

DSACO News



Webpage on Disability Issues and the 2008 Elections

To learn the presidential candidates' positions about disability issues visit <http://www.aapd.com/News/election/peac2008.php>

Pass it on!
When you're through with this newsletter...pass it on to another family who might benefit from DSACO.



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, March 15
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

MD Building Products Employee Park, OKC
N.E. Corner of Britton and Sooner Road

DSACO will be holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 15th, 2008 from 11am-3pm at the MD Park located at the NE corner of Britton and Sooner Rd (map at www.dsaco.org). There will be lots of eggs to hunt and prize eggs also.

We will be having a hamburger luncheon with all the fixings, chips and Kool-Aid. Parents are requested to bring a dessert (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc.) for the dessert table. Remember to bring your Easter basket and a camera. We will have a moon bounce and some special guests!!!

Looking for a few good volunteers...

What are your strengths?

Would you be willing to invest some of your time to help plan the 2008 Buddy Walk?

The annual event has continued to grow by leaps and bounds over the past few years. DSACO has been able to accomplish many of its goals due to the support and public awareness that Buddy Walk brings. Please consider this as a way to give back to the organization that helps so many.

Blessings,

Kevin Moore

DSACO President

PLANNING/BOARD MEETINGS

Everyone is welcome to attend the **Planning/Board Meeting**. Come and be a part of making DSACO a successful organization in 2008!!!

When: Thursday, April 10, 2008

Where: Baptist Medical Center, Room F&G

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Childcare will not be provided.



Saturday, September 20, 2008

COMING UP...

Saturday, April 12, 2008 – **Hispanic Health Fair** at the OKC Fairgrounds. More info to follow. Visit **DSACO's** booth while there.

parent²parent

supporting all parents

DSACO offers regular meetings to provide education and support for parents and families of children with Down syndrome. The meetings also offer an opportunity for parents to meet other families. They are informal gatherings that allow individuals and families an opportunity to share experiences while creating new friendships.

SOUTH P2P MEETING

March 25 & April 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Moore (135 & NE 27th Street in Moore). TOPIC: TBD. We will meet at **Johnnies Charbroiler** for DSACO night at 5:30 p.m. (a portion of whatever you spend goes to DSACO). Childcare is provided by RSVP only. RSVP to Leslee Boswell at lbene@cox.net or 405-447-8868. NOTE: If you don't get email announcements about P2P South but would like to, contact Leslee (see above for contact information).

NORTH P2P MEETING

Next meeting **April 12, 9:30-11:30 a.m.** at Quail Springs Church of Christ, 14401 North May (between Memorial Road & 150th Street on west side). TOPIC: TBA. Childcare provided by RSVP only (RSVP no later than Monday, April 7 - no exceptions). Contact Becky Moore at 405-372-0883 or mooreorless616@sbcglobal.net

STILLWATER P2P MEETING

March 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 504 S Knoblock (enter at far Northeast door). TOPIC: *Potty Training*. Contact Jeanita Kearns-Shook at 405-372-5680 or Shelly Sitton at 405-641-0302.

DE PADRES HISPANOS A PADRES HISPANOS

GRUPO DE APOYO PARA PADRES DE NIÑOS CON SINDROME DE DOWN. El grupo tiene encuentros mensuales. Las reuniones serán el tercer sábado de cada mes. La siguiente reunión será: **el sábado, 15 de marzo de 2008** Hora: 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Lugar: La iglesia de Jesus Christ Saints 2440 SW 55th, Oklahoma City, OK. 73119 (La SW55 y Miller # 2440 esquina Villa) Para más información, por favor contacto: Leticia Basave (405) 635-9240 o Juanita Killingsworth (405) 348-6770.

HISPANIC P2P MEETING

March 15 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 2440 SW 55th Street, Oklahoma City. If you have questions please call Leticia Basave (405) 635-9240 or Juanita Killingsworth (405) 348-6770.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

for information about a free Access Pass for individuals with disabilities to our national parks visit -- http://www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm

Bountiful Blessings Calendar Update

Bountiful Blessings 2009 Calendar Committee is getting started on the yearly calendar! We are currently looking at the applications that were sent in and will notify the selected people for the calendar, and the alternates, very soon. We will be working on photo shoots between March 27 and May 2. We are already having a good time and are very excited about the success of Bountiful Blessings 2009 Calendar!

Rachel Thomas & Becky Moore

DSACO Bountiful Blessings 2009 Calendar Co-chairs

Save the Date May 3, 2008

What: Bi-Monthly Meeting

Where: Integris Baptist Hospital

Who: TOUCHMATH Training by Don Sass

When: **Saturday, May 3, 2008, 8 am – 2 pm**

TouchMath is an innovative math-learning system specifically designed to help young students develop math skills. TouchMath works because students interact directly with numbers. They see, say, hear and touch the numbers, in order to arrive at the correct answers, without guessing! Through the use of auditory reinforcement, flashcards and timed tests, children learn the math facts they need to succeed.

This one-day seminar provides you with useful tips, techniques and strategies for best utilizing the nation's most successful supplementary math program, such as:

- What to do before teaching TouchMath
- How to implement TouchMath
- How to ease the transition from manipulatives to paper and pencil
- The scope and sequence of TouchMath
- What to do after teaching TouchMath
- How to reinforce TouchMath
- Essential tools you can make to teach TouchMath
- And much more!

More information will be coming soon about this workshop. Because this is an all day workshop, you must register to attend and there will be no childcare.

4th Annual "Jacob's Buddies" Golf Tournament

will be held April 19, 2008 at Cimarron National Golf Club. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. Shotgun start is at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$75 per person. It includes Green Fee, Range Balls, Lunch and a T-Shirt. Registration form can be found on the DSACO web site at www.dsaco.org. Each year we strive to increase our fundraising goal and this year our goal is \$10,000. As a result I would like to request that each family ask a business or someone they know to be a Hole Sponsor. If each family gets 1 Hole Sponsor it will help us achieve this goal. The Hole Sponsor section is part of the registration form (middle section). If they donate \$100, a sign with their business and or personal name will be placed on the golf course the day of the tournament. We do have other sponsorship opportunities, please contact Marie Brooks at 325-9101 for those sponsor benefits. Thank you in advance for your help. Hope to see you at the Golf Tournament on April 19, 2008.



2008 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award

It is time again to honor those that educate our children. The DSACO's Annual Outstanding Educator of the Year Award will be chosen in May. 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, 2008.

Please mail the enclosed Nomination Form to:

Jennifer Joy
116 Bellgate Drive
Yukon, OK 73099

If you have any questions or comments please contact Jennifer at (405)324-6930 or jojy@mustangps.org

Oklahoma Rising: A Second Century of Excellence

The 2008 Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities, *Oklahoma Rising: A Second Century of Excellence*, is scheduled for April 10-11, 2008, at the Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens, Oklahoma City, OK. To request a registration brochure by mail, call the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council at (405) 521-4984 or toll free at (800) 836-4470. Online registration will be available beginning in March at www.okdhs.org.

DSACO Officer Elections to be Held in June

Elections will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at the regular DSACO Planning/Board meeting. Kevin Moore, current President will become the DSACO Historian and current Vice-President, Lori Wathen will become President at the June meeting. The offices that we will be electing are listed below with a brief description of the duties.

Vice-President - The Vice-President will assume the office of President upon conclusion of his/her term as Vice-President. Should the outgoing Vice-President choose not to accept the duties of President, the position of President will be filled by election.

Secretary - The Secretary will keep minutes of all meetings of the Board and the general membership, perform all the duties required by law, and shall be custodial of all corporate records and documents.

Treasurer - The Treasurer shall receive all monies, deposit all receipts and disburse as directed. He or she shall report income, disbursements, and total balance on hand at each regular meeting. He or she shall make an annual written report prior to June 30. On or before June 30, he or she shall deliver all monies, books and other financial properties and records of the corporation to said successor.

Due to DSACO's growth financially, it was decided at the last planning meeting to possibly contract with the DSACO accountant to handle more of the Treasurer duties. The Treasurer would work closely with the accountant and report back to the Board and general membership.

Self Advocate - The Self Advocate position will help promote the interests of individuals with Down syndrome in the activities of the Association. This position is responsible for attending meetings and representing the wants and concerns of self advocates. Must be 16 years old or older. The term is for 2 years. No term limits (you may be re-elected for consecutive terms).

***If you know someone who may be interested in running for office
please contact***

Lori Wathen at Lori.Wathen@c-a-m.com

ATTENTION; Please find enclosed in this newsletter the 2008 Conference Assistance Application. Be sure to fill out and mail in the application by the deadline. There are many new aspects of the 2008 Conference Assistance Application, so please read carefully. You will find answers to most of your questions in the Conference Assistance Application Guidelines.

Becky Moore

Conference Assistance
Committee Chair

Oklahoma Sibshops Going Strong

Oklahoma Sibshops – Workshops for brothers and sisters of children with disabilities and special health care needs are going strong. It's not too late to register your sibling – dates for the rest of this school year are:

Ages 10-13 (meets from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm)
May 5, 2008

Ages 6-9 (meets from 10:30 am until 1:30 pm)
April 5, 2008



Oklahoma Sibshops offer two different groups: one for siblings ages 6-9 and one for ages 10-13. Both groups meet at Children's Hospital in OKC on the first Saturday of each month, with each age group alternating months. The groups meet only during the school year. Each Sibshop cost \$6 per child and includes lunch.

If you are interested in registering your child or would like more information, please contact Juanita Killingsworth at jbk3360@sbcglobal.net or (405) 348-6770 or Crissy Stokes at cstokes@mcloudteleco.com or (405) 391-2757.

FAMILY DIRECTORY UPDATE

Our group is growing so rapidly that as soon as we prepare a Family Directory it is already outdated. We will be putting together a new directory over the next few months.

We need the following information from each family:

- Parent's Names
- Name of Individual with Down syndrome
- Individual's Birthdate
- Address
- Telephone (home and/or cell)
- Email
- School that individual currently attends or if already graduated – when?
- Medical issues of individual
- Siblings names and birthdates

You can email the above information to Kathy Bogumil at kbogumil@cox.net or Juanita Killingsworth at jbk3360@sbcglobal.net. You may also call (405) 330-5025.

If you are interested in helping with the directory, please contact Kathy or Juanita.

Samuel's Call Ministry

St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City has started a new ministry called Samuel's Call to connect with people with special needs. The ministry is reaching out by providing two new Sunday School classes and a new respite care program.

St. Luke's now offers a children's Sunday School class with a special education teacher and an assistant. Children with developmental delays are welcome to come to this class and receive specialized attention in a Christian environment. This class is available each Sunday at 9:40 and 10:50 a.m.

A respite care program also just started where parents can bring their child with special needs along with their siblings to St. Luke's. They will receive one-on-one care for 4 hours so that the parents can have the afternoon to themselves. The respite care program takes place on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Families must register ahead of time to ensure that there will be enough volunteers for each child. Go to www.stlukesokc.org/sc for more information.

A second Sunday School class will be starting soon for adults with special needs. Volunteers are still needed to help facilitate this class. For more information on any of these programs at St. Luke's please contact Julie Conrady at 232-1371. St. Luke's is located near downtown OKC at 222 N.W. 15th.

It is with great excitement that we announce a new project that is currently underway in the state of Oklahoma! Since its beginning in 2002, **Wings**, an Oklahoma Christian based non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, has been working to realize the dream of friends, family and supporters of adults with disabilities in Oklahoma. Our mission is: "To provide a Christ-centered community where adults with special needs can live and thrive within an environment guided by the principles of the Bible and Christ-centered leadership." Our vision is to create "a community within a community", a self-contained residential and educational work campus designed to enhance the lives of adults with functional disabilities who cannot live comfortably "on their own" in society. Wings is designed to provide holistic life-long services in a warm, creative environment, carefully balanced between independence and assistance.



Phase I of the Wings community is currently underway. We have secured a location just 30 minutes north of the Oklahoma City area, along the I-35 corridor, and are in the midst of a \$7,000,000 fundraising campaign to help bring Phase I to completion. To help you understand more about the vision and purpose of Wings, please visit our website at www.WingsOK.org where you may view our video and read a bit more about our vision and history.

If you would like to learn more please feel free to contact Wynter Olson, Program Coordinator via e-mail at WingsOK2007@gmail.com or by phone at (405) 436-1865. We would love the opportunity to share personally about Wings and the future of this project.



BUDDY WALK 2008

We are gearing up for the 2008 DSACO Buddy Walk.

If you are new to the DSACO family or have been with the organization for a number of years, now is the time to let us know that you are interested in being involved with one of the most significant events of the year for DSACO and promoting the awareness of Down Syndrome in our community.

Our first meeting will be in April, the date is still to be determined, if you would like to get on board with an excited bunch of people, then please contact Bill R. Lovell at 405-715-1568 or email me at blovell@fsb-ae.com

Top 5 Buddy Walk Family Teams

Be sure to give your congrats to the top 5 Buddy Walk Family Teams from the 2007 Buddy Walk. We had another record setting year at the Buddy Walk. The Family Teams raised well over \$105,000. The top 5 family teams each won Visa gift cards for their outstanding efforts in fundraising. The top 5 family teams are:

- 1st Drew's Crew (The Boswell Family)
- 2nd Team Eric the Great (The Lee Family)
- 3rd Addison's Army (The Klehm Family)
- 4th Simon's Snowflake Squad (The Foss Family)
- 5th Kerstin's Kin (The Soell Family)

All of these teams raised over \$5,000 each, with our top family team raising over \$12,000. We had 67 family teams register this year and each one did a great job raising money! **Way to go Family Teams!!**



PO BOX 892592
Oklahoma City, OK 7315-2592

www.dsaco.org



***Have you visited the DSACO
website lately?
www.dsaco.org***

DISCLAIMER: DSACONews does not promote or recommend any therapy, products, treatment, etc., and will not espouse any particular political or religious view. Individuals or organizations referred to, do not necessarily endorse this publication. We wish to bring together those interested in Down syndrome and attempt to create an optimistic outlook and attitude. DSACO leadership and contributors endeavor to use People First Language. The contributors write as non-professionals, and reserve the right to make corrections and revisions as needed or where appropriate in accord with established editorial practices in material submitted for publication. Submission deadlines are always the 15th day of the months in which the DSACONews is published: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Contact the editor of DSACONews at dsaconews@sbcglobal.net.