

Down Syndrome Community Newsletter

JUNE/AUGUST 2014

There's lots
more
happening
so look for
another
edition
soon!



Have a story
to share?
Make sure
to let us
know so we
can highlight
it here!

Megarama Day August 9

Our gracious host, Miss Kitty, is calling all Cowboys and Cowgirls: Head 'em out. Times a wastin...Git yer name into Ms. Kitty ASAP for a rootin, tootin fun time. The ever popular Megarama Day is just around the bend: Saturday, August 9th, 2014 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm; so giddy-up and register at www.Megaramaday.com

Megarama Day is hosted by the M-Bar-C Ranch on Whidbey Island. It's a magical place where adults and kids play to-



gether as their imagination leads them into the Wild, Wild West. So join Miss Kitty, her niece, Miss Megan & all her pals from the Down Syndrome Community. Grab your hat, dust off

your boots and wrestle up your special bandana and let's move! M-Bar-C Ranch, 5264 Shore Meadow Road, Freeland, WA 98249 phone: 360-331-6019.

Driving Directions:

Traveling I-5 N from Seattle: Merge onto WA-525 N via exit number 182 toward WA-99/ALDERWOOD MALL BLVD: 9.1 miles. WA-525 N becomes MUKILTEO CLINTON FERRY: 2.9 miles; MUKILTEO CLINTON FERRY becomes WA-525: 10.4 miles. Turn LEFT onto BUSH POINT RD: 1.2 miles. Turn RIGHT onto SHORE MEADOWS RD: 0.3 miles. Follow signs to second entrance, at end of the lane: approx. 0.5 mi.

Upcoming Events...

Two new DSC Groups meeting monthly: D.A.D.S. (Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome)

D.A.D.S. is a national group of fathers of children who happen to have Down syndrome. D.A.D.S. has 3 foundational pillars - Support, Action and Fellowship. The focus is on supporting dads and providing them opportunities for fellowship; but it also includes an outlet for action/advocacy on behalf of their families and Down syndrome communities. This approach was branded as Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome or D.A.D.S. Almost 9 years later, this model for supporting fathers of children with Down syndrome has been replicated by establishing 49 chapters throughout the US, Canada, UK, and Australia.

D.A.D.S. now has a local chapter sponsored by the DSC and led by Tim Larmore. Join us at the May D.A.D.S. meeting. We have been gaining ground with new members and attendees over the last several months. The May meeting will be an open forum to discuss and learn from each other about our perspective and insights on being a dad to a child with special needs. We have several upcoming meeting announcements to go over and plan out as well. Please join us for an afternoon of good talks and good company. To RSVP email tim_larmore@yahoo.com or call 206-384-9996. Meeting to be held on **Saturday, May 24th from 1-3pm** at 14335 NE 24th St Bellevue, WA 98007.

More info on the national movement can be found at <http://www.dadsnational.org>

DSC Friends – Social Groups by Age

Starting with a playgroup get together at the Factoria Mall children's museum on Saturday, February 15 and a second event held at a private home on March 1st, the Down Syndrome Community is proud to launch DSC Friends. DSC Friends is a new slate of social groups, funded by the DSC and intended to foster relationships – for children, teens and adults with Down syndrome, and for their parents and caregivers. Through DSC Friends, we will forge opportunities to build strong support networks and lasting friendships.



Coming soon, you'll see announcements for social groups based on age: Infant/Toddler (0-3), Kids (4-7), Tweens (8-12), Teens (13-19) and Adults (20 and up). Alison Winfield is coordinating DSC Friends. She's lined up some energetic parents who are ready to lead; guidance sheets are in the works and groups will soon be forming. Watch here and on the DSC website and/or Facebook page to get the most up to date information. www.downsyndromecommunity.org or www.facebook.com/DownSyndromeCommunity

Much more to come – Below: a small sampling!

Upcoming Articles:

- The DSC Board: its members, its committees, its dreams and how you can help achieve them

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, May 24, 1:00—3:00 pm, Monthly Meeting: Local chapter of DADS sponsored by the DSC Monthly Outings: DSC Friends — Social Groups (divided by age)
- Saturday, August 9, 10am-3pm, M-Bar-C Ranch, Whidbey Island
- Sunday, October 5, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Buddy Walk