



**DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION**  
of Central Oklahoma

# News & Events

July 1, 2006

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## Bi-Monthly Meeting

**When:** Saturday, July 8, 2006  
10:00a.m. - 12:00 Noon

**Where:** Integris Baptist Medical Center  
Auditorium  
(Childcare will be in Room To Be Announced)  
RSVP to Becky Moore 405-372-0883

**Topic:** Dr. Junstina Powers  
Positive Parenting Practices

Ever wish your child came with an Instruction Manual?

Dr. Justina Powers will speak about positive parenting practices. Dr. Powers teaches developmental psychology at Cameron University. For her PhD dissertation, she studied parenting and teaching practices for children with special needs. She has also studied Euro-American and Mexican-American parents who experience financial stress. After earning her PhD, she taught special education in a classroom of elementary children with behavioral problems. She is currently the advisor of the student chapter for the Council for Exceptional Children at Cameron.

We welcome you to come hear Dr. Powers speak and give some great tips and suggestions on positive parenting practices. As always, this meeting is for all parents, caregivers and those interested in promoting awareness and acceptance of people with Down syndrome.



## Buddy Walk Planning to Begin

If you have been looking for a place or an event to volunteer, this is the one! Anyone interested in helping plan this year's Buddy Walk event, our next meetings will be held July 25, 2006, August 8, 2006 and August 22, 2006. All meetings are at Baptist Medical Center at 7:00pm (Rooms to be announced).

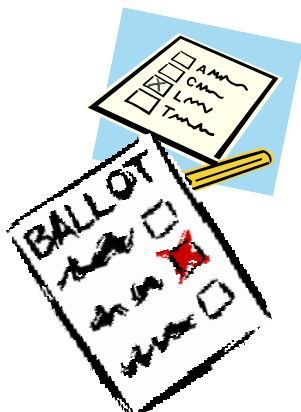
The Buddy Walk will be held at the Bricktown Ballpark this year, so any new ideas will be welcomed. If you would like to volunteer, but cannot attend the meeting, please email or call:

Lori Wathen: wathenld@ccvalve.com or (405) 329-8185  
Bill Lovell: blovell@beckassociates.com or (405) 488-6905

We are looking forward to an even bigger and grander event yet at our new location! We need you!

Disclaimer: The Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma does not promote, recommend or endorse any service, professional or organization. Decisions regarding use of any service, professional or organization are the sole responsibility of the family and/or caregiver (s).

## DSACO Elects New Officers



New officers were elected at the recent DSACO Planning/Chapter Meeting. In accordance with the bylaws, Kevin Moore has moved from the position of Vice-president to President and Shaun Joy has moved from the office of President to Historian. Lori Wathen was elected Vice-president, Rebecca Klehm was elected Secretary and Julia Trotter was elected Treasurer.

We would like to say *thank you* to all of our outgoing officers for their commitment to DSACO over the past two years, Holli Harjo, Secretary; Sandra Kirkpatrick, Treasurer; and Doris Erhart, Historian; and a special thank you to Shaun Joy for his commitment as President.

## Officer/Committee Chair Contact Information

### DSACO Officers/Committee Chairs

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Number
President	Kevin Moore	moorekevind213@sbcglobal.net	405-747-6887
Vice-president	Lori Wathen	Lori.Wathen@c-a-m.com	405-329-8185
Secretary	Rebecca Klehm	Rebecca.klehm@gmail.com	405-749-1629
Treasurer	Julia Trotter	Julia_trotter@yahoo.com	405-912-1059
Historian	Shaun Joy	sjoy.stonegate@coxinet.net	405-324-6930
2007 Calendar and	Tami Arambula	tamira@netzero.net	405-373-2854
	Becky Moore	mooreorless616@sbcglobal.net	405-747-6887
2006 Buddy Walk and	Lori Wathen	Lori.Wathen@c-a-m.com	405-329-8185
	Bill Lovell	pwrkat@hotmail.com	405-715-1568
New Parent	Juanita Killingsworth	jbk3360@sbcglobal.net	405-348-6770
Governmental Affairs	Doris Erhart	doris.erhart@cox.net	405-722-2795
Newsletter	Kerri Brooks	kbrooks@hatcherconstructionservices.com	405-307-9207
P2P - North	Becky Moore	mooreorless616@sbcglobal.net	405-747-6887
P2P - South	Tasha Rodgers	Dtsetroddgers@netscape.com	405-735-6320
DADS	Dustin Rodgers	Dtsetroddgers@netscape.com	405-735-6320
Website	Todd Trotter	ttrotter@sbcglobalnet.net	405-912-1059

## Chapter Planning/Board Meeting

When: August 10, 2006  
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Integris Baptist Hospital  
Room to be Announced

All parents, caregivers and those interested in promoting awareness and acceptance of individuals with Down syndrome are encouraged and welcome to attend.

## Buddy Walk Family Teams

It is time to start forming Family Teams again for the 2006 Buddy Walk to be held on September 23, 2006. We had a great turn out for 2005 and the family teams raised over \$67,000 with only 45 family teams!! This year we can raise even more money and awareness through our family teams. Some of the incentive prizes this year will include Buddy Walk blankets, hoodies and caps. The top five family teams will receive gift cards ranging from \$250 - \$500 that can be used at any retailer that accepts major credit cards.

Look for the Family Team Packets to arrive in the mail around August 1, 2006. You will also be able to get Family Team information in August from our website, [www.dsaco.org](http://www.dsaco.org).

If you do not receive your packet by August 15, 2006 or have any questions, please contact Julia Trotter at 405-912-1059 or [Julia\\_trotter@yahoo.com](mailto:Julia_trotter@yahoo.com).



## 2nd Annual Jacob's Buddies Golf Tournament

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for coming out and playing and/or supporting the 2nd Annual Jacob's "Buddies" Charity Golf Tournament held at Cimarron National Golf Club on the Aqua Canyon course. This year's event was a tremendous success because of very generous sponsors, players and volunteers.

This was the 2nd year for the Jacob's Buddies Golf Tournament, and we hit some big "weather snags" and only got to play about three or four holes before we were rained out. However, it was still a lot of fun and we got to enjoy some good company, good food and all for a good cause. This year there were 34 Teams that came to play on April 29, 2006 and over 140 different people came out in support of this worthwhile event.

We were able to raise over \$13,456.72 for DSACO. These funds will help DSACO continue to strive towards its so honorable mission to "To raise awareness about Down syndrome in our community and to provide resources for support and education to families of children with Down syndrome. DSACO can continue to provide support, encouragement, current information, education and opportunities for socialization and by promoting community recognition of the inherent dignity of all people with developmental disabilities.

I also want to give a special THANK YOU to Lori Phillips, Jamie Orcutt, and Cris Brooks for volunteering and giving so much help to this event. Without these guys' dedication and assistance this year's tournament couldn't have been such a huge success.

Thank you again for everyone's generous support. We can't wait to see you at the 3rd Annual Jacob's Buddies Charity Golf Tournament next year on April 21, 2007!

Sincerely,

Marie Brooks  
Grandmother of Jacob Brooks

## Bountiful Blessings Update

We are currently in the process of the photography appointments. The deadline for the photographer is July 31, 2006, then the graphic artist, Todd Trotter will begin work. He will send his completed product to the printer, Southwestern Stationery. It usually just takes a couple of weeks for the printer to do their work.

*We Need Your Help!!* July 31, 2006 is the deadline for sponsorships. If you know any companies, doctors, dentists, individuals, etc. who might be interested in sponsoring a month in the calendar the cost is \$1000.00 for the entire month or \$500 to co-sponsor a month. For their sponsorship the company name and logo will be printed on a month of the calendar. Of course smaller donations are welcome and will be recognized in the front of the calendar. If you need more forms please call or email me.

Tami Arambula  
Calendar Committee Chair  
P.O. Box 115 ~ Piedmont, OK 73078 ~ 405-373-2854 or [tamira@netzero.net](mailto:tamira@netzero.net)



## Parent To Parent (P2P) Sharing Meetings

### North

Friday, July 7, 2006, from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. Topic: To Be Announced

RSVP No later than July 3, 2006.

Saturday, August 19, 2006, from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. Topic: To Be Announced

RSVP No later than August 15, 2006.

September - No Meeting This Month! Buddy Walk **HERE WE COME!**

Location of Meetings: Quail Springs Church of Christ, 14401 North May (between Memorial Road and 150th Street on the West Side).

Childcare provided by RSVP only. For information about topics of discussion or childcare contact Becky Moore at (405)372-0883 or via email at [mooreorless616@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mooreorless616@sbcglobal.net)

### South

Tuesday, July 18, 2006, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Topic: SoonerStart "Make and Take" Presentation

RSVP No later than July 11, 2006.

Tuesday, August 15, 2006, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Topic: Occupational Therapy Tips and Guidance

RSVP No later than August 8, 2006.

Location of Meetings: First Baptist Church of Moore, 301 NW 27th Street

Childcare provided by RSVP only. For information about topics of discussion or childcare contact Tasha Rodgers at (405)735-6320 or via email at [dtsetroddgers@netscape.com](mailto:dtsetroddgers@netscape.com)

We will also be meeting at 5:30p.m. for DSACO night at Johnnie's Charbroiler on I-240. Everyone is responsible for their own dinner cost.

Find a location Nearest You!  
Make friends, share and  
enjoy other families in your  
area.  
Come and see what P2P is  
all about!

## Calendar of Events

**\*Dates are Subject to Change**

**JULY**

- 7 Parent to Parent/North
- 8 Bi-Monthly Meeting
- 11 DADS Meeting
- 18 Parent to Parent/South
- 21-23 NDSC National Convention  
Atlanta, GA
- 25 Buddy Walk Meeting

**AUGUST**

- 8 Buddy Walk Meeting
- 8 DADS Meeting
- 10 Chapter Planning/Board Meeting
- 15 Parent to Parent/South
- 19 Parent to Parent/North
- 22 Buddy Walk Meeting

**SEPTEMBER**

- 5 Buddy Walk Meeting
- 19 Buddy Walk Meeting
- 23 Buddy Walk - Bricktown Ball Park

**OCTOBER**

- 10 DADS Meeting
- 12 Chapter Planning/Board Meeting
- 17 Parent to Parent/South
- 21 Parent to Parent/North

**NOVEMBER**

- 11 Bi-Monthly Meeting
- 14 DADS Meeting
- 18 Parent to Parent/North
- 21 Parent to Parent/South

**DECEMBER**

- 1 Deck the Halls with DSACO
- 7 Chapter Planning/Board Meeting

### Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome (DADS)



Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome (DADS) will meet on:  
Tuesday, July 11, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. - RSVP No later than July 4, 2006.

Tuesday, August 8, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. - RSVP No later than August 1, 2006.

These meetings are for any male that has had their life touched by someone with Down syndrome.

We will meet at Santa Fe Restaurant off of I-240 and 74th. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me at (405)735-6320 or email at [Dtsetrogers@netscape.com](mailto:Dtsetrogers@netscape.com). This will be a great place for the men to get together and I hope everyone can make it!

Thanks, Dustin Rodgers

**[www.DSACO.org](http://www.DSACO.org)**

Todd Trotter is now our website Webmaster. He has been making a "new face" for our website and it looks terrific. If you haven't been there in the last few months he has made some pretty great changes and is continuing to add pictures and data all the time.

If you would like to have your pictures posted (with a completed consent form), have some information posted, or just like to make some suggestions, please contact Todd at [tptrtoter@sbcglobalnet.net](mailto:tptrtoter@sbcglobalnet.net).

## Editorial Thoughts on Being Tender

By Margaret W. Lewis

Reprinted from the Utah Down Syndrome Foundation Newsletter

There is a dilemma, as an editor, in meeting the need of the public relations impact, of proving beyond the measure of a doubt that children and adults with Down syndrome have potential - that formerly inconceivable capacities are possible for people with Down syndrome.

The dilemma is that, in striking out with our best foot forward, we sometimes run the risk of kicking, quite cruelly, some parent whose cherished child will never go to high school, never give a public talk, perhaps not even speak at all.

Continually we hear talk of stories of success, of tip-top achievements. Often there is humor and gentle acceptance of imperfections, but in each of us as parents there seems to emerge that insidious seed of wanting to have, as someone put it, the "best child with Down syndrome." Having conquered (we like to believe) the grief of not having the typical child we expected, we still play for the winner's circle.

And it is good to have high expectations. Good to take joy in the little triumphs, good to show a doubting public that our kids too are wunderkinds. But where is the line, where is the edge of tenderness that keeps us aware of the hurt of others? The great thing we as parents of children with Down syndrome share with one another is the vulnerability we each inherited when our particular child was born to us. The automatic humbling came to us every one, and out of it was created a kinship unlike any other but that pain can bring.

In the end, of course, it's a matter of individuality. The final joy is in the achievement, the communication - whatever level - of each child as himself or herself. The final proof of our humanity is in the non-comparing love we can show for our children and for each other.

But, if chance has dealt you a "high functioning" kid, take a few minutes and role-play the part of the parent of a child who doesn't read, or count, or jabber hundreds of words. How do you insulate yourself from the "what did I do wrong?" feelings, the "maybe if I try harder..." feelings, the just plain jealous, wounded feelings that surge up over the triumphs of another child - particularly one close to your own child's age - and then the guilt feelings of knowing you should be taking unalloyed pleasure in the achievements of someone else's little genius.

We need to interact with one another as parents and encourage one another with reasonable expectations. Let us be sure that we are not reduced to bragging at the expense of someone else's dignity and despair. Our advocacy is for every single child born with Down syndrome, not just the cream of the crop!



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## Parents Planning to Open RISE School of Stillwater

Jimmy and Mary Gonzales are making plans to open The RISE School of Stillwater by August 2007. They established the Mya Gonzales Foundation to build and finance the school, provide financial support for other RISE schools and contribute to research buildings that focus on helping children with disabilities. The Foundation is named for Mya Gonzales, their 11-month-old daughter.

The RISE School of Stillwater will be for students from 18 months to 6 years old. Students with disabilities will comprise about 70 percent of the class, with a 1 to 3 teacher-student ratio.

The original RISE school started in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and the acronym used to stand for Rural Infant Stimulation Education, but now only acts as a name for the program.

For more information about this new school contact Mary Gonzales at momgonz@hotmail.com.

## Alternative Education for Children with Down Syndrome

Being a parent or family member of a child with Downs syndrome is a rewarding experience. As a parent of a seven year-old boy with Downs syndrome, I have the pleasure of receiving the loving joy this experience brings. However, like most parents, I struggle with the need to provide my child the resources to help him achieve his greatest potential while maintaining the most normality in his life. Education is a big part of any child's life and the need to educate at appropriate ability levels becomes a challenge for children with developmental delays.

While the public school system has attempted to provide quality education for our children, they are unable to provide services that are specifically designed to meet the learning styles of children with Down syndrome. Classes in public schools are typically based on age requirements instead of ability and the ranges of developmental ability are very broad. This environment creates a condition that is unfair to all students and teachers.

My goal is not to bash the public school system, I believe they are truly doing a great job with the few resources they have available, however I want more for my son. I am sure there are many more out there who feel the same way. I just want to ensure that I provide him with every resource possible to achieve the most he is capable of achieving, however little or great that is.

After researching private schools, I found that none exist in Oklahoma specifically tailored for children with Down syndrome or Developmental Delays. Two schools exist in the Dallas area. These schools are private schools that operate as nonprofit organizations. I would like to see a similar type school in Oklahoma.

To help establish a basis for this project I need to obtain some feedback from other parents. I need to know how many parents are willing to pay for private services, have the ability to pay for private school, have any experiences with matters that pertain to private schools, or might be willing to dedicate some time to help with this project. I have posted a website in regards to this project, [www.DSeducationOK.homestead.com](http://www.DSeducationOK.homestead.com).

If all of us work together we can achieve the desire of doing everything possible to provide our children with the best education available. Please contact me with any questions or comments: Cell phone: 405-306-0342, Home phone: 405-869-9551, Work phone: 405-840-3371, e-mail: [absoluteokc@aol.com](mailto:absoluteokc@aol.com).

## Letter From the President

Hello everyone,

On this warm summer day I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kevin Moore and I hail from Stillwater with my wife Becky and our daughter Rylee.

I have been involved with DSACO since Rylee was born over 3 years ago. Some of you know me and some I have yet to meet. I look forward to the next 2 years of strengthening the DSACO tradition with your help. To find out how you can become more involved, don't hesitate to reach me at moorekevind213@sbcglobal.net or 405-747-6887.

Sincerely,

Kevin Moore  
DSACO President



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Oklahoma City, OK 73112