

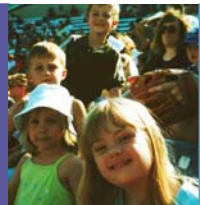


mission

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.

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DSANI completes 3rd year

DSANI is proud to complete its third year as an all volunteer/member organization. Once again, DSANI experienced a busy year, full of activities and fun! Membership grew 90% in 2002 to over 130 families, friends and professionals. DSANI members continue to build relationships with local school districts, area hospitals, and the larger community.

Some DSANI highlights from 2002 include the following:

- The 4th Annual Buddy Walk, held at Foster Park on September 28, 2002.
- The introduction of Sunshine Baskets for member families whose child with Down syndrome is admitted to a hospital.
- The quarterly DSANI newsletter.
- The introduction of the Books-to-Schools program, where DSANI distributed 30 copies each of Pat Oelwein's Teaching Reading to Children with Down Syndrome and Libby Kumin's Classroom Language Skills free of charge to local schools when requested by our members.
- New Parent Packets for area hospitals.
- The Summer Programming for Children with Disabilities and Vendor Fair
- Social events, including the Holiday Party and the Red Cedar Picnic.
- The 2003 Regional Conference on Down Syndrome - "Wonder, Imagine and Achieve".
- Dr. Richard Villa, an inclusion consultant, gave a presentation on inclusion to over 100 area teachers and was also the DSANI keynote speaker at the 2002 Annual Meeting.
- A new, permanent office at 1530-C Progress Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808.



member services

The DSANI Member Services Team is responsible for quarterly newsletters, membership development, the Membership Directory, the mailing list, program mailings, publicity of events and Sunshine Baskets.

In 2002, the Member Services Team...

- Produced four quarterly newsletters. The "DSANI Star" is published by Jen & Randy Pickard with Jen serving as chief writer/editor/organizer and Randy as graphic layout artist.
- Delivered five Sunshine Baskets. When an individual with Down syndrome is admitted to the hospital for illness, injury or surgery, Ken & Sharon Burkholder (doting grandparents to Griffin) deliver a basket of goodies (lotion, note cards, stationary/stamps, magazines, phone cards, toys, snacks, etc.) to help with the extended stay.
- Updated the Membership Directory and mailed to all current members.
- Conducted a membership drive for all current and past members to renew their DSANI membership.



DSANI star awards

DSANI Star Awards are given each year to individuals or corporations whose achievements or contributions further the mission of DSANI and its members. Candidates are nominated by DSANI members and chosen by a subcommittee of DSANI board members. The 2003 DSANI Star winners are presented below.

Tom and Rita O'Neill have made significant contributions to the Down syndrome movement for over 20 years. Among many achievements, Tom and Rita were founding members of the Learning and Development Center, a preschool for children with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. They were also founding members of DSANI and hosted the inaugural DSANI membership meeting in March 2000. They have been active in the National Down Syndrome Society for many years, where Tom currently serves as President of the Board of Directors.



the buddy walk

The 4th Annual Buddy Walk was held on September 28, 2002.

Approximately 450 participated, equaling last year's record for attendance. The walk generated about \$45,000 (which includes in-kind donations). Mayor Graham Richards and Sheriff Jim Herman were again Grand Marshals. Mayor Graham Richards has attended every year since the Buddy Walk's inception.

The Buddy Walk is DSANI's primary source of revenue. We contribute 30% of the money raised at the Buddy Walk to the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) to help fund education, advocacy and research efforts. The remainder provides our operating budget for the programs and support 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, and games for the kids were a big hit. We would like to thank everyone who made the 4th Annual Buddy Walk such a terrific success.

Mitch Meyer, a senior at Heritage High School, was voted Homecoming King this past fall. Mitch has been a member of marching, pep, and concert bands all four years of high school, as well as manager of the football, basketball, and baseball teams. Upon graduation this spring, Mitch looks forward to a full time job in the shipping department of CME Automotive. Mitch also served on the Self-Advocate Steering Committee for this conference.

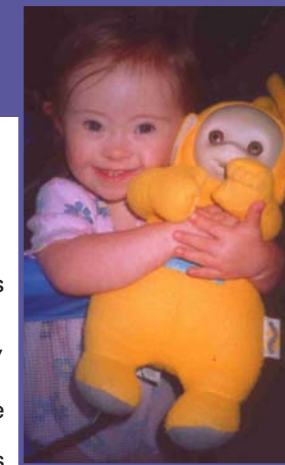
Jackie Gruesbeck is the Director of Special Education for the Smith-Green West Allen Special Education Co-op. Jackie has been a loyal member and supporter of DSANI since its beginning, by being a presenter at the DSANI meeting with US House Representative Mark Souder in 2001, co-hosting, with DSANI, a teacher in-service program led by inclusion consultant Richard Villa, and by serving on the steering committee for this conference.

Courtney Wennemar is a Special Education teacher at Roanoke Elementary School. Courtney organized Down Syndrome Awareness Week at Roanoke Elementary and led the school's

outreach

In 2002, the Outreach Team supported 18 hospitals in Allen and surrounding counties, establishing personal contacts in each hospital's obstetrics department. During the year, we provided over 75 "New Parent Packets" to hospitals and physicians. Nine families requested the gift bag, and we met personally with four families. We also spoke to several other new families by telephone. Many new parents joined DSANI as members, and attended the bi-monthly meetings at Turnstone.

The Infant/Toddler Parents Program hosted 6 meetings at Turnstone in 2002. There were a wide variety of topics and professionals who spoke and meetings were well attended. We implemented a name change for our educational programs. The Family Matters program became effective January 2003, to reflect a broader scope of topics that will be of interest to a larger audience.



participation in last fall's Buddy Walk, mobilizing 25 walkers from her school and raising \$700.

AWS is dedicated to assisting people with disabilities in improving their lives in the direction of their choosing. AWS was founded on the beliefs that life is enhanced by the opportunity to become a productive citizen and that all people should be given the opportunity to be included in the fabric of society. Bill Swiss, AWS President, and Lynne Gilmore, AWS Vice-President of Marketing and Development, both served on the steering committee for this conference.

DePuy Inc. has consistently supported DSANI by sponsoring the Buddy Walk since its inception with significant monetary contributions.

Burkhart Advertising has supported DSANI by donating valuable billboard locations to advertise the Buddy Walk for the past two years.



programs

Over 450 people attended DSANI programs in 2002! As always, the Holiday Party was full of fun and excitement, as DSANI member families who attended the party received a gift for each of their children.

DSANI also hosted the first ever Vendor Fair, which provided summer programming opportunities to all special needs families, along with service and product offerings that are available. This event was attended by over 80 people.

A recap of this past year's events:

- January 8, 2002 Mom's Night Out
- February 9, 2002 Inclusion Panel Discussion
- April 30, 2002 Summer Programming for Children with Disabilities and Vendor Fair
- May 31, 2002 Mom's Night Out
- May 17, 2002 DSANI Office Open House
- June 22, 2002 Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- July 14, 2002 Wizard's Game
- August 17, 2002 Summer Picnic at Red Cedar
- November 6, 2002 Family Counseling Issues
- November 22, 2002 Mom's Night Out
- December 8, 2002 DSANI Holiday party

library

The library, originally housed at Tecumweh Sports and Recreation, a division of AWS, continues to grow. The library is now at DSANI's new and permanent office at 1530 Progress Rd, Suite C.

Library directories are available and were distributed at the Annual Meeting and the September Buddy Walk. The Library catalog is also available online at www.dsani.org under the library link.

financial statement

Income

Buddy Walk \$32,957

Grants \$29,410

Other \$ 7,737

TOTAL INCOME \$70,104

Operating Expenses \$24,346

NDSS Donation \$10,000

SURPLUS \$35,758

12/31/02 CASH BALANCE \$75,396



DSANI 2002 board of directors

- president** Deb Gavette
- vice-president** Joe Bockerstette
- secretary** Jen Pickard/ Pat Nuffer
- treasurer** Steve Simpson
- fundraising** Brenda Amburgey
- outreach** Theresa Bickel
- outreach** Chriss Miller
- programs** Marilyn Miller
- programs** Sherrie Floyd
- 2003 conference advisors** Jenny Bockerstette
- library** Tom & Rita O'Neill
- member services** Marsha Scheitlin
- member services** Julie Tutwiler
- member services** Amy Lipnicky
- at-large** Jim Augustin

DSANI is a 501(C)(3) non profit organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service