

P.O. Box 13611
Fort Wayne, IN 46865
260.471.9964
www.dsani.org 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."

2007 DSANI Board of Directors

President	Jenny Bockerstette
Vice President.....	Dave Roeske
Secretary.....	Mindy Fleischer
Treasurer.....	Lisa Teets
Newsletter.....	Kathy Meeks
Administrative.....	Marilyn Miller
Website.....	Brian Hedrick
Programs.....	Natalie Herron/ Laura Lampe
Outreach.....	Missy Reuille/ Stacie Bigham
Buddy Walk.....	Jennifer Mihuc/ Denise Pequignot
Self Advocate.....	David Miller
Self Advocate Coordinator.....	Pat Nuffer/ Frank Mikulski
DADS.....	Jason Greenman/ Ted Thompson
Senior Advisors.....	Tom & Rita O'Neill
Past President.....	Julie Tutwiler

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

national down syndrome society

ndss

Educational Research Advocacy

NDSS

666 Broadway New York, NY 10012

800.221.4602

www.ndss.org info@ndss.org



NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS

NDSC

130 Center Dr. Suite 102
Atlanta, GA 30338

800.232.NDSC

www.ndscscenter.org
info@ndscscenter.org



Note from the President:

Following our strategic planning session in January 2007, the Board initiated a few important changes this year that increased our programming and the opportunities for families to connect with each other. As a result, we've experienced greater involvement and our membership has grown significantly.

Thank you and best wishes to some wonderful board members who made important contributions to our Down syndrome community over the past year and longer, but are stepping down at this time – Julie Tutwiler, Past President, Jennifer Mihuc and Denise Pequignot, Buddy Walk Co-Chairs, Laura Lampe, Programs, Mindy Fleischer, Secretary, and David Miller, Self Advocate.

We also welcome the following new board members – Tammy Bly, Self Advocate Co-Coordinator, Nicole Dupuis, Public Relations, Ken Mattern, Secretary, Steve Ehinger, Buddy Walk Co-Chair (along with Natalie Herron), Brandi Buck and Anne Miller, Programs Co-Chairs, and Sheryl Sternal, Self Advocate.

Thank you to the many volunteers, board members and active families and professionals who contribute to DSANI's strong presence in our community and to a greater awareness and acceptance of people with Down syndrome. Together, we are making a difference.

~ Jenny Bockerstette

2007 buddy walk

Beautiful weather accompanied our 9th annual Buddy Walk at Foster Park on October 6th. More than 1000 people attended, with the Walk raising over \$75,000 in cash and in-kind donations.

Although a percentage of the funds raised are donated to the National Down Syndrome Society for their education, research and advocacy initiatives, the Buddy Walk is DSANI's only major fundraiser and supports the various programs and events we plan.

Sponsored by Automotive Color and Supply, Chris Burke and his band-mates, Joe and John Demasi, entertained the record crowd as they enjoyed the picnic following the walk. Online fundraising increased dramatically this past year, quadrupling last year's online total. Our next walk is scheduled for October 4th, 2008 and will once again be held at Foster Park.



Dennis McGuire, Ph.D.

Dennis McGuire, Ph.D. is the Director of Psychosocial Services at the Adult Down Syndrome Center of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in suburban Chicago. He is one of the founding directors of the Center, which was established in 1992, and he shares with co-founder Brian Chicoine, M.D. nearly 35 years of experience treating more than 3,000 adolescents and adults with Down syndrome aged 12 to 83. He has an appointment as a Clinical Assistant Professor with the Institute on Disability and Human Development of the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also co-author with Dr. Chicoine of *Mental Wellness in Adults with Down Syndrome: A Guide to Emotional and Behavioral Strengths and Challenges*, published by Woodbine House in 2006. He has written numerous publications on behavioral issues associated with Down syndrome and presented extensively on this topic throughout the US and to international audiences.

Kevin Landmeier

Kevin Landmeier is an enthusiastic young man who provides support to DSANI and is active in his church, sports, and social events, while holding down a job. For the past few years, he has volunteered with other adults with Down syndrome in the t-shirt booth at the Buddy Walk, eagerly offering to assist with any task. He is also an active participant in other DSANI Self Advocate group activities. In addition, Kevin participates in Reader's Bible Study at Concordia Seminary and has been an acolyte at his church. He works at Welker Insurance where he assists with filing, bulk mailing and cleaning. Kevin also competed in the State Special Olympics for the past three years and received medals in swimming and track and field events. He has also been involved in Challenger basketball for the past 18 years. Kevin sets an outstanding example for others to follow, but more importantly, he is a great person to be around.

Norman Hanford

Norm Hanford is a kind, giving person who, for the past 3 years, has generously donated his time and equipment to grill the delicious hot dogs at the Buddy Walk. After seeing a flyer about the DSANI Buddy Walk at Scott's Foods in Kendallville, Norm contacted DSANI and volunteered his services. (This is a rarity worth mentioning.) Traveling over an hour to come to the Walk, Norm is reliable, committed to making the Buddy Walk better and supports individuals with Down syndrome. Norm always thinks of others and always has a smile for those he meets.

Turnstone Center for Disabled Children and Adults

Nancy Louraine, Executive Director

Turnstone has been serving the disability community for the past 64 years in many ways, such as therapy services, a variety of programs including equipment rental and athletics for people with disabilities, and a childcare and preschool program for children with disabilities. Turnstone has been a consistent supporter of DSANI from the very beginning, allowing us to use their facility for the Infant/Toddler Parents meetings, IEP conferences, holiday parties, parent mentor training and our meeting with Congressman Souder, along with a number of other programs. In 2007, Turnstone was our co-host for the Lose the Training Wheels Bike Camp for Children with Disabilities, promoting the camp and allowing us to use their gymnasium and other areas of the facility for an entire week. Without Turnstone's involvement and support, we wouldn't have been able to bring this nationally acclaimed camp to Fort Wayne. Turnstone has been a strong supporter of DSANI and has consistently made a significant contribution to the Down syndrome community.

PAL Football

Tony Martone, Head Commissioner
PAL Football
Steve Butts, Commissioner
Roger Smith, Coach

The Police Athletic League (PAL) has been in existence for over 40 years serving area youth and supporting many athletic programs, such as basketball, baseball, tennis, and football. PAL teaches that no matter what, every boy or girl who participates has the right to play in any sport he or she chooses. PAL coaches teach the basic fundamentals, along with the meaning of teamwork and good sportsmanship. For the past two years, PAL Football has supported DSANI member Kyle Miller in his desire to play football. As an organization, they have promoted Kyle's participation on and off the field, through communication between teams, support from opposing coaches, commissioners' comments on the sidelines and officiating. This is a team sport and PAL develops sportsmanship, team camaraderie, and personal development. Without PAL and their efforts, Kyle and all of the children involved in this program would not have had this amazing opportunity.

Blake Sebring

Blake Sebring is a sports writer for the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel. Over the last two years, Blake has written two articles highlighting and supporting the Down syndrome community. The first article was published April 21, 2006 and highlighted the Dupuis family, their trials and blessings through the birth of their son, Matthew. The second article was published November 2, 2007 and highlighted the Police Athletic League (PAL Football). Blake described how the football team and the league supported Kyle Miller in participating in tackle football. Both articles were related through sports, but neither were about sports. Blake wrote about teamwork, support, camaraderie, and emphasized the positive aspects of Down syndrome. Through these articles, Blake promoted awareness and acceptance of individuals with Down syndrome and in the article about Kyle, in particular, he described the benefits of inclusion of kids with Down syndrome in mainstream sports.

programs

DSANI continues to change and grow while hosting events for all ages. In addition to hosting social and educational programs for families, a new expansion this past year was focusing on the growth of social opportunities for specific age groups.

The **Playgroup** activities are designed for families of children with Down syndrome under the age of 6. This group met almost monthly, with families rotating as hosts in their homes, with one highlight of the year being an outing to *It's Playtime!*

Two new groups were formed in 2007. The **Buddy Club** for ages 6-12 meets quarterly and the **Friendship Club** for ages 13-21 meets almost monthly. Both groups offered activities such as bowling, basketball, dancing, swimming and movie outings.

The **Self Advocate** group met on a quarterly basis with the pool party and holiday party being especially well attended.

Mom's Night Out events continue to be popular. With the addition of two new board members to represent the interests of men, many dads participated in the inaugural **Dad's Night Out** in the fall and more opportunities for recreational outings are being planned.

DSANI hosted *three* **Holiday Parties** this year. The party for families of children with Down syndrome under

12 proved again to be one of the most well attended DSANI events of the year, with well over 118 children in attendance. Included among the activities were gifts, games, prizes, refreshments and a professional photographer capturing family photos with Santa, providing a lasting memory of the year's Holiday Season. The Friendship Club hosted their own Holiday Party at Indiana Tech's Andorfer Commons with 20 teens and their families enjoying gifts, refreshments, foosball, billiards, ping pong, and air hockey. Approximately 15 self advocates also enjoyed their own party with gifts, a movie, bingo and other games.

Summer fun included sponsoring our third annual week-long day camp at **Camp Red Cedar** where horseback riding and lake swimming were popular activities for the 24 children participating. Additionally, DSANI and Turnstone Center co-hosted the nationally acclaimed **Lose the Training Wheels Bike Camp for Children with Special Needs** with 31 children attending, including 15 children with Down syndrome.



DSANI family fun this past year also included **Komets** hockey, **Wizards** baseball, as well as an evening at **Science Central**. A highlight of the year was the **Annual Meeting** in March featuring a concert performance and presentation by self advocate Sujeet Desai accompanied by his mother, Sindoor Desai.

Educational programs in 2007 included **Guardianship and Estate Planning**, **Behavior Management** and the continuing **Parent Network** sessions, with speakers addressing issues of interest to parents of adults with special needs.

With the goal to increase member connections, DSANI's programs strive to reach all age groups, including moms, dads, toddlers, elementary age children, teens, and self advocates.

outreach

During 2007, we prepared 60 New Parent Packets and delivered them to the 14 hospitals in northeast Indiana's eleven counties to replenish their supplies, as well as providing

them to some doctor's offices and families. We also delivered New Parent Gift Totes to 11 families.

The Playgroup was very active, meeting monthly, and proved to be an important venue for new parents to network with other families. We also hosted a Behavior Management presentation at Turnstone Center. We are working toward securing materials written in Spanish and adding the book *Gifts* to the gift totes in 2008.



financial

Income:	
Buddy Walk	66,989
Donations	5,032
Other Income	12,530
Total Income	84,551
Expenses	
Operating	22,751
Programs	20,203
NDSS Contributions	7,500
Indiana Fellowship	15,000
Total Expenses	65,454
Surplus	19,097
Cash Balance	124,846
Minus Current Liabilities	22,500
Net Cash	102,346

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