



◆ **Down Syndrome** ◆
C O M M U N I T Y
n e w s l e t t e r

Building a caring, understanding and supportive community open to all individuals and families whose lives include a person with Down syndrome

Country Kicker Dance

By Carla Snyder

The annual Country Kicker Dance was held November 6th in Kent at the Kent Resource Center. We had a great turnout of almost 100 members, friends and families. All enjoyed dancing and pizza from Papa Murphy's Pizza.

Martin Fore of Foremost DJs kicked things off with his great selection of country music—and even a few dance lessons! I think the Tush Push was the best, the Chicken Dance a close second. Thanks Martin for a fun night of boot scooting!

Thank you, event co-coordinators for all your hard work! Ms. Laurel Sturges; Ms. Sandy Cadwell; my honey, Jeff Snyder; and the Snyder kids, Jarrod, Josh and Cassie. We couldn't have done it without you.



Sweetheart Dance

The 2005 Sweetheart Dance and Pizza Party is February 19th 5:30 - 8:00 at the Highland Center in Bellevue. Please RSVP if you will be eating pizza. 206.524.6124 or seangking@hotmail.com

DSC Hits the Water

By Laurel Sturges

The first annual DSC Day of Sailing was held in July at the Leschi Marina. Working with Footloose Sailing Association, the DSC had two sailing sessions on the warm summer day. FSA provided two boats that each held five DSC sailors, all safety equipment, and a crew.

On a grassroots level, FSA's efforts promote sailing in a population not previously looked at as a single group. This includes both inexperienced disabled people and experienced disabled sailors who have been denied access to sailing because of their disability and who now have the opportunity and freedom to sail with Footloose.

Because of the diverse nature of the various handicaps, Footloose offers creative programs to meet the needs and desires of those involved. This includes everything from the simple pleasure of being a sailboat passenger, to learning to crew, to experiencing the full aspect of being a skipper. New ideas, safety measures, and technical innovations have evolved and are evolving as a result of this. For additional information, or for membership information, go to www.footloosesailing.org.

This new activity was quickly filled up by enthusiastic participants. If you attended and would like to have this repeated next summer, or if you didn't get a chance to attend this year, but would like to try this activity next year, please contact one of the DSC Board members.

Board Members

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All dates are tentative and subject to change.

2/19 – Saturday 5:30 – 8 pm	Sweetheart Dance / Pizza Party	Highland Center, Bellevue
2/17 – Thurs 6:30 – 9 pm	LAUNCH Meeting	Highland Center, Bellevue
3/1 – Tuesday	Newsletter submission deadline	
3/5 – Saturday 1:15 - 3:15 pm	Mountlake Terrace Swim Party	Mountlake Terrace Pool
3/11 – Friday 7-10 pm	Board Meeting (Open to members)	Fairwood Community Church Contact – Linda Michael
3/17 – Thurs 6:30 – 9 pm	LAUNCH Meeting	Highland Center, Bellevue
4/21 – Thurs 6:30 – 9 pm	LAUNCH Meeting	Highland Center, Bellevue
5/6 – Friday	Board Meeting (Open to members)	Fairwood Community Church Contact – Linda Michael
5/14 – Saturday 5:30 – 8:30 pm	Board Meeting (Open to members)	Location to be determined



By Anne Mullis

Living With Down Syndrome by Jenny Bryan
Raintree Steck'Vaughn Publishers © 1999
32 pages

This book introduces the reader to four individuals, of varying ages, who have Down syndrome. It briefly explains what Down syndrome is, then goes through a typical day for each individual introduced. The book is sensitive in its delivery and provides useful direction for obtaining further information.

We shared this book with my daughter's elementary school classmates. It proved to be a sturdy vehicle for opening the doors to proactive dialogue.

Living With Down Syndrome is highly recommended as a platform for discussion with family and friends.

Kicking-off the 2005 Down Syndrome Community Calendar *Living It Up!*

The Down Syndrome Community 2005 Calendar (*Living It Up!*) Kick-off Celebration was held August 8, 2004 at the Issaquah Public Library. The consensus was, "We are going to have to find a larger venue for this annual event!"

This was a great opportunity for all of our members to meet the stars of the 2005 calendars, their families, and the volunteers who put the calendar together each year.

The photograph above (left) shows our "Cover Boy," Tucker Weg, (with a little help from his mom and Clara Link) cutting the cake that featured his picture on the cover of the calendar. Also pictured above (right) is "Mr. February," James Ryder, with his father, Andrew, accepting a signed, matted print from Clara Link.

Below (left), you can see "Miss September," Rachel Reineke, and "Mr. March," Spencer Gillett, watching one of the presentations. Finally, the entire group of the 2005 calendar models, along with our photographer, Clara Link, posed for one more picture at the end of the day.



Clara Link, James and Andrew Ryder

2005 Order Form
Mail completed order form to:
DSC Calendar
12931 - 168th Ave. SE, Renton, WA 98059
with a check or money order payable to
Down Syndrome Community

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Quantity: _____ @ \$10.00 each Sub Total: \$ _____

Shipping & Handling: @ \$1.50 each Sub Total: \$ _____

Grand Total: \$ _____

In Memoriam

Raymond Heier of Burien died unexpectedly in November 2004. His family asked that remembrances be sent to his favorite charity, the Down Syndrome Community. The more than \$1300 contributed will support the Heidi Heier Memorial Lending Library, opened in 2002 and named in honor of Ray's daughter. The Down Syndrome Community thanks the Heier family for their generosity and offers our heartfelt condolences.

Another Down Syndrome Community member also died in November. Evelyn Higashi lost her battle with cancer on November 17, 2004. She leaves behind sons Benjamin and Andrew, and her husband, Toby. Evelyn was active in LAUNCH. A life-long Seattleite and advocate for the developmentally disabled Evelyn will be missed. The DSC extends our sympathies to Toby and the boys.

Visiting Bobby

By Phil English

The disadvantage of living a three hour flight or 1600 miles from my grandchildren means that visits are spread out over a year and not as frequent as I would like. The real advantage, if there is such a characteristic, is that I see the changes and advances made in the behavior and performance of our grandson.

I am delighted to have the unfailing enthusiastic greeting from Bobby as he runs, arms outstretched, to embrace his grandmother and grandfather. Perhaps the easiest change to note is the physical dexterity, the even pace of his movements, the growing comfort of the combined use of arms and legs, and the ability to grasp and release a variety of objects without conscious thought.

Watching Bobby easily climb the steel rope ladder and the steps of the various jungle gyms (of which some would be a challenge for me) is simultaneously exciting and a bit tenuous for his safety, but they are performed without hesitancy or fear. Bobby tackles new and unique experiences with a certain detached air, but once engaged he shows confidence and joy at his own learning achievements.

At least equally thrilling to is his ability to converse in ever increasing sentences and explanations, the way he captures new words and meanings, enjoying for himself, and thus myself, his ever increasing vocabulary. The phone conversations, though often too brief for a full explanation of how he is doing, are rich enough with comprehensible words and phrases to quite adequately get his feelings across.

We have a game, Bobby and I, involving the lobbing of five-inch soft rubber ball from the landing where he sits, down to grandpa who has moved a kitchen chair to bottom of the stairs at the initial request, (or is it a command?) of “Sit,” from Bobby. His catching skills are good, and even more remarkable, his pitching skills are progressing very well with only a rare errant toss. (Mariners, take note: You may be overlooking a needed talent here.) At times his sister, Tibby joins in as short stop on an intermediate step, and the speed of the action increases—without any sibling friction—as they share giggles and guffaws and the bounding ball.

Admittedly, there are times that I do not recognize his word for a desired food selection, but he is patient with me and often will lead me to the pantry and without too much exasperation in his expression, point out the grocery items he desires. And being not quite five years of age, he ignores, or tests his granddad by appearing not to hear the sharp “NO!” or “STOP!” when is going off to some self-chosen destination faster than I can manage pursuit. I am advised that he probably thinks it is a part of a game we are playing. Wrong! But I am learning.

His depth of focus, the perpetual happiness and smiles while he plays or watches a TV program, these qualities of intentional learning are certainly encouraging. As grandparents, we look forward to our visits, the frequent phone calls, and his response to our question “How are you?”

“I’m OK, how are you?”

Phil English is the proud grandfather of Bobby Sturges.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the 2004 Buddy Walk.

Co-Sponsors	Partner	Patron
 	  	<p>BRIAZZ Catering Builder's Hardware & Supply Sound Image Solutions</p>

Donors

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 Seattle Children's Theatre
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 Tacoma Rainiers
 The Underground Tour
 Tracy Kachtick-Anders
 Total Rental – Everett
 Tully's Coffee
 Verity Credit Union
 VSA arts of Washington
 Westin Hotel
 Yuen Lui Studio

Guests, Entertainers, and Volunteers

Marybeth Poch, Region 4, DDD, Keynote
 Patrick Evezich, Guest Speaker
 Rep. Al O'Brien, 1st District
 Rep. Mike Cooper, 21st District
 Rep. Fred Jarrett, 41st District
 Rep. Toby Nixon, 45th District
 Clara Link, Photography

Lupita Cano, Artist
 Bruce Savadow, photographer
 Ke Liko A'e O Lei Lehua – Hawaiian Dance Group
 Brian Waite Band
 Bruce Poliak – bagpipes
 Boeing Klown Klub
 VSAarts of Washington

A special thank you to the hardworking volunteers. Months of behind the scenes work takes place to create the Buddy Walk. Volunteers solicit donations for the raffle, search out entertainment and invite speakers, legislators, and guests. They invite and organize volunteers who come out and help the day of the Walk. They send out press releases, process registrations, and order t-shirts. They label, stamp and mail. Then there are the many volunteers who help to sell the raffle tickets. It takes every one of you, working together, to create the wonder and joy of the Buddy Walk. On behalf of the Down Syndrome Community, the Buddy Walk Committee thanks each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts.

2004 NDSC Annual Convention Update

By Laurel Sturges

The National Down Syndrome Congress annual meeting was held this year in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 21-22, 2004.

There were great sessions over the three day period. The opening session included the Welcome Address by Judy Martz, David Tolleson and Richard Robison, a speech by Miss USA 2004, Shandi Finnessey, and a presentation by Nayef Albinali, a local self advocate. The participants were of all ages. There were people attending their first conference (including myself), and others who had been attending for years.

There were two simultaneous sessions, the main session and a session for brothers and sisters. Among topics covered were pre-school music, friendships, literacy, oral motor exercises, inclusive education, transition from school to adult life, sexuality education, estate planning. The DSC library has a copy of the compendium with all of the presentations.

On Friday night, there was a banquet and auction. Saturday night was the big dinner, awards presentation and dance. Everyone looked fabulous!

Next years conference is in Anaheim, California, July 29-31, 2005. Information can be found at www.ndsccenter.org. Hope to see you there!

Odds 'n Ends

Membership Update

Please help us keep the information in the Membership Directory up to date. Current mailing or email addresses save time and money as we share notices of upcoming events and other information. Send updates to Linda Michael at ljmichael@cypressmail.com or 206-241-0353. Please notify Linda if you would prefer to receive your newsletter and flyers via email.

Statement of Policy and Disclaimer

This newsletter reports items of interest relating to Down syndrome and will provide a forum for others. The Down Syndrome Community does not promote or recommend any therapy, product or treatment. The contents of the newsletter are for informational purposes only.

Down Syndrome Community is online!

Check out our website at www.downsyndromecommunity.org. Also, if you would prefer to receive our newsletter and DSC flyers via email contact Linda Michael at ljmichael@cypressmail.com

Albertsons Community Partner Cards

As part of the Albertsons Community Partners Program, The Down Syndrome Community continues to receive a rebate from Albertsons on every dollar we spend there each quarter. Thank you to all of you who have been using your cards. It's so easy! Just show your Community Partners card at the checkout stand and the DSC will receive between 2% - 5% of our total purchases. Ask your friends & neighbors if they would like a card to help support the Down Syndrome Community. For cards contact Sean King at 206-524-6124 or seangking@hotmail.com.

DSC Yahoo Group

The Down Syndrome Community has an email announcement group through Yahoo Groups. Through this group information is shared about upcoming DSC events, as well as other events of interest, resources, and legislative news. You can join this group by sending a blank email to:

DownSyndromeCommunity-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

If you have a Yahoo Profile, you can edit your group membership at any time – update your email address, change from individual emails to digest, or search the archives for past messages. Please consider setting up a Profile.

United Way

Contribute to the Down Syndrome Community through your employers United Way/Combined Campaigns. It's easy to do. Just write in 'Down Syndrome Community' and the dollar amount you would like to contribute on the forms distributed to you during these campaigns. The campaigns direct the appropriate funds to us. Thank you for your financial support of the Down Syndrome Community.

TOPSoccer for the Whole Family!

This fall, two more TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) teams have started: One in Marysville and one in Tukwila. That means more fun activities for you and your child(ren) with special needs ages 4-19 years. This program is under the umbrella of U.S. Youth Soccer and supported by the Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WSYSA). It offers fun and participation for everyone by supporting and encouraging our athletes. Providing physical activities for our kids benefits many areas of their lives: More and better social and communication skills by playing as a team, improved motor skills, stimulated and enhanced mental alertness, a stronger sense of value, and an "I can do it" outlook on life. This sport can provide a positive and meaningful outlet for expression and release. Overall, being involved offers your child(ren) overall fitness, a rewarding experience, and can help prepare them for any level of independent living. TOPS is an exciting program for the whole family and when you get involved everyone comes out a winner!

For more information call:

Barbara O'Kelly (360-658-1755) Marysville
JoAnne Thelin (206-431-9777) Tukwila (You can also ask her for information on the Highline YMCA year-round sports programs for kids with special needs.)
Kinda Kautz (ljkotr@aol.com) Snohomish
Bob Sanchez (bobsanchez52@aol.com) Seattle



2004 Buddy Walk

Help Wanted!

Calendar Volunteers Needed

The Down Syndrome Community is actively searching for motivated people who want to contribute their talents toward the improvement of our nationally distributed calendar. If you have some talent and time to contribute, please contact Denise Medgard at 425-271-3926 or caldenliz@home.com

Buddy Walk Volunteers

The 2005 Buddy Walk needs you! Please contact one of the committee members if you can help. We need:

Sponsors – to help with the costs of the t-shirts, publicity, and meal.

Raffle prizes – the better the prizes the more tickets we'll sell!

People to sell raffle tickets – 5000 tickets is a lot of tickets!

Publicity – distribute posters or flyers, post info on web sites, help spread the word.

Volunteers -- need help the day of with set up, clean up, manning tables, etc.

Greeters – teens or young adults to pass out programs and welcome Walkers.

Contacts:

Kirk Gillett, Co-Chair, 360-668-7377
Kirk.Gillett@verizon.net
Linda Michael, Co-Chair, 206-818-3652
ljmichael@cypressmail.com
Mary Jo Kelly, Volunteers, 206-440-8469
kellymj66@hotmail.com
Doug Milligan, Raffle, 206-241-2628
lmilli8022@aol.com

Event Volunteers

The DSC has lots of events throughout the year. Can you help with the mailings, set up, clean up or any other part of planning one of our great activities? Contact a Board member to learn more! (see list on page 2)

M E M B E R S H I P

Yes! I want to be a member of the Down Syndrome Community.

Your check helps defray the cost of publishing this newsletter and sponsoring social events. *Thank You!*

Enclosed is my check for: \$15.00 Other \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to *Down Syndrome Community*)

Renewal New Member


Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____


Name and birthdate of child with DS _____

- I can not help financially, but please keep me on the mailing list.
- To help defray costs, please send me the Down Syndrome Community newsletter electronically via email only.
Email address _____
- Please add me to the DSC Email announcement list on Yahoo.
Email address _____

Mailing Address:
Down Syndrome Community
c/o Sean King, Treasurer
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Seattle, WA 98105

 Design and Layout
by Pacific Art Press, Inc.
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Down Syndrome
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