resources.

On April 11, 2001, eleven couples participated in a training session to become New Parent Mentors.

The Infant/Toddler Parents Program held six bi-monthly meetings with speakers such as physicians, therapists, and a panel of siblings.

Also this year, the Outreach Team sent informational letters to area pediatricians, obstetricians, and general and family practitioners offering New Parent Packets, copies of the "Healthcare Guidelines for Individuals with Down Syndrome: 1999 Revision," and videotapes produced by the NDSS entitled "Down Syndrome and the Healthcare Professional," which includes tips on presenting the Down syndrome diagnosis to new parents. Approximately 13 physicians requested these materials.

## MEMBER SERVICES

Member Services is responsible for the quarterly newsletters, memberships, member directory, mailing list, program mailings, publicity of events, and sunshine baskets.

As chair of member services, Julie Tutwiler prepared over 20 mailings including those for programs, the Buddy Walk, and the annual meeting.

The DSANI Star is published by Jen & Randy Pickard. Jen is the writer/editor/organizer and Randy does the layout. We are very fortunate to have a great team that produces such an outstanding, quality newsletter!

Sunshine baskets were developed near the end of the year to help those with Down syndrome going to the hospital for surgery or illness. When DSANI is notified, Grandparents Ken & Sharon Burkholder deliver a basket of goodies (lotion, note cards, magazines, snacks, drinks, toys, etc) to help with the extended stay. Two baskets were delivered in 2001.



Membership directories are completed every year (after the annual meeting) and are mailed only to the members of DSANI.



## PROGRAMS

The Programs Team was busy throughout the year planning meetings with informational speakers, special events, and social opportunities for families and friends of DSANI. With the assistance of their committed team, co-chairs Sherrie Floyd and Marilyn Miller organized a variety of programs in 2001, including the following:

- Mom's Night Out
- IEP Training
- Fort Wayne Zoo Outing
- DSANI'S 1st Annual Cook-Out at Red Cedar
- Swim Party
- Library Open House
- Teaching Tips for Children with Down Syndrome
- DSANI Holiday Party
- Children's Play Groups



DSANI Holiday Party  
December 2, 2001  
Turnstone Center

## LIBRARY



One of the initial objectives of DSANI was to establish a lending library of materials on Down syndrome. Under the leadership of Marsha Scheitlin, that objective became a reality in the summer of 2001.

The library was originally housed at Tecumweh Sports and Recreation, a division of AWS, and we are thankful for their efforts and use of their facilities. DSANI held an open house on October 29, 2001 at Tecumweh for the purpose of promoting the library. The library has since moved to DSANI's new office at 4810 Speedway Drive.

Library directories are available and were distributed at the September Buddy Walk. Usage was light during 2001 with just 10 families checking out materials.

Currently, the library houses 100+ books, handouts, 31 reader kits, Earobics Step 1 & 2, 40+ videos, including 4 Love & Learning Kits, and 20+ videos by Signing Exact English.

## 2003 DSANI REGIONAL CONFERENCE

DSANI is currently planning a regional conference, which will be co-sponsored by the National Down Syndrome Society. The conference is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 2003 at Homestead High School.

Among our confirmed speakers is our keynote speaker Tom Nerney, a self-determination advocate, Karen Gaffney, the 23 year old self-advocate who in July 2001 swam the English Channel as part of a relay team, and Patricia Oelwein, author of *Teaching Reading to Children with Down Syndrome* and who is currently writing the text, *Teaching Math to Children with Down Syndrome*, and William Cohen, M.D., editor of the "Healthcare Guidelines for Individuals with Down Syndrome: 1999 Revision."

Please save the date and plan to attend this exciting event.



March 15, 2003  
Homestead High School



DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

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### *DSANI Mission*

*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

Deb Gavette	President
Joe Bockerstette	Vice President
Jen Pickard	Secretary
Steve Simpson	Treasury
Brenda Amburgey	Fundraising
Theresa Bickel	Outreach
Chriss Miller	Outreach
Marilyn Miller	Programs
Sherrie Floyd	Programs
Jenny Bockerstette	2003 Conference
Tom & Rita O'Neill	Advisors
Marsha Scheitlin	Library
Julie Tutwiler	Member Services
Jim Augustin	At-Large

### DSANI TEAMS

- Member Services
- Library
- Programs
- Buddy Walk/Fundraising
- Outreach

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2001 FINANCIAL STATEMENT	\$\$\$
Income	
Buddy Walk	\$34,871
Grants	\$10,000
Golf Outings	\$ 4,020
Other	\$ 3,197
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$52,088</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$29,590</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$22,498</b>
12/31/01—Cash Balance	\$40,470

