

# DSACO News

## Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday April 4, 2009

11:00am—3:00pm

MD Building Products Employee Park

N.E. Corner of Britton and Sooner Road, Oklahoma City

DSACO will be holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt at MD Park (map located at [www.dsaco.org](http://www.dsaco.org)). There will be lots of eggs to hunt, including prize eggs. We will be having hotdogs, chips and Kool-Aid for lunch. Parents are requested to bring a dessert (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc.) for the dessert table. Remember to bring your Easter Basket and camera. We will have a moon bounce and some special guests!

You must rsvp for this event by Friday, March 27, 2009, please contact Lori Wathen at 405-329-8185 or [president@dsaco.org](mailto:president@dsaco.org) and let us know how many adults and children will be attending as well as the ages of the children.



**You're Invited!**

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## Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the State Capitol

The annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the state capitol is scheduled on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. The day's events begin at 10:00 a.m. when individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, advocates, and providers rally on the south steps of the Oklahoma State Capitol to raise awareness about developmental disabilities. Those planning to attend may want to schedule appointments with their legislators to share information about disability issues. For more information, call the Oklahoma Department of Human Services/Developmental Disabilities Division at (405) 521-3571.

## Planning/Board Meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend the **Planning/Board Meeting**. Come and be a part of making DSACO a successful organization in 2009!

When: Thursday, April 9, 2009

Where: Baptist Medical Center  
Rooms C & D

Time: 7:00pm—9:00pm

*Childcare will not be provided*

From the

*President*

*I want to thank everyone that served on the DS Conference Committee for all their hard work and dedication in making our first statewide DS Conference a success. I also want to encourage everyone to attend our bi-monthly meetings/workshops and P2P Meetings, this is where you gain so much knowledge in advocating for your child. Our children deserve informed parents and part of DSACO's mission is to make that possible...*

Sincerely,

*Lori Wathen*

President

Down Syndrome Association of  
Central Oklahoma

# WELCOME

## New DSACO Board Members

At the February board meeting the Board of Directors voted in three new "community" board members. They are Joe McFarland, Stuart Meyer and Brown Douglas. All three have been actively involved with DSACO in some form or active in the disabilities community. Their experience, community contacts and dedication to our organization make them excellent choices to help guide DSACO into the future, please welcome them to our organization.

Lori Wathen  
President



## Parent to Parent

supporting all parents

DSACO offers regular Parent to Parent 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 families, friends and caregivers of those with Down syndrome an opportunity to share experiences while creating new and lasting friendships.

### SOUTH MEETING

**March 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** at First Baptist Church of Moore (135 & NE 27th Street in Moore). TOPIC: DS Conference. 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 Melissa Smith at [p2psouth@dsaco.org](mailto:p2psouth@dsaco.org) or 405-378-2577.

NOTE: If you don't get email announcements about P2P South but would like to, contact Melissa (see above for contact information).

### NORTH MEETING

**March 14, 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 March 8). Contact Cindy Gould at 405-620-7501  
[p2pnorth@dsaco.org](mailto:p2pnorth@dsaco.org).

### STILLWATER MEETING

**April 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at Zion Lutheran Church, 504 S Knoblock (enter at far Northeast door). TOPIC: TBD. Contact Jeanita Kearns-Shook at 405-372-5680 or Shelly Sitton at 405-641-0302.

### HISPANIC P2P MEETING

**March 17th 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.** at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 2440 SW 55th Street, Oklahoma City. If you have questions please call Cathy Cardenas (405) 635-1557/Olga Deloera (405) 692-6156 or email [p2phispanic@dsaco.org](mailto:p2phispanic@dsaco.org).

### 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 martes de cada mes. La Siguiente reunión será: **el martes, 17 de Marzo de 2009** 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: Cathy Cardenas (405) 819-8963/email at [p2phispanic@dsaco.org](mailto:p2phispanic@dsaco.org).

## Save the Date!

### **Inclusive Education** **By: Dr. Patrick Schwartz** Bi-Monthly Workshop

Where: JD McCarty Center  
2002 E. Robinson St, Norman OK  
When: Saturday, May 2, 2009 - 8am - 4pm

In this workshop, rationales for inclusive education will be examined, planning processes will be delineated and tools, such as IEP at a glance, will be illustrated. Instructional strategies, such as differentiation and accommodation will be outlined and applied. Applications will assist participants to consider their own children, students and classroom learning situations in creating individual support plans. *More information will be coming soon about this workshop. Because it is an all day workshop, you must register to attend and there will be no childcare available.*

### **Did You Know...**

DSACO has a group on YAHOO!  
Interact with other's who face the same joys and struggles as you!  
Go to <http://www.dsaco.org/yahogroup.html>  
to sign up.  
You'll be glad you did!

## **2nd Annual Family Leadership Conference**

The second annual Family Leadership Conference, *Joining Forces: Supporting Family/Professional Partnerships*, is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Springlake Campus of Metro Technology Centers, 1900 Springlake Drive, Oklahoma City, OK. The conference will carry on with its original purpose, to provide leadership skills and opportunities to promote family/professional partnerships throughout Oklahoma. However, this year the conference will focus on the importance of volunteerism in a global way. It is not just about advocating for those with disabilities and special needs, but becoming involved in our communities. Keynote speakers are Ann Felton, Chairman/CEO, Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity, and Nancy DiVenere, Executive Director, Parent to Parent USA, National Technical Assistance Center for Parent-to-Parent Networks. The conference is a collaboration among families and professionals representing various state and local organizations including the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD, the Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Areawide Services Information System (OASIS), the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, the Oklahoma Family Network (OFN), the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Oklahoma LEND, the Oklahoma Parents Center, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the Oklahoma State Department of Health Title V, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, SoonerSUCCESS, and the Oklahoma Infant Transition Program. For more information or to register, call OFN at 1-800-871-5072 or 405-271-4072.

## **2009 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, 2009.

Please mail the attached 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 [joyj@mustangps.org](mailto:joyj@mustangps.org)

Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma  
2009 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award  
Nomination Form

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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 Central Oklahoma 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, 2009**. 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 (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Return form and all supporting documentation to: Jennifer Joy, 116 Bellgate Drive, Yukon, Oklahoma 73099 by **March 31, 2009**. Questions?: Contact Jennifer at 324-6930 or [joyj@mustangps.org](mailto:joyj@mustangps.org)

## On the Road Family Perspective Conferences

Coming:

Tuesday, March 10, 2009 In Enid  
Tuesday, March 31, 2009 In Shawnee

For More Information about these FREE conferences:  
Scroll down at the following website to get more information on these and other upcoming events: <http://oasis.ouhsc.edu/uce.htm>

## Building Relationships to Create Successful Change Conference

When: March 24, 2009  
Where: Hilton Tulsa Southern Hills  
7900 South Lewis Avenue  
Hosted by: Oklahoma Parents Center, Inc. in conjunction with the Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Featuring: Nationally Known Speakers: Chris Burke, Barry Weinhold and Sara Helena Vazquez  
Oklahoma Favorites: Misty Kimbrough, JoAnne Blades, Jan Moss and Sharron House

For More Information contact: 405-379-6015, 405-379-2108 or email: [info@oklahomaparentscenter.org](mailto:info@oklahomaparentscenter.org)

## Bountiful Blessings Calendar Update

The 2010 *Bountiful Blessings* Calendar is underway. Congratulations to those who have been chosen to be in the next Bountiful Blessings Calendar! Photography Shoots started in January. Thank you to all who participated. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me: Rachel Thomas, Calendar Committee Co-Chair, at 405-471-4848 or [laughingranch@yahoo.com](mailto:laughingranch@yahoo.com)



## 5th Annual "Jacob's Buddies" Golf Tournament

The 5th Annual "Jacob's Buddies" Golf Tournament is scheduled on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at the Cimarron National Golf Club in Guthrie, OK. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. with a Shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. The registration fee is \$75 per person and includes the Green Fee, Range Golf Towel and Lunch. Mulligans are \$5 each (two per player maximum). If you would like to be a Hole Sponsor, it is \$100. A sign will be displayed on the course the day of the tournament. You will have a chance to win a vehicle from Marc Heitz Chevrolet for a Hole in One. We will have great raffle prizes, including golf clubs, golf bags, pull cart, a television and MUCH, MUCH more. Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams, as well as the Longest Drive and Closest to the pin.

Come join us for a fun day to benefit the Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma. Pictures from last year's event as well as the sponsor and registration forms are available on the DSACO web site, [www.dsaco.org](http://www.dsaco.org). If you have any questions, please contact Marie Brooks at (405) 366-1198 or visit DSACO web site.



## Oklahoma Sibshops

Oklahoma Sibshops – Workshops for brothers and sisters of children with disabilities and special health care needs, started in October 2007 and are going strong.

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.

It's not too late to register your sibling. If you are interested in registering your child or would like more information, please contact Sandra Kirkpatrick at 405-691-2928 or [bandwsmom@yahoo.com](mailto:bandwsmom@yahoo.com).

**Ages 10-13** - 10:00-2:00 pm  
March 7, 2009  
May 2, 2009

**Ages 6-9** - 10:30 am - 1:30 pm  
April 4, 2009

# DSACO NDSC Conference Assistance Application Guidelines

## Eligibility:

Conference assistance applicants:

Must have Down syndrome or be an immediate family member such as parent, sibling, grandparent or legal guardian of a person(s) with Down syndrome. Self-advocates must be 18 or older and an adult must accompany them to the conference.

Must live within the DSACO outreach area (see map on page 9)

\*Priority goes to first-time applicants and those who have never received DSACO conference assistance

May submit multiple applications per family; however, no more than one conference assistance will be awarded per family

Must sign and agree to consent form located at the bottom of the application to be considered. Under certain circumstances, if the assistance recipient withdraws, he/she will be required to repay the conference assistance amount received.

Must make a presentation about the conference by one or more of the following within 150 days of returning from conference

- DSACO newsletter
- DSACO P2P meeting
- DSACO Planning meeting

Note:

All funds will be paid directly to the conference assistance recipient no later than August 31, 2009

Failure of the conference assistance recipient to comply with the policies governing this conference assistance may be grounds for denial of any future consideration by DSACO for any of its programs.

Selection process may require an interview

Family Conference Assistance -- to qualify for the family conference assistance, two family members MUST be registered and attending and enrolled in the conference such as parents, siblings, self-advocates, guardians, etc.

Conference assistance recipients will be notified by phone, email or mail no later than April 30, 2009. Applicants are responsible for coordinating and registering all travel plans related to this conference. Other terms and conditions may apply.

**Deadline:** Application must be postmarked by March 31, 2009

Please Remit Applications to: DSACO, Attn: Conference Assistance Committee, PO Box 892592, Oklahoma City, OK 73189-2592

For additional information regarding conference assistance, please contact Becky Moore at 405-372-0883 or [mooreorless616@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mooreorless616@sbcglobal.net). Applications will be available in the near future on the DSACO website, [www.dsaco.org](http://www.dsaco.org).

For additional information regarding the conference, please refer all questions to National Down Syndrome Congress Convention in Sacramento, CA, by calling toll free: 1-800.232.NDSC (6372) or via email at [info@ndscenter.org](mailto:info@ndscenter.org) or visit the website at [www.ndsc.org](http://www.ndsc.org).

## DSACO NDSC Convention Conference Assistance Application

DSACO is offering conference assistance for expenses (see DSACO NDSC Conference Assistance Application Guidelines) involved in attending 2009 National Down Syndrome Congress Convention in Sacramento, CA, on July 31 - August 2, 2009.

**Deadline: Application must be postmarked by March 31, 2009**

**Please send applications to: DSACO, Attn: Conference Assistance Committee, PO Box 892592, OKC, OK 73189-2592**

### **Please Print or Type**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to person with Down syndrome \_\_\_\_\_

Additional persons or family members who will be accompanying you to the conference

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to person with Down syndrome \_\_\_\_\_

Additional persons or family members who will be accompanying you to the conference

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to person with Down syndrome \_\_\_\_\_

Additional persons or family members who will be accompanying you to the conference

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to person with Down syndrome \_\_\_\_\_

Additional persons or family members who will be accompanying you to the conference

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to person with Down syndrome \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Assistance Types – Individual (\$1500) Family(\$2000) Self-Advocate\*(\$1500) \* Self-advocates must be 18 or older and an adult must accompany them to the conference.

List Preferred Conference Assistance type \_\_\_\_\_

List other Conference Assistance types you will accept \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Note: approximately 10 conference assistances will be awarded**

How do you prefer to make a presentation upon returning from NDSC Convention?

Circle one: DSACO Newsletter    P2P meeting    DSACO planning meeting

**Self-Advocates- Skip to question #8**



# DSACO NDSC Convention Conference Assistance Application Continued

What grade are you?

Where do you go to school?

What is your favorite subject or activity at school?

## 10) JOB

Do you have a job?

If no, go to question #11

Where do you work?

What do you do at work?

What is your favorite thing about your job?

## 11) CONFERENCE

Why do you want to attend the conference?

**CONSENT FORM -- Must be signed to be considered for conference assistance.**

**I understand that funds may be paid to me in advance of my conference attendance. I agree that in the event I (we) do not attend the conference, I (we) will repay any amount paid to me.**

Signed (applicant) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Down Syndrome Association of Central OK - Outreach Area

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma's (DSACO) goal is to raise awareness about Down syndrome in our community and provide resources for support and education to families of children with Down syndrome. DSACO's outreach area is central and western Oklahoma. The border line for the geographic area is the eastern most county line for Kay, Pawnee, Payne, Lincoln, Seminole, Pontotoc, Coal, Atoka, and Bryan Counties.

The following geographic boundaries were established in January 2004 for purposes of administering scholarships, grants, etc.





# DSACO Calendar of Events

## MARCH

- 7 Down Syndrome Conference-OKC
- 7 Sibshops (10-13 yrs)
- 14 P2P North
- 17 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal
- 17 P2P Hispanic

## APRIL

- 4 Easter Estravaganza/Sibshops (6-9 yrs)
- 9 Chapter Board/Planning Meeting
- 11 P2P North
- 16 P2P Stillwater
- 18 Jacob Buddies Golf Tournament
- 21 P2P Hispanic
- 21 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal

## MAY

- 2 Bi-Monthly Meeting-Inclusive Education
- 2 Sibshops (10-13 yrs)
- 9 P2P North
- 19 P2P Hispanic
- 19 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal
- 21 P2P Stillwater

## JUNE

- 11 Chapter Board/Planning Meeting
- 13 P2P North
- 16 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal
- 16 P2P Hispanic
- 18 P2P Stillwater

## JULY

- 11 Bi-Monthly Meeting-Talk Tools
- 16 P2P Stillwater
- 21 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler
- 19 P2P Hispanic
- 31 National Down Syndrome Congress Sacramento CA

## AUGUST

- 8 P2P North
- 13 Chapter Board/Planning Meeting
- 18 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler
- 20 P2P Stillwater

## SEPTEMBER

- 15 DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler
- 19 Buddy Walk-AT&T Ballpark
- 22 P2P Hispanic

## OCTOBER

- 8 Chapter Board/Planning Meeting
- 10 P2P North
- 15 P2P Stillwater
- 20 P2P Hispanic
- 20 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler
- 24 Teen/Adult Halloween Party

## NOVEMBER

- 14 Bi-Monthly Meeting-Buddy Walk Awards
- 17 P2P Hispanic
- 17 P2P South/DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler
- 19 P2P Stillwater

## DECEMBER

- 5 "Deck the Halls" with DSACO Annual Christmas Party
- 10 Chapter Board/Planning Meeting
- 12 P2P North
- 15 DSACO DAY at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler

**(Dates are subject to change.)**



PO BOX 892592  
Oklahoma City, OK 73189-

[www.dsaco.org](http://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](mailto:dsaconews@sbcglobal.net).