

self-advocates

The self advocates are becoming a more prominent, visible part of DSANI. Their greatest contribution to the group is their presence and work at the Buddy Walk, manning the T-shirt booth. Steve Mikulski's presence on the Buddy Walk committee has insured the self advocates' visibility and contribution to the success of our Buddy Walks. David Miller continues on the Board as our self advocate representative.

The self advocates have been involved in two rounds of peer advocacy and awareness through the PALS program. This group is meeting currently for the second 6 week session of a group interaction facilitated by Frank Mikulski.

Otherwise, the self advocates of DSANI find themselves involved in community wide recreational activities, like weekly bowling throughout Ft Wayne, Monday night basketball at Turnstone, various weekly outlets for Bible study through Lutheran Disability Outreach friendship classes and other church related social

events. This is a very social and active group of people with Down syndrome, who through various parent driven outlets find themselves out in the community all the time.

Another focus of DSANI has been to support and encourage the "Parents of Older Kids Network," a group of parents of sons or daughters with a disability who are in the adult world of services. This group meets periodically with speakers and programs revolving around issues of having older "kids" with a disability. We have had speakers on estate planning, creative approaches to housing, service providers, recreation and supported employment.



outreach

DSANI has given out 12 new parent packets and 33 hospital packets this year. We've also given out 6 gift bags. Additionally, this year we added a packet, consisting of a book, calendar, and DVD from Cynthia Kidder's organization, Band of Angels as a part of our gift bags. We also added an internet resource list into our new parent packet in order to help family members gather current information in an easy manner.

financial

Income:	
Buddy Walk	47,134
Donations	2,523
Other Income	3,148
Total Income	52,805
Expenses	
Operating	23,295
Programs	16,818
NDSS Contributions	15,000
Indiana Fellowship	15,000
Total Expenses	70,113
Surplus	-17,308
Cash Balance	101,622
Minus Current Liabilities	30,000
	<u>71,622</u>

DSANI is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.

DSANI

DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

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"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

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DADS.....	Ted Thompson

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

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Note from the President:

As you can see it has been another exciting year for DSANI. In addition to all things listed here, DSANI has also maintained our lending library, moved our offices to a new space near the airport, continued our collaboration with the Indiana Down Syndrome Foundation and other groups across the state to strengthen the position of ALL individuals with Down syndrome, hosted the 6th Annual Meeting featuring nutrition expert Joan Medlen and much more!

It has been my pleasure to serve DSANI and the Down syndrome community as President but I could not have done it without the exceptional board of directors, volunteers and members we have in this organization! I would like to thank everyone for all they do each and every day for DSANI and our families.

I would like to say a big thank you to the following Board members that will be stepping down from their position: Theresa Bickel, Karen O'Boyle, Jessi Kamleiter, Brenda Amburgey and Marsha Scheitlin. Your dedication to DSANI is exceptional and much appreciated!

~ Julie Tutwiler

2006 buddy walk

What a great day – sunny skies, happy families and LOTS of supporters filling Foster Park for the annual DSANI Buddy Walk. We had school groups, scout troops, families, friends, co-workers, firefighters, Komets players and more – all to support individuals with Down syndrome here in northeast Indiana and raise over \$60,000 (cash and in-kind donations). What a sight to see all the t-shirts sporting John O'Boyle's wonderful artwork – great job John! Thank you to the committee members and volunteers who helped make the day a success and a special thank you to the self-advocates for the great job they did at the walk. Thank you to everyone that came out to support DSANI – it was another great day! It was a great day of fun and acceptance so mark your calendars now for October 6, 2007 to join us for another great day!



programs

During 2006 we hosted numerous social activities for DSANI members including:

Wizards Game – In April, DSANI hosted a trip to the Wizards game for member families.

FW Children's Zoo – we had 52 people in attendance all had a wonderful time exploring the zoo with their DSANI friends.

Halloween Bowling party – About 30 people attended the bowling party and “knocked down the pins”



Holiday Party – the DSANI Holiday party provided to once again be a favorite of members with over 160 adults and children filling the room, visiting with Santa and receiving a gift.

Nina Fuller – DSANI hosted a reception for Nina Fuller, author of Special Strength for Special Parents and mother of 2 children with Down syndrome.

Other activities for families included the revived Playgroups, “Safe & Sound All Around” safety training at McMillen Center for Health Education, family movie at Mitchell Books, Red Cedar Day Camp and a trip to Black Pines Animal Park.



dsani star awards

Jen & Randy Pickard:

Jen is one of the founding members of DSANI and served on the Board of Directors for 5 years. However, it isn't possible to mention Jen without mentioning Randy for Randy served on the Board in a more behind the scenes role. Over the years, they have always been a team effort. Both Jen and Randy wrote, edited, created and published the DSANI Star newsletter for 5 years. They educated, enlightened and entertained us with stories about individuals with Down syndrome, people who support the Down syndrome community and current events that impacted our lives. Jen and Randy covered our events, lifted our spirits and enriched our families, always promoting awareness and acceptance of individuals with Down syndrome within our community, making a very public and significant contribution to our community. Despite no longer being on the Board, Jen continues to contribute as a Buddy Walk committee member, promoting the effort to involve school teams to participate in the Walk and she has recently volunteered to coordinate the Books to Schools Program.

Praise Lutheran Church:

Praise Lutheran Church has been a model of outreach into the community of people with disabilities. They have opened their preschool/daycare doors to embrace children with Down syndrome in the past. They have hosted, dinner/dances for adults with disabilities in the community. The pastor, Rev. Fred Heame also committed to a pilot program for inclusion into the life of the congregation through paid employment.

Sujeet Desai:

The Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana would like to recognize Sujeet Desai as an extraordinary self-advocate.

As an accomplished musician, student and athlete, Sujeet has proven himself to be an outstanding role model for individuals with Down syndrome. Internationally, Sujeet has brought inspiration and hope to individuals with Down syndrome and their families. He has been consistently diligent and worked very hard to make his dreams reality. His self-advocacy workshops help other self-advocates realize that they too can fulfill their dreams. Sujeet is a fine example of what is possible for individuals with disabilities. He seems to embody the idea that with hard work, desire and support nothing is impossible.

DSANI is very honored to host Sujeet during our 7th annual membership meeting.

Susan James and Carol McCracken :

Susan and Carol teach the special needs pre-school class for Northwest Allen County schools Susan is the lead teacher and Carol is the teaching assistant and they have been a team for a number of years.

Susan and Carol have always been great supporters of DSANI as well. They have often raised funds for the Buddy Walk even if they weren't able to attend personally. They have provided support for DSANI by attending events like 1-2-3 Magic and “Afraid to Look Down”. Carol also illustrates her support for people with special needs by helping each year to organize the Muddy River Run which raises funds that are donated to Turnstone Center for Disabled Children and Adults. This effort helps to provide significant financial support to

Turnstone which in turn allows the Center to provide support to many individuals with Down syndrome as well as other disabilities. Susan has also assisted DSANI in the past by trying to bring the Buddy Walk school challenge to the attention of the school district.

The most special thing about Susan and Carol is how they care. They care about the future success of the kids they teach; it's not just a job to them and the kids aren't just numbers. They care about the families of the students they teach who become a part of Susan and Carol's school family. The parents know that once they are a part of Susan and Carol's “family”, they are forever a part of that family. Often parents will visit them for encouragement and advice although their children have long graduated from pre-school. Susan and Carol are also always there to share successes as well. They may not have all of the answers for all of the kids they teach but they do have many of the answers.

Linda Jackson:

For the past 2 years, Linda has welcomed us with open arms to be on her “Weekend News Now” program that airs on both Saturday and Sunday. We aired the show weeks before the Buddy Walk to help promote the walk. The most important thing we accomplished by being on her show was to help advocate for individuals with Down syndrome and to better educate the viewing area on Down syndrome. We would like to thank Linda for allowing us to be on her show, by awarding her a DSANI Star Award.

Automotive Color and Supply:

For the years of support of the Buddy Walk as a Corporate sponsor of the event. Their support has helped DSANI and the Buddy Walk for many years.