

DSAM insights

quarterly newsletter to support persons with Down syndrome and their families



Let's Hear it for the 2008 Buddy Walk!

The Down Syndrome Association of Memphis and the Mid-South asked you to help us make some noise and you did! The 11th Annual Buddy Walk of the Mid-South was held at the Memphis Botanic Garden on October 19th with over 4,200 people in attendance! Celebration sounds could be heard throughout the garden as friends, families, and community leaders came out to show their support for people with Down syndrome. The beautiful weather, tireless volunteers, and incredible team and individual participation all came together to make this year's Buddy Walk a wonderful success!

This year, over \$130,000 was raised through individual donations, registration fees and corporate sponsorships. These funds allow us to support the local community by providing information to families with newborns diagnosed with Down syndrome, conduct educational seminars and workshops, host social events, publish quarterly newsletters, and provide resource information and materials to teachers and medical professionals. Money raised also helps us to sponsor national-based education, research and advocacy initiatives. It is our mission to support and empower people with Down syndrome and their families, and contributions raised through the Buddy Walk help us in meeting this commitment.

The Main Stage provided an opportunity for the community to see performances by Company d and Jr. Company d, the DSAM-sponsored performing arts troupes, as well as Madonna Learning Center Group 2, Elizabeth Ann Neel, Tim McNatt, John T. Farley and the Kids on the Block Puppet Show, all presented by Masters of Ceremonies Channel 3's Jim Jagers and Kim 98.9 FM's Tom Prestigiacomo. Shelby County Mayor A. C. Wharton was also on hand to participate and show support. The Imagine the PossABILITIES tent was an incredible display of individuals with Down syndrome in our community and our Marketplace was full of DSAM goodies to purchase along with items on display for the Fishbowl Auction with the winner's tickets selected as soon as the walk kicked off.

Thank you... to all of our Sponsors, our dedicated Buddy Walk Committee, and our volunteers that help us to meet our goals with your donations and input of time and effort. We look forward to seeing you for the 12th Annual Buddy Walk in 2009!

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2008 Buddy Walk Sponsors



buddy walk

2008

Awards & Prizes

Largest Team Individual/Family Division

1st place

Team: Morgan's Hope
Team Captain: Morgan Tibbens

2nd place

Team: Libby's Team
Team Captain: Casey Brown

Largest Team Adult/Corporate/Civic Division

1st place

Team: West Tennessee Family Solutions
Team Captain: Mary Claire Giffin

2nd place

Team: Company D Dancers
Team Captain: Debra Saharovich

Largest Team School/Youth Division

1st place

Team: Madonna Marchers
Team Captain: Julie Olsen

2nd place

Team: Germantown Interact Club
Team Captain: Debbie Follis

Most pledge dollars raised

1st place

William's Wanderers, team captain Andy Mouhot
Andy won a trip to Orange Lake Resort in Kissimmee Florida, compliments of the Kemmons WILSON Companies.

2nd place

Keith Greenwald
Keith Greenwald won two AirTran Airways tickets.

Self-Advocate 1st place

Emily Bowlan
Emily won a limo ride and pizza party for herself and her friends.

Buddy Walk Spirit Award

Team: Alaiya's Allstars
Team Captain: Patsy Dugger



Thank You

The DSAM wants to say a big **THANK YOU** to everybody who participated in this year's Buddy Walk and everyone who helped to make this event happen.

We also want to thank all educators, administrators, public officials and professionals who made it a priority to attend the Buddy Walk. It means a lot to our families and us that you were there to support our efforts.

Mind Your Manners

The programs and outreach efforts of the Down Syndrome Association of the Mid-South are dependent on the funds raised through the Buddy Walk. Without these funds and the partnerships we build through this event, we would be unable to provide support to families. Fundraising experts say that a person should be thanked seven times for a gift. Will you help us in saying thanks by voicing your thanks to the many corporate sponsors and in-kind donors when you visit their establishment? And, if you'd like to drop them a note, that would mean a lot, too. DSAM is "our" organization. We are "all in this together" and it will take all of us to continue to show the community the ABILITIES of individuals with Down syndrome! Thank you for helping by "minding your manners".



Lori M. Siegal Partners in Progress Award

Five years ago the Down Syndrome Association of Memphis & the Mid-South (DSAM) created the Partners in Progress Award as a way to honor individuals, businesses or organizations that show exceptional efforts in promoting the inclusion and acceptance of individuals with Down syndrome.

In 2006 the award was given a new name to honor and celebrate the life on Lori M. Siegal, a one of a kind young woman with Down syndrome and an outstanding self-advocate who died in November 2005 of complications from heart failure.



Lori M. Siegal

Lori was the first self-advocate elected to the DSAM board of directors. She also served as Co-chair for the 2005 Buddy Walk. She was an outspoken advocate for those with Down syndrome.

This year, Sheila Siegal, Lori's mother, presented the award to International Paper. International Paper's support has opened doors and created long-term impact opportunities for the DSAM. This partnership has allowed more dollars to meet the needs of families because of the in-kind donations. The overall impact of International Paper's investment in DSAM is almost immeasurable. This partnership defines progress. It shows how a corporate entity supports employees and their values. For all of this, International Paper is deserving of this award.

This year DSAM also received four other deserving nominations:

- Ms. Patricia Harris nominated by Becky Halvorson
- Ms. Joy McDaniels nominated by Julie Olsen
- Ms. Jo Gilbert nominated by Melissa Wenger
- Ms. Monica Bowie nominated by Cisely Craft



SPONSORS

SUPPORTING

Cottonwood Office Park
Nahon Saharovich & Trotz, PLC
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EVENT

Entira
Harrah's Entertainment
International Paper
Kroger
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Speak Creative
Terminix
The Brat

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Memphis Botanic Garden
Memphis Grizzlies
Memphis Parnet/Flyer
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Strategic Financial Partners, Mark Loftis
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Gould's
Harrah's Entertainment
Heinz
Huey's
InnerWorkings
Kemmons WILSON Companies
King Cotton
Little Caesar's Pizza
McDonald's
Memphis Botanic Garden
Memphis Sound
Memphis Zoo
MemphisRedbirds
Mississippi RiverKings
nexAir
Peabody Hotel Group
Pfizer
Pink Palace
Playhouse on the Square
Pump It Up
Quail Ridge Golf Course
Red Rock Tavern
Rich-Way Landscape
Schnuck Markets, Inc.

buddy walk

2008

Spaghetti Warehouse
Target Cordova
Tennessee Titans
The Little Gym
The Memphis Grizzlies
The Orpheum
The Rendezvous
Total Concept Graphics
Turner Dairy
US Foods
Wedgewood Golf Pro Shop
Wendy's, Valenti Management
Wild Oats
Wild River Country
Wray's Fins & Feathers

PRESENTING MEDIA

Memphis Radio Group (98.1,
98.9, 103.5, 105.9)

SPECIAL THANKS

Jay Adkins
Kameron and Alex Beloch
Greg Cravens
Marie Dodson
Larry Dodson
Aaron Edwards

John T. Farley
Abby and Hunter Goldberg
Josh Hall
Jessica Hall
Ben Halvorson
Jim Jagers
Jeff Laird
Nancy McGee
Tim McNatt
Elizabeth Ann Neel
Brad Payne
Mills Polatty
Adrian Salem
Bruce Siegal
Jesse Smart
Jamie Tillman
Jamison Totten
Pat Vescovo
Darlene Winters
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De Witt Wright
Buddy Walk Shirt Rollers
Buddy Walk Goody Bag Stuffers
Buddy Walk Photographers
Company D
American Buddies
Kook

Brim's Car Team
CK's Coffee Shop
Collierville Screen Print
Cottonwood Office Park
International Paper Print Shop
Kids On the Block Puppet Group
Memphis Botain Garden
Education Department
Rocky Redbird
Sheldon and RiverThing
Shriner Clowns
Volunteer Memphis
Shirt Pick Up Volunteers
FedEx Services
Self-Advocate Invitation Writers
Buddy Walk Brochure Mailing Helpers
BA Framer
Crown Trophy
Budget Truck Rental
Madonna Learning Center
Corky's
Tutti Fruitti
Golden Retriever Rescue
Memphis Fire Department

ALL VOLUNTEERS AND MEDIA CONTACTS

2008 Buddy Walk Committee

Carol Baucum	Denise Martin
Amanda Cash	Jennifer Miller
Ann Marie Easton	Molly Polatty
John T. Farley	Lauren Powers
Chris Ferris	Ginna Rauls
Laura Flores	Cynthia Salem
Aggie Fratta	Sheila Siegal
Mary Claire Giffin	Katie Siegal
Betty Handwerker	Kaye Stricklin
Laurie Hobson	Shelley Wann
Martine Hobson	Melissa Wenger
Laurie Hobson	Candy Wolf

Down Syndrome Association of Memphis & the Mid-South Board of Directors and Staff

Mike Karst, Board President	Lauren Powers
Mark Olivito, Board Vice President	Mark Price
Martine Hobson, Board Secretary	Nina Staples
Joel Halvorson, Board Treasurer	Chris Stewart
Aggie Coughlin-Fratta	Alyson Edwards, Interim Executive Director
Larry Dodson	Kelli Polatty, Communications Manager
Michael Freeman	Kristen DeLuca, Administrative Assistant
Jack Harmeier, Self Advocate	
Sonya Oliver	

buddy walk

2008

Why We Buddy Walk...

The experience that we received at the Buddy Walk was one that we will never forget. Last year we attended the walk and there was only about 6 of us there, this year there were about 70 of us. It was exciting to see how organized and committed the DSA of Memphis is to this cause. Throughout the whole process from start to finish it was a great experience. Alaiya Renee Dugger has touched so many hearts in her 3 short years on this earth and we can't imagine life without her. Everyone that came to the Buddy Walk to support Alaiya expressed how much fun and joy they experienced while there. They are still talking about it weeks after it's over. We are starting to plan for next year's walk and hope that it will be as exciting and successful as this past one. We can't wait to show our love and support for Alaiya and others next year.

Rickey and LaDeitra Dugger



West Tennessee Family Solutions (WTFS) has greatly enjoyed being a part of the Buddy Walk for the past four years. It is an event we all look forward to participating in as an agency and as individuals. Each summer we begin preparing in hopes of winning the "Largest Civic/Corporate Group" team award. We are proud to be the recipient of this title every year we have participated.

It is not the title itself that makes us proud; it is seeing the support of our friends, family, and neighbors that truly gives us a sense of accomplishment. On the day of the Buddy Walk, we see our individuals, our staff, and our families all walking together as a team supporting the mission of WTFS and the Down Syndrome Association of the Mid-South. We were 248 members strong this year, a 67 member jump from 181 last year, and plan to keep growing.

The Buddy Walk is such an amazing event that brings awareness to so many people about Down syndrome and other disabilities. We at WTFS cherish our relationship with DSAM and look forward to building upon that relationship in the coming years. See you next year!

Mary Claire Giffin



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Shelby County School Occupational and Physical therapists joined forces as Team "TheraTroopers" to participate in the 11th annual Buddy Walk of the Mid-South on Sunday, October 19, 2008. Team members included PTs Jan Bell, Ellen Barry, and Louise Newman and OTs Emily Smith, Lauren Woods, Karen Coulter, and Rita Holland. It was a great day in the park as we visited and walked with our families, friends, and many Shelby County students and coworkers. Several therapists even walked an additional mile before going home for the day! Even though some therapists have "buddy walked" in past years, we were delighted to raise just under \$400.00 for DSA of Memphis & the Mid-South in our first year as a team. We look forward to adding more folks to the team next year, raising even more money for a very worthy cause, and enjoying another beautiful day at the Botanic Gardens with a lot of beautiful people!

Jan Bell, PT, Department of Exceptional Children, Shelby County Schools



North MS Down Syndrome Awareness Picnic

Over 200 people gathered at the 4th Annual North Mississippi Down syndrome awareness picnic on September 6th in Southaven to celebrate the abilities of people with Down syndrome. Nineteen year old Jessica Smart, a senior at Lewisburg High School, started things off with the welcome and opening prayer. Dr. Edith Robinson, Deputy Superintendent, spoke on behalf of Desoto County Schools and Representative Wanda Jennings spoke on behalf of the MS House of Representatives. Local mayors Greg Davis (Southaven), Donnie White on behalf of Nat Baker (Horn Lake), Chip Johnson (Hernando) and Sam Rikard (Olive Branch) then proclaimed October as Down syndrome awareness month. Everyone enjoyed a day of music, food, fun and fellowship that emphasized the DSAM's goal of promoting community awareness and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

A big THANK YOU goes out to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make this year's picnic a success! The picnic would not be possible without the teamwork of many people! The DSAM wants to thank all educators, school administrators, public officials and professionals who made it a priority to attend the picnic. It means a lot to our families that you were there to support the efforts of the DSAM.

Special thanks to individuals, businesses, and organizations whose donations and volunteers made the picnic possible:

AAA Chiropractic Clinic, Bruster's Real Ice Cream, Buffalo Wild Wings Bar & Grill, Chadd Allen, Chick-Fil-A, Church Road Baptist Church, CiCi's Pizza, City of Horn Lake, Colton's, Crossroads Baptist Church, Crystal Springs, Domino's Pizza, Don Miller, Evan's Café, Federal Express / Gate Gourmet, Fun 4 Kids Rentals, Goodman Oaks Church of Christ, Kroger -Horn Lake, Kroger-Stateline, Kroger-Getwell & Goodman, McAlister's Deli, Mickey Gist and the Bucket T Club, Movie Gallery, Newk's Express Café, O'Charley's, Old Style Bar-B-Q, Olive Branch Catfish Company, On the Border Mexican Grill, Party Lite Gifts, Red Lobster, Renasant Bank, Sam's Club, Southaven Fire Department, Starbuck's, Steak Escape-Hernando, Strike Zone Bowling Lanes, Target, Texas Roadhouse, Tractor Supply Company, Wal-Mart-Hernando, Wal-Mart-Olive Branch, Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market-Horn Lake and Zaxby's.



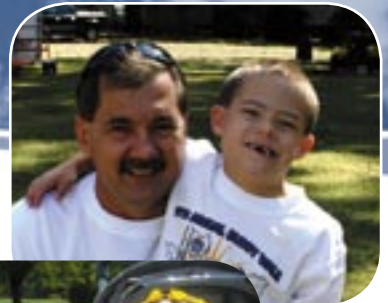
Help Wanted

The 2009 Buddy Walk Needs You!

As the Buddy Walk continues to grow and impact our community, it also needs more volunteers. This is the largest disability awareness event in the Mid-South and we have several opportunities for anyone who wants to take a leadership role in the following areas:

- Volunteers
- Public Relations
- Imagine the possABILITIES
- Entertainment/Stage
- Team Recruitment
- Children's area
- Registration

For more information contact Alyson Edwards at dsamevents@bellsouth.net or call 901-547-7588



Down Syndrome Association of the Mid-South: Supporting & Empowering People with Down Syndrome and Their Families

Proceeds from the Buddy Walk help DSAM to fulfill its mission through

- Regular newsletters
- Conference stipends
- Information for families with newborn babies diagnosed with Down syndrome
- Educational seminars
- Social events
- Advocating for the rights of individuals with Down syndrome
- Support services for families
- Website
- Leadership and Volunteer Development
- Staff and maintain office



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