

# Keeping Up With Downs

Volume 5, Issue 3, July 2003

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[www.dsasa.org](http://www.dsasa.org)

## A Letter from the President...

Dear DSA Friends and Families,

I would like to introduce to you our new staff secretary, Alice Gomez. We hired Alice to help in our new DSA office. She has already been a tremendous help in just the few months she has been here. Alice not only has a professional



office background, she also has a 40-year-old sister with Down syndrome. Alice's primary job is to help keep up with the mail, email and phone calls. She also assists with mailing our information packets and brochures. She is a wonderful asset to our organization and we are excited to have her on our team!

Just to give you an idea of what the DSA has accomplished these last 6 months...

- We have hosted over 32 events for families and their children with DS

- Together, we've reached over 1600 people through these events and our quarterly newsletter
- We've touched the lives of over 100 kids with Down syndrome!

Of course, these programs do not come without a cost. The Down Syndrome Association is not a government-funded organization. We rely completely on individuals like you for donations to keep things running smoothly. We are grateful for your support and hope you will consider a financial gift to the DSA to help us meet the \$10,000 Challenge so that we may continue to make a significant impact throughout the San Antonio and surrounding communities.

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers! You are the heart of this organization and we could not make it without you.

Your Friend and President,  
*Maria Hey*

## Prayers~~Announcements



Collin William Stanush, son of David and Shannon, turned a year old on May 15, 2003. Happy Birthday, Collin!

John James Monteverdi, son of Jon and Terri, will turn 3 on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday, John! Also, congratulations on the birth of their son Jeremiah on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Jacob and John James are very excited to have a new baby brother!

Congratulations to Briana Troy, daughter of Mike and Janice. Briana



was chosen one of two children nationwide to attend a photo shoot for Toys R Us with John Ritter in Malibu, CA. The winner will appear on the cover of the Toys R Us catalog for differently-abled children due out in September.

## Meet Johnny...



Hi! My name is Johnny Campos. I am 10 years old and I have the best mom and dad ever. My parents found out that I had Down syndrome about 2 hours after I was born. The doctor told them that I would be just fine, but it would just take me longer to reach certain milestones than other kids as I grew

up. At first, they were saddened by the news, but I showed them! I was soon smiling and laughing and bringing a lot of joy to their lives. In turn, they have given me everything a boy could want: a loving home, a good education, and most of all, unconditional love and support.

For the first 3 weeks, I spent my days and nights in the NICU. My breathing had to be stabilized and I had to eat enough to get my weight up so that I could go home. So everyday and night Mom and Dad were there by my side, talking to me, feeding me, taking care of me, praying over me. Then when I went home, they had to feed me through a feeding tube for several weeks before I finally learn how to drink from a bottle all on my own.

Slowly, I began to scoot around and get into things. Finally, when I was 1 year old, I began crawling and getting into all kinds of mischief. Then when I was 2 years old, I took my first step and I have been non-stop ever since!

Now they have great joy in who I am and who I have become. In fact, because of the connections we have made with other families with special needs children, my parents have been saved and are walking with Jesus and showing all their children how to do the same.

Speaking of my siblings, I have three little brothers and one beautiful baby sister. We play together all day everyday. I help around the house and with the babies sometimes. But most of all, I like watching videos and listening to music on my CD player. I especially like listening to and singing along to songs from our church. That's the best music ever! I also like playing basketball and I used to play soccer for 2 years. Mom says playing sports will keep me in good shape.

When I was 6 months old, I started going to the Brighton School where everyone was so helpful and very nice. Then, at age 3 until last year, I went to a Montessori school. I learned so much there and really

miss going to that school. Now I go to public school during the year and spend some time in a regular class and some time in a class all by myself developing my speech skills.

Sure, things were tough at first on mom and dad when this was all brand new, but we were so blessed for 7 years to have Grandma in my life. She would take care of me to give Mom and Dad a break. She would pick me up and take me to McDonald's. I enjoyed riding in her car and playing at her house. But most of all I enjoyed the unconditional love I felt from her. Grandma really fell in love with me and was such a special part of my life until she went to be with Jesus three years ago.

Now we get our support from this organization (Down Syndrome Association). They have picnics, get togethers, parties, and we get to see Santa every year at the big end-of-year party. We have met so many special families and have made many friends here. Our other support group is our church. The people there are so nice and have welcomed our entire family with open arms.



## Congratulations, Katy!



Katy Walding, 14 year-old incoming freshman at MacArthur High School, recently returned from participating in the Special Olympics World Games in Ireland. It was an awesome experience! Katy left San Antonio with five other athletes and one coach on June 15. They flew into Belfast for a few days of jet-lag recovery, team bonding, and last-minute

practices. The city of Belfast was the host city for all of Team USA. The people of the city greeted the athletes very warmly with amazing hospitality and a wonderful music gala to "set the stage" for the remainder of their Irish experience.

On June 20, everyone converged on Dublin, the site of

## Katy continued...

the Games. Family members, friends, and thousands of supporters from around the world joined the 7,000 athletes from 160 countries for ten days of adventure and competition. The Games began with a spectacular Opening Ceremony, featuring Nelson Mandela, Arnold Schwarzenegger, the band U2, a theatre troupe of which half its members have learning differences, and the largest Riverdance performance ever assembled (to name a few).

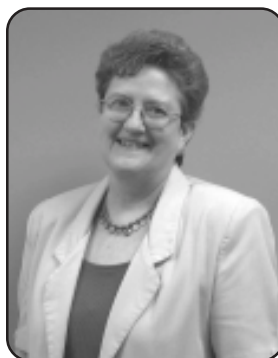
Thanks to the generous donations from literally hundreds of people throughout south Texas, Katy had her very own support group, Katy's Clan, consisting of her mom, dad, both grandmothers and one grandfather. Katy's family was paired with two different Irish families with whom they spent many hours. There were also several new Irish friends in the stands to watch her competition and cheer her on.

In addition to all the time spent in the competition venues, Katy had the opportunity to do a little sight-seeing around Belfast and Dublin - including the shipyard at which the Titanic was built, a medieval museum, and lots of shopping. She also spent time with her family on the days she was not competing. When asked what she liked best, she replied, "I liked the Riverdancing!" Perhaps the most incredible part was the people of Ireland. They were all so generous and hospitable. There did not seem to be anyone in the whole of Ireland who did not know of and help support these Games, the athletes, and their families with both time and money. The people of Ireland should be highly commended for accepting the challenge of sponsoring these Games and surpassing everyone's expectations.

The time passed all too fast. Closing Ceremony was the jewel in the crown for the athletes, coaches, and 30,000 volunteers. It took the form of an enormous dance and swap-meet where everything was traded with new friends - t-shirts, pins, hats, and other mementos of the incredible experience. And, on June 30, everyone packed their gear, bade farewell to new friends, and began the trek home.

Katy is a gymnast, and she competed in Women's Artistic Gymnastics. She performed very well, earning 3 medals and 2 ribbons. Her placements were: 1<sup>st</sup> - uneven parallel bars, 2<sup>nd</sup> - balance beam, 4<sup>th</sup> - floor exercise, 5<sup>th</sup> - vault, 3<sup>rd</sup> in All-Around. More important than the medals was that Katy did her best and had a wonderful time! All said and done, she had the experience of a lifetime and one that she will never forget!

## Board Member Highlight



The Down Syndrome Association welcomes **Barbara A.**

**Samfield, MA-CCC/SLP** to our Board of Directors. Barbara is the founding owner and director of the Speech & Language Center at Stone Oak. She specializes in the evaluation and treatment of: oral-motor dysfunction; language, auditory processing, and articulation

disorders; as well as, voice and learning disabilities. Her career spans over 25 years with experience in public and private schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and private practice. She has maintained her own private practice since 1996.

The **Speech & Language Center at Stone Oak** is a private practice facility that offers evaluation and treatment services for infants through adults. All Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP's) at the Center hold master's level degrees in their field, ASHA certification, and Texas state licensure in speech-language pathology. In addition to traditional services for many types of communication problems, SLP's at the Center offer specialized treatment for oral-motor dysfunction. Oral-motor dysfunction is commonly found in the Down syndrome population due to low muscle tone in the body. For the Down syndrome patient, oral-motor treatment should be an ongoing part of a comprehensive treatment program, beginning in infancy or early childhood. Services can be started at any age, however. The benefits of oral-motor treatment include increased muscle tone, strength, and function of the oral-facial muscles, which directly affect speech and eating/chewing skills.

Established in 1998, the Speech & Language Center at Stone Oak is located in north central suburban San Antonio, with offices in the Stone Oak Physicians Plaza, Building 1, at 19016 Stone Oak Parkway, Suite 260. Sessions are fee-for-service and scheduled by appointment. While many health insurances plans offer some type of coverage for these services, benefits and coverage vary from plan to plan. Staff at the Center is available to assist clients with questions about insurance.

For more information about the Speech & Language Center at Stone Oak, or if you have questions, please contact Barbara Samfield at (210) 495-9944.



## Informational~~Inspirational

### THE DAY COLLIN WAS BORN

By Shannon Stanush, DSA Member

We all could hardly wait,  
A baby on its way.  
The doctor says the time is near  
Sometime in the month of May.

Days go by and the time is here.  
Baby's ready to be born today.  
Sister's ready and happy too  
Cause brother's finally on his way!

The 15 of May two-thousand and two  
Collin has arrived, so tiny and small.  
A sweet baby with so much to share;  
Our life is complete — we have it all.

And then in a flash the news seemed so sad.  
It must be a dream, this wasn't the plan.  
Our perfect son—with Down Syndrome, you say?  
Dreams felt shattered and my thoughts just ran.

How will I love him? How will we play?  
What's happening to me? My heart has been torn.  
I feel like a part of me has just died.  
I'll just cry for now, just cry and mourn.

It's now been nearly a year since then.  
I can't believe how time does fly.  
A blessing in disguise was our tiny gift.  
Sometimes he makes me laugh till I cry.

But tears of sadness are no more  
For love and laughter consume our day.  
With smiles and giggles to brighten our life,  
We'll never be the same since that day in May.

Our eyes have been opened to so many things;  
If only we had known how great things would be.  
The world has so much to offer us all,  
Things we were much too busy to see.

But now our family of four is so grand.  
A Daughter and Son made to order from heaven!  
We have all we could ever want in this world,  
And we thank God for all that we've been given.

### KINETIC KIDS

Tracey Fontenot, P.T.

There is a new organization in San Antonio that is bringing exercise and fun to children with special needs!! Kinetic Kids was started by Kacey Wernli, P.T. and Tracey Fontenot, P.T. based on the belief that all children regardless of ability should have access to recreational, group, and individual exercise options to maximize each child's potential for movement. They feel exercise and involvement in sports-related activities are critical to all children's development. Kinetic Kids started with a t-ball season in 2001 in which approximately 10 kids participated. This year was their third year and there were about 22 participants. Since t-ball began, the requests from the parents for additional activities sparked the fire for Tracey and Kacey to expand and offer additional activities. Currently, Kinetic Kids is offering two gymnastics classes and two dance classes during the summer with plans to add more classes starting in January 2004. These classes and teams are for children of all ages and ability. The instructors and staff are therapists with good background in pediatric disabilities. Future plans include karate, yoga, swimming, as well as the t-ball, dance, and gymnastics, and hopefully many more. Carrie Valdez, member of Down Syndrome Association and mother of Noah Valdez, is the instructor for the gymnastics and she is doing a fabulous job with all the kids. If you are interested in being on the mailing list for this organization or would like additional information for these and future activities, please contact Tracey at 558-1364 [webepts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:webepts@sbcglobal.net) or call Kacey at 699-1307.



It's All Boys at the July Early Childhood Meeting!

## Educational Opportunities

### STONE OAK THERAPY SERVICES AND LEARNING INSTITUTE

Claudia Goswitz, M.Ed., M.A. CCC-SLP  
Director of Programs and Services



Parents of children with special needs have so many challenges to face. Among professional medical teams servicing children with special needs, I have more than once heard comments like "what does this mom expect? The child DOES have Down's (or Autism, C.P., etc.)". That sends shivers down my spine. I think there is a fine line between having realistic goals for our children and blaming everything on their disability. We need to have high expectations from them as we do of non-disabled children.

When I became a therapist, a long time before I became the parent of a child with special needs, I chose my job because I truly believed in the potential that all children have. As a true believer in children, I guess I did not understand why parents were so offended by labels such as mental retardation, because unless it's to a severe or profound degree, this just means that the child learns at a slower rate or in a very different way than the majority of children. *It does not mean that the child can not learn*, especially when it deals with early and essential life skills such as reading and having good functional math skills. I have seen children with mild mental retardation graduate from regular education high school programs. I have seen patients move from nonresponsive coma stage to eating, walking and talking again. I even remember treating a 12-year-old child who lost a third of his brain to trauma and was discharged with independent communication and feeding skills. Neurological research about brain plasticity keeps proving that, provided with early, frequent, consistent and intense practice, the brain can develop new pathways and absorb a tremendous amount of new information at any age. Sometimes motivation, family support, and meaningful life experiences go far beyond IQ level in determining a child's potential for success and happiness in life.

I feel very blessed by my son Alexander, who has transitioned from severe delays in communication, self-help, fine motor, social skills and behavioral problems significant enough to get him expelled from preschool, to an eager learner who enjoys reading and loves school.

I remember going to so many places and trying to "integrate" my son's activities so that everyone in all

areas would know his continuously changing needs. I remember not finding a place that could do what I wanted; therefore I ended up recruiting the right people and giving up my job to do what I felt my son really needed.

It is with this vision, that my husband (a healthcare administrator) and I decided to open **Stone Oak Therapy Services and Learning Institute**. We are proud to say that it is the very first and only center in San Antonio that offers interdisciplinary clinical and educational support services for children birth to twenty-one from a team that includes largely Master level specialists in Reading, Math, Special Education, Early Childhood Development, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology. Our goal is for this team to brainstorm regularly about each child and how to maximize every service they receive, whether it is educational such as "For the Love of Reading" for a child with Down syndrome, to clinical such as Physical Therapy and the demands of a regular P.E. class. In order to collaborate with the schools, all our educational programs mirror the Texas Essential Knowledge of Skills. We can also supplement ECI services with developmental programs for children birth to three at our center.

Our intake process may take at least two weeks before we schedule a consultation. We accept records of any clinical and educational testing that are less than a year old; however, the most significant input for program development and recommendations comes from the parents. We are located at 18587 Sigma Road near Ronald Reagan High School. Feel free to contact us at 798-CARE or [stoneoaktherapy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stoneoaktherapy@sbcglobal.net).

### 2003 NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME CONGRESS ANNUAL CONVENTION

August 22-24 Philadelphia, PA

Programs for Parents, Youth & Adults with DS, and Siblings. Workshop topics include Positive Behavior Support; Person-Centered Planning; Advocacy & Systems Change Including Legislation; Social Relationships; Employment; Living Options; Preschool, Transition, & Postsecondary Education; Health & Medical Concerns, Including Therapies. Complete convention information, including registration form is available online at [www.ndscenter.org](http://www.ndscenter.org) or by calling 1-800-232-NDSC.

## Special Events

### BUDDY WALK 2003

Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM  
The Alamodome



The 2003 Buddy Walk Committee is going full steam ahead! October 11th will be here before we know it! We have many wonderful people who have volunteered their precious time to either chair a sub-committee or serve on a sub-committee, **BUT WE NEED MANY, MANY MORE!** We want this year's Buddy Walk to be the best yet, but that won't happen if we don't have help! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and our only chance to get public exposure for the Down Syndrome Association and the Down syndrome community. This is something that is very important to all of us and we are committed to making it a great event! Whether it be pre-planning on a sub-committee or helping the day of the Buddy Walk, there are many areas for everyone to help. Listed below are the sub-committees along with the wonderful sub-committee chairpeople!

Registration - Janice Troy  
Public Relations - Barb Mullen/Esther Curnutt  
First Aid - Laura Iturriaga  
Volunteers - Debbie Albright  
Corporate Sponsorships - Maria Hey  
Photography - Gina Martinez  
Raffle - Shannon Stanush  
Incentives - Barb Mullen  
Dignitaries/Emcee - Jackie Guynes and Terri Blades  
Water and Ice - Polly Wyckoff  
T-shirts - Margaret Gutierrez  
Decorations - Mandy Herrera  
Communications - Polly Wyckoff  
Brochure - Maria Hey, Janice Troy, Debbie Albright  
Kids Activities/Entertainment - Shannon Stanush  
Food - Patty Cade  
DSA Booth - Needs Chairperson

If you are interested in participating on one of the committees, or if you want additional information regarding the committees or the Buddy Walk, please contact Terri Blades at 650-4923 or tblades7@aol.com. If you know of a school, group, or individuals that would like to volunteer their services the day of the Buddy Walk, please complete and return the enclosed volunteer registration form.

Be sure to look for the Buddy Walk Registration Brochure in the mail. At that time, you may pick up additional Registration Brochures for family and friends by calling the DSA office and arranging a time for pick up. The Buddy Walk Registration Brochure and the Volunteer Registration Form will be on line soon, so check out our website ([www.dsasa.org](http://www.dsasa.org)) for the most up-to-date information on the Buddy Walk!

Thank you to **FORESTERS** for their corporate sponsorship of the 2003 Buddy Walk! If you know of an organization that would like to sponsor the Buddy Walk, contact the DSA office at 349-4372 or [downsynassoc@aol.com](mailto:downsynassoc@aol.com).



This is a terrific time to show *your* support for individuals with Down syndrome, so make your signs, collect your pledges, gather your "Buddies" - family members, friends, school mates, coworkers - and we'll see you at the Buddy Walk!



#### "BE A PART OF THE INSPIRATION"

Don't forget to help us reach our Annual Appeal goal of \$10,000! The Annual Appeal and the Buddy Walk are the DSA's major fundraisers that allow us to provide our many terrific programs and services to the DSA membership.

#### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The goal of *Keeping Up With Downs* is to inform and inspire our members.

- We want to share with others the accomplishments of people with Down syndrome
- If you would like to highlight your child in our newsletter, we'd love to get to know you!
- We want to share information concerning activities or programs for parents and individuals with Down syndrome or other special needs.
- Is your child an aspiring writer, poet, or artist? We'd love to incorporate original writings or drawings by people with Down syndrome.

Please take the time to send a quick email or call Janice Troy with newsworthy information! I can be reached at 492-8986 or [jtroy1@satx.rr.com](mailto:jtroy1@satx.rr.com).

# Early Childhood

## EARLY CHILDHOOD MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings designed for parents of children ages birth to 5 years. The meetings will begin with insightful information from a guest speaker (6:30-7:30 pm) followed by an opportunity for parents to share experiences and concerns with others (7:30 - 8:30 pm). The meetings are held at Coker United Methodist Church, 231 E. North Loop Rd., south of Bitters off US 281N, in Room 801. **Childcare** is available at no cost; however **reservations are required** by calling 494-3455 x245 at least 48 hours in advance. Please leave detailed message. Out of respect for our speakers, please be prompt.

**Aug. 5** Speaker: Alamo Solutions

Topic: A presentation on government programs available to families of children with special needs. Discussion will include qualifications, paperwork, and waiting lists for these programs.

Snacks: Janice Troy

**Sept. 2** Speaker: Amy Patterson & Ron Roberts

Topic: Speakers from Brighton School will discuss major changes in benefits and legislation and what it means to us. Very important for those receiving ECI services.

**Oct. 7** Topic: A presentation on music therapy for children with Down syndrome.

## CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION FOR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL (C.A.M.P.)



Representatives spoke at the June Early Childhood meeting about Respite services. Some programs offered include: Respite Weekends - An opportunity for families to enjoy a weekend break from

around-the-clock care located at Camp C.A.M.P. near Kerrville. Nights Out Program - Childcare service provided on scheduled Friday nights for children with disabilities and their siblings. Teen's Night Out - A supervised social program one Friday per month for teens and young adults with developmental disabilities. For more information these and other programs available at C.A.M.P., please contact them at 210-292-3566 or visit their website at [www.camp-camp.org](http://www.camp-camp.org).

## SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS: WHO NEEDS THEM AND WHY

Mr. James Ross, Attorney at Law and CPA, hosted a discussion concerning special needs trusts at our May Early Childhood Meeting. His office is located at 7550 I.H. 10 West, Suite 760, San Antonio, Texas 78229. He can be contacted at (210) 349-7400.

Special needs trusts can be invaluable for individuals who are receiving government benefits like Medicaid or SSI. The value of this trust is that it can provide supplemental benefits to the individual without disqualifying the person from receiving governmental payments under programs which are income or need-based.

Ideally, special needs trusts cannot be set up by the qualifying individual; however, they can be set up for the qualifying individual by third parties, including a parent or parents, grandparents or others. The result is that not only will the qualifying individual receive all of his or her governmental payments, but there will be a reserve fund to provide for supplemental needs such as vacations, special items, and other needs not covered by governmental payments. It is not hard to see that the qualifying individual will be better provided for receiving both governmental payments and supplemental payments than receiving one or the other.

A special needs trust must be carefully structured in order to keep it from disqualifying the individual for governmental payments. Also, care must be exercised in naming the trustee because the trustee must always strictly comply with the terms of the trust agreement. This requires that the trustee keep abreast of all the Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SSI laws and regulations, which change regularly. Often, corporate trustees, like banks, are named the trustee. Because they administer a number of special needs trusts, they can assign one or more trust officers to keep track of all of the applicable rules, regulations, and information and administer the trust to accomplish the desired objective. Then, the trust is not only administered properly, but a huge burden may be removed from family members who would otherwise be asked to serve as trustee.

As one can readily see, through the use of a special needs trust carefully prepared by an attorney familiar with its creation and administered by a qualified trustee, the beneficiary can receive substantial additional benefits over what would be received if the individual had to use up his own assets first and then rely on governmental benefits.

## Playgroup

The Down Syndrome Association Playgroup is a weekly play time for children ages 0-3 and their parents. It is designed for children with Down syndrome or any special needs and their siblings. In August, the format will change to meeting once a month on Fridays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am and once a month on Saturdays at various sites so out-of-town and working families can attend. If you are interested in participating, contact Donna Nomad at 558-9416 or [dnomad@satx.rr.com](mailto:dnomad@satx.rr.com). Please be sure to call the host on the morning of playgroup for any last minute changes.

**Aug. 8** At the home of Diana Farmer, 10010 Silver Park 78254, 832-9238, 9:30 - 11:30 am

**Aug. 23** Children's Museum of New Braunfels  
386 W. San Antonio, 830-620-0939. Take I35N to Walnut St. exit. Turn left on Walnut. Turn right on San Antonio. The museum is on the left after the light. Meet at 10:30 am in front of the museum. The DSA will pay for the special needs child and their siblings. Let's eat at the mall afterward!

**Sept. 5** At the home of Renell Cox & Linda Rose Hidalgo, 4615 Gardendale Rd. Apt. 1503 78240, 320-4082, 9:30 - 11:30 am

**Sept. 20** San Antonio Zoo. We will be joining the Kid Connection Kids for this event. Meet outside the main gate at 9 am. Bring a sack lunch for a picnic in the park across from the train station at 11 am. We can even take a train ride after lunch! Admission: \$7 adults, \$5 children 3-12, free for children 2 & under. The DSA will pay the entrance fee for the special needs child and their siblings if at the entrance by 9 am.

**Oct. 10** At the home of Doina Cotae, 5727 Sage Hollow 78249, 558-3881, 9:30 - 11:30 am

## Kid Connection

The Down Syndrome Association Kid Connection is our bimonthly gathering designed for family social activities. We welcome all special needs children and their families! Keep an eye out for a reminder postcard with information about upcoming Kid Connection events. If you have any questions concerning the events, contact Patty Cade at 481-1386 or [patricia.cade@swri.org](mailto:patricia.cade@swri.org).

**Aug. 10** Let's Bowl! Brunswick Thousand Oaks, 4330 Thousand Oaks, 2 pm. The DSA will pay for the special needs child and their siblings. Please RSVP to Patty Cade at 481-1386 (h) or 522-5673 (w) or [patricia.cade@swri.org](mailto:patricia.cade@swri.org) no later than August 4th.

**Sept. 20** San Antonio Zoo. We will be joining the Playgroup families. Meet outside the main gate at 9 am. Bring a sack lunch for a picnic in the park across from the train station at 11 am. We can even take a train ride after lunch! Admission: \$7 adults, \$5 children 3-12, free for children 2 & under. The DSA will pay the entrance fee for the special needs child & their siblings if at the entrance by 9 am.

**Dec. 2** DSA Annual Christmas Party, 6:30 pm, Coker United Methodist Church Gym.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Down Syndrome Association Picnic was a HUGE hit this year! The Troy Family graciously opened up their home/yard for our yearly outdoor event. We had over 80 people attend from 1 week old on up to grandparents. There was something for everyone! The kids enjoyed the water slide, moon bounce and the never-ending supply of popcorn. From the littlest to the biggest, all enjoyed getting wet and having a ball. The face painter did a fabulous job transforming children into cats, dogs and Spurs fans. Thank you Patty Cade for organizing this event and Michael and Janice Troy for hosting it.

Hope to see as many of you as possible at our Kid Connection events! They are lots of fun and a great way to get to know each other!



## Contributions

We sincerely appreciate the following people who have so generously made donations to the DSA. Your contributions help to provide the variety of programs we offer our members.

### In Memory of Audrey Shockley:

Mr. & Mrs. John Albright  
Dwayne Wilkins & Lydia Beach  
Ms. Patricia Beard  
Mr. & Mrs. D. L. Biddison  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Boren  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Butler  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodolfo de Keratry  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Dickinson  
Mr. Peter & Dr. Susan Ellis  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Enderle  
Mr. & Mrs. James Farmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Guynes  
Mrs. Diana Harrington  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Harrington  
Drs. Pete & Maria Hey  
Mr. & Mrs. Shaun Kennedy  
Mr. Ben Leneave  
Ms. Madeline Lester  
Ms. Pati Rhodes

### In Memory of Audrey Shockley:

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rocha  
Mr. Conrad Rotenberry  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Slimpin  
Mr. Michael Stewart  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Walton  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Wyckoff  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ziemski

Office Equipment	Ed & Laura Iturriaga
Office Space & Equipment	Don Reneau
Office Space & Equipment	James Lambert
In Honor of Maria Hey	Dr. Walter Bain
In Honor of Olivia Iturriaga	Mr. & Mrs. Raphiel Benjamin
In Honor of Nevada Artz	Mr. & Mrs. Harvey L. Coy
In Honor of Dakota Carrillo	Ms. Susan Honeycutt
In Honor of Aydin Hernandez	Mr. & Mrs. Ori Rodriguez
In Honor of Briana Troy	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Taylor
In Honor of Zoe Nolivos	Ms. Teresa Trevino
In Honor of Jakob Curnutt	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Webb
In Memory of Richard Jaso	Mr. & Mrs. James Stephens
In Memory of Noah Valdez	Mr. Martin Valdez
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cotae	
Ms. Theresa Reininger	
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Spinner	

## Public Relations Information

### DSA BROCHURE

The new DSA Brochure is completed and it's beautiful! It describes all that our organization offers. We would like to distribute them to doctors' offices, therapists, schools, and others who may come in contact with families who have a child with Down syndrome. If you would like some brochures to take to these places, please contact our office at 349-4372 to arrange for pick up of the brochures.

### RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL!

We now have the capability of emailing you the quarterly newsletter. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email rather than "snail mail", please contact the DSA office at 349-4372 or [downsynassoc@aol.com](mailto:downsynassoc@aol.com). You will need to have Adobe Reader on your computer (which is a free download from the Adobe website at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)).

### WEBSITE PICTURES NEEDED!

The website is looking great; however, we would like to add a link for "pictures", so families who visit the site can see our beautiful children. If you have a special picture that you would like to submit, please contact the DSA office at 349-4372 or [downsynassoc@aol.com](mailto:downsynassoc@aol.com).

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We welcome articles from parents & professionals. Please send material for consideration to:

Janice Troy  
1707 Greystone Ridge  
San Antonio, TX 78258 or  
[jtroy1@satx.rr.com](mailto:jtroy1@satx.rr.com)

Our newsletter is mailed on a quarterly basis in January, April, July, and October. Please submit your information by the 1st of these months.

## Volunteer Corner

### EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

It has been wonderful to see our group growing. We are now trying to expand our services by offering educational workshops for our members and the community, as well. We are currently in the process of putting together our first educational workshop. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn and get involved. There are several positions to be filled in order to make this workshop a success:

- Workshop Coordinator
- Public Relations Coordinator

- Parent Representative: We need at least one parent from every school district in town to be a link/representative between your school district and our association.
- Administrative Coordinator: Organizes registration, packets, budgets, etc.
- Event Catering Coordinator: Organizes items such as food, drinks and accommodations.

If you are interested in becoming part of our committee, contact the DSA office at [downsynassoc@aol.com](mailto:downsynassoc@aol.com) or 349-4372. For further questions, contact Margaret Gutierrez at 479-2007 or [margaretgtz@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretgtz@hotmail.com).

## The Down Syndrome Association

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....	Maria Hey	545-6741	<a href="mailto:mariahey@aol.com">mariahey@aol.com</a>
Vice President.....	Terri Monteverdi	641-6163	<a href="mailto:terrimonteverdi@yahoo.com">terrimonteverdi@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer.....	Amy Hawkins	481-0018	<a href="mailto:rhawkinstx@aol.com">rhawkinstx@aol.com</a>
Secretary.....	Mercy Campos	433-3621	<a href="mailto:jr.mercy.campos@sbcglobal.net">jr.mercy.campos@sbcglobal.net</a>
Support & Socialization Chairman.....	Debbie Albright	657-7754	<a href="mailto:debbie.albright@scaniausainc.com">debbie.albright@scaniausainc.com</a>
Early Childhood Chairman.....	Terri Monteverdi	641-6163	<a href="mailto:terrimonteverdi@yahoo.com">terrimonteverdi@yahoo.com</a>
Playgroup Chairman.....	Donna Nomad	558-9416	<a href="mailto:dnomad@satx.rr.com">dnomad@satx.rr.com</a>
Caring & Sharing Chairman.....	Debbie Kennedy	492-4044	<a href="mailto:debken@satx.rr.com">debken@satx.rr.com</a>
Kid Connection Chairman.....	Patty Cade	481-1386	<a href="mailto:patricia.cade@swri.org">patricia.cade@swri.org</a>
Education Chairman.....	Margaret Gutierrez	479-2007	<a href="mailto:margaretgz@hotmail.com">margaretgz@hotmail.com</a>
Outreach Chairman.....	Laura Iturriaga	545-5766	<a href="mailto:lami63@stic.net">lami63@stic.net</a>
Public Relations Chairman.....	Janice Troy	492-8986	<a href="mailto:jtroy1@satx.rr.com">jtroy1@satx.rr.com</a>
Fundraising Chairman.....	Terri Blades	650-4923	<a href="mailto:tblades7@aol.com">tblades7@aol.com</a>
DSA SECRETARY.....	Alice Gomez	349-4372	<a href="mailto:downsynassoc@aol.com">downsynassoc@aol.com</a>

### BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Boren, Foresters

Barbara Samfield, Speech and Language Center at Stone Oak

Dr. Kenneth Bloom, Pediatric Cardiology Associates

Dr. Mahendra Patel, Pediatric Hematologist



Down Syndrome Association  
 4702 West Avenue Suite 6  
 San Antonio, TX 78213



July 2003

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Aug. 5	Early Childhood Program: Alamo Solutions will speak on government programs Coker United Methodist Church 6:30-8:30 pm
8	Playgroup At the home of Diana Farmer 9:30 - 11:30 am
10	Kid Connection: Bowling Brunswick Thousand Oaks 2 pm
22-24	2003 NDSC Annual Convention Philadelphia, PA
23	Playgroup At the Children's Museum of New Braunfels 10:30 am
Sept. 2	Early Childhood Program: Changes in Legislation and Benefits Coker United Methodist Church 6:30-8:30 pm
5	Playgroup At the home of Renell Cox & Linda Rose Hidalgo 9:30 - 11:30 am
20	Playgroup and Kid Connection At the San Antonio Zoo 9 am

**KEEP US INFORMED**

In trying to provide the necessary support to all of our DSA members, we would like to maintain an updated database. Please send any changes of address, phone number, and/or email to the DSA Office at 349-4372 or downsynassc@aol.com. Please include the school district in which you reside. We maintain your privacy by not sharing our mailing list with any other organizations. Thank you!

Oct. 1	Deadline for October Newsletter Articles
7	Early Childhood Program: Music Therapy Coker United Methodist Church 6:30-8:30 pm
10	Playgroup At the home of Doina Cotoe 9:30 am-11:30 am
11	Buddy Walk 2003 The Alamodome 9 am
Dec. 2	Annual DSA Christmas Party Coker United Methodist Church Gym 6:30 pm