



**DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION
of Central Oklahoma**

News & Events

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March 1, 2006

Bi-Monthly Meeting

When: Saturday, March 4, 2006
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Where: Integris Baptist Medical Center
Conference Rooms F&G
(Childcare will be in Room H)

Speaker: Vyonda G. Martin, Associate Director and Community Education Director, Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Participants will leave the meeting with a "Positive Rituals" story about their loved one with disabilities. The purpose of the session is to demonstrate how using a "Positive Rituals" story helps families put their expertise about their family member into a format that is easy to understand and use. It is a quick and easy way to help people have a more personal understanding about someone with disabilities, a tool that can be used to promote better communication and partnerships among families, therapists, teachers, providers, etc.

As always, this meeting is for all parents, caregivers and those interested in promoting awareness and acceptance of Down syndrome.

RSVP for child care to Shaun Joy 405-324-6930.

Bountiful Blessings Update

DSACO 2006 *Bountiful Blessings* Calendar has arrived!!!! We had a number of delays and unfortunately, it was just recently printed. If you need to check out calendars, please call or email me and we will make arrangements. If you would like to purchase a calendar, please send a check for \$12.00/calendar written out to DSACO to our address below and we will send you a calendar.

If you are interested in serving on next year's (2007) calendar committee, please contact me.

Soon we will start the process for next year's calendar.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call or email me.

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

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).

1st Annual Couple's Conference

The 1st Annual Couples Conference held on January 28, 2006 was a huge success. There were 100 people from all over the state including one couple from Arkansas that registered to attend. Families in attendance represented 12 different disabilities. What a difference the Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma is making for our children and others in our community and state. Not only are we achieving the mission statement for our group, but we are emerging as an organization that provides resources and support for families of children with all disabilities.



Dr. Marla Sanchez and Mike Kiser, our guest speakers, presented an outstanding program that we all enjoyed. The only thing missing were the families that couldn't attend. You will have your chance though, as we will soon start planning the conference for 2007.

A big thank you goes to all that helped in planning the conference: Doris Erhart, Shaun Joy, Tasha & Dustin Rodgers, Lori Wathen, Marji Robison and Todd Trotter who designed the brochure.

We also want to thank all of the sponsors that participated and helped to make this event successful.

Thanks, Juanita Killingsworth



Chapter Planning/Board Meeting

When: April 13, 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.

National Conference Scholarships Available

DSACO is offering nine (9) reimbursable conference scholarships for expenses up to \$1,500 for attendance at either the 2006 National Down Syndrome Congress Convention in Atlanta, GA or 9th World Down Syndrome Congress in Vancouver, B.C. In addition, one (1) \$1,500 scholarship for a self-advocate (18 or older) and an escort to attend one of the conferences is available.

There are two sets of questions/comments below, one for parents and/or caregivers and one for self-advocates. If you are interested in attending a conference and want to be considered for one of the scholarships, you must send a letter with your responses to the appropriate set of questions/statements to: Shaun Joy, DSACO President, 116 Bellgate Drive, Yukon, OK 73099, postmarked by, Friday, April 7, 2006.

Parent(s), caregiver(s), etc. should respond to the following.

- 1) Briefly describe how Down syndrome has affected your family.
- 2) How would your family benefit from attending the conference?
- 3) Would you be willing to make a presentation at a DSACO meeting or other local group(s) about your experience at the conference?
- 4) How long have you been involved with DSACO?
- 5) If you have participated as a volunteer working on one or more of DSACO's committees and/or projects, please describe your involvement.
- 6) What are your plans for continuing your involvement in DSACO?
- 7) Of the two conferences, which one would you attend?
- 8) Have you received a scholarship from DSACO to attend a national conference previously? If yes, how many scholarships as a member or a DSACO officer have you received?

Self-advocates should respond to the following. (A parent or adult caregiver may assist with writing/transcription.)

- 1) In one or two paragraphs tell us about yourself, your activities, etc. For instance, do you live at home? What are your hobbies? Tell us about your friends, school experiences. Help us get to know you.
- 2) Why do you want to attend a conference?
- 3) After the conference, would you speak at a DSACO meeting about your trip to the conference?
- 4) Please provide your birth date, the name of the person who would be attending the conference as your escort and the conference you would attend.

Again, to be considered for a scholarship your response must be postmarked by Friday, April 7th and mailed to: Shaun Joy, DSACO President, 116 Bellgate Drive, Yukon, OK 73099.

Easter Eggstravaganza

When: Saturday, April 8, 2006
11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Where: MD Building Products Employee Park
Corner of Britton and Sooner Road
Oklahoma City, OK



Please join us for the 3rd Annual Easter Eggstravaganza! There will be over a 1000 eggs to hunt and prizes for the kids!

We will have a hot dog luncheon after the hunt and a special guest appearance by the Easter Bunny. Parents are requested to bring one package of cookies, brownies, etc., for the desert table. Parents - - Don't forget your camera!

Please RSVP how many adults and children will be attending along with the Children's ages no later than Friday, March 24, 2006 to Lori Wathen at (405) 329-8185 or via email: wathenl@mdteam.com.

Valentine's Banquet

Hello Teens and Adults, Family and Friends,

Thanks to all of you who attended the 3rd annual DSACO Teen and Adult Valentine banquet on February 11, 2006 and for making it a big hit again this year! Thanks to Mr. Anthony Pittman our DJ we had such a wonderful time dancing to the latest tunes, we also would like to thank Mrs. Penny Cramer with the Moore Norman Technology Center for arranging for the use of the facility, Katrina for catering a wonderful dinner with yummy deserts, and Mr. Vincent Vitale of Vitale Photography for coming and providing the families Photographic memories.

I think you will all agree we had a wonderful evening with our friends, families and Sweet Hearts dancing the night away, the room was beautiful and you could just feel the romance in the air!! We also had a video of the last 2 years of Valentine banquets and plan on adding to it in the future. If you were unable to make it this year you will need to plan on attending next year, we always have a fun time. Our numbers keep growing every year we had approximately 100 + in attendance this year up from approximately 65 last year.

I would also like to thank some others who helped with getting things together this year and help us out during the evening ~ Thanks go out to Mr. and Mrs. David Phillips, Mrs. Connie Newberry, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Watts and Adam, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dalke, Miss Jennifer and Heather Hancock, Westmoore High Schools National Honor Society, Mrs. Lori Wathen, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Robison, if I have missed anyone else please for give me and know you were appreciated. As you can see there were many helping hands this year to make it such a success. Be looking for more DSACO Teen and Adult activities to be planned through out this year.

Sincerely, Lisa Hancock

2006 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award

It is time again to honor those that educate our children. DSACO's Annual Outstanding Educator of the Year Award will be chosen in April. Any professional educator who works directly with people with Down syndrome in an educational setting, in the DSACO geographic area, is eligible. Nominees can be currently working in regular and/or special education. They should have a sincere interest in educating all children with disabilities. Experience, educational, professional/community involvement and teaching philosophy are all criteria, which will be considered by the Award Committee. If you know a great educator that you would like to nominate, please fill out the nomination form. Send the nomination form and all supporting documentation to Jennifer Joy by March 31, 2005.

Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma

2006 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award

Nomination Form

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma's Annual Outstanding Educator of the Year Award will be chosen in April. Any professional educator who works directly with people with Down syndrome in an educational setting, in the DSACO geographic area, is eligible. Nominees can be currently working in regular and/or special education. They should have a sincere interest in educating all children with disabilities. Experience, educational, professional/community involvement and teaching philosophy are all criteria, which will be considered by the Award Committee. The following completed form and a 50-100 word essay describing why this educator should receive this award must be returned to Jennifer Joy by **March 31, 2006**. Prior nominees may be nominated again.

Nominee: _____ Phone: (____) _____

School Name and District: _____

Describe nominee's background/qualifications: _____

Describe nominee's professional/community involvement: _____

Describe nominee's philosophy of education and approach to teaching students with disabilities:

Please attach letters of recommendation written by parent(s), principal, students, and/or supervisor.

Nomination made by: _____ Phone (____) _____

Return form and all supporting documentation to: Jennifer Joy, 116 Bellgate Drive, Yukon, Oklahoma 73099 by **March 31, 2006**. Questions?: Contact Jennifer at 405-324-6930 or joyj@mustangps.org

Parent To Parent (P2P) Sharing Meetings

North

Saturday, March 18, 2006, from 10:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Topics to be determined

RSVP No later than March 10, 2006.

Saturday, April 15, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Topic to be determined

RSVP No later than April 7, 2006.

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 Kevin or Becky Moore at (405)372-0883 or via email at mooreorless616@sbcglobal.net

South

Tuesday, March 21, 2006, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Topics to be determined

RSVP No later than March 17, 2006.

Tuesday, April 18, 2006, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Topic to be determined

RSVP No later than April 14, 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@wmconnect.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.

DSACO Officer Nominations Underway

DSACO Officer Elections will take place at the June 8th Chapter Planning meeting and nominations are now being accepted for Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Officer election occur every two years, with the current President, in this case Shaun Joy, becoming Historian and the Vice-President, Kevin Moore, becoming President.

Officer nominations will remain open until the elections are held on June 8th. If you would like to nominate someone or if you would like a description of the offices' duties, please contact Doris Erhart at 405-722-2795 or via email at doris.erhart@cox.net. Look for more information about the upcoming elections in the next newsletter.

First Tee

The First Tee of Metropolitan Oklahoma is the local chapter of a national organization, First Tee. Their mission is "To impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life enhancing values through the game of golf."

Please let me know if you might be interested in bringing your children out to the "Jacob's Buddies Golf Tournament" to participate in a First Tee Golf Clinic for our kids. They would like to have a Golf Clinic to help teach our kids about golf fundamentals. If you are interested in attending or have more questions please contact Marie Brooks at 405-366-1198. For more information on The First Tee organization their website is www.thefirsttee.org



Jacob Brooks



2nd Annual Jacob's "Buddies" Charity Golf Tournament

- When: Saturday, April 29, 2006
- Where: Cimarron National Golf Club
the Aqua Canyon Course
- Time: 8:00 Arrival
9:00 Shotgun Start
- Fee: \$75.00 Entry Fee per Player
Includes Green Fees, Cart Rental, Range Balls, Lunch & T-Shirt

2nd Annual Jacob's "Buddies" Charity Golf Tournament to be held Saturday, April 29, 2006, 9:00 a.m. shotgun start at Cimarron National Golf Club on the Aqua Canyon Course. Proceeds from the tournament go to the Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma, which is a non-profit organization, to help promote understanding and acceptance of people with Down syndrome. Your contribution will support programs and awareness on the local level for research, education and advocacy efforts towards Down syndrome.

We will have lots of Door Prizes (\$5.00ea or 6 chances for \$25.00 donations accepted for a chance to win!). Marc Heitz will be offering another Hole In One Vehicle with more Hole In One Prizes to be announced!

For more information concerning the Golf Tournament, please contact Marie Brooks 405-366-1198.

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REGISTRATION FORM

No minimum for Donations **\$75.00 per person** Hole Sponsors (Minimum \$100)
 Cost includes: Green Fee, Cart, Range Balls and Lunch
 Mail registration to: Marie Brooks 1206 Concho Drive Norman, OK. 73026 For Information call: (405) 366-1198
DEADLINE: April 8, 2006

	Name	Address	City, St.	Zip	Phone	Shirt Size
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

See www.DSACO.org for more details!

Calendar of Events

***Dates are Subject to Change**

MARCH

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

APRIL

- 8 Easter Eggstravaganza
- 11 DADS Meeting
- 13 Chapter Planning/Board Meeting
- 15 Parent to Parent/North
- 18 Parent to Parent/South
- 29 2nd Annual Jacob's Buddies Golf Tournament to benefit DSACO - Cimarron National Golf Course Guthrie, OK

MAY

- 9 DADS Meeting
- 13 Bi-Monthly Meeting
- 16 Parent to Parent/South
- 20 Parent to Parent/North

JUNE

- 8 Chapter Planning/Board Meeting
- 13 DADS Meeting
- 17 Parent to Parent/North
- 20 Parent to Parent/South

JULY

- 8 Bi-Monthly Meeting
- 11 DADS Meeting
- 18 Parent to Parent/South
- 21-23 NDSC National Convention - Atlanta

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

- 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, March 14, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. - RSVP No later than March 11, 2006.

Tuesday, April 11, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. - RSVP No later than April 8, 2006.

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 Dtsetroddgers@wmconnect.com. This will be a great place for the men to get together and I hope everyone can make it!

Thanks, Dustin Rodgers

Note From the President

Hello everyone,

Well winter is almost over and spring is on its way. It won't be long until spring break and the kids will be playing outside. Easter is around the corner so keep an eye out for information about our annual "Easter Eggstravaganza." Be looking for our upcoming events in this newsletter like the golf tournament. I hope everyone will join us for these events and not miss out on the fun.

I would like to thank Juanita Killingsworth, Tasha Rodgers, Doris Erhart, Marji Robison and anyone else I might have forgotten, for making our "Couple's Conference" a success. We had a tremendous turnout, with one family coming from Arkansas. I would also like to thank the other affiliations that helped with their generous donations. I think everyone enjoyed the presentation by Dr. Sanchez and Mike Kiser. I hope everyone is looking forward to our 2nd annual "Couple's Conference."

Sincerely,

Shaun Joy
DSACO President



3366 N. W. Expressway, Suite 330
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED