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Mission Statement

Down Syndrome Association of Acadiana will provide families with a support network, sharing experiences from pre-birth of a child through the stages of education and adult living within The community. Support resources include newsletters, new-parent information packets, parent-match services, community education, and special events.

President's Message

I am very humbled by accepting the position of President. I have always thought that being a Vice-President was the perfect office. You never had to worry about doing any real work; that was the President's job. Well, be careful what you ask for! We will be forever grateful for God bringing Anita and her family into our lives. Her passion and vision have brought this organization to an amazing level within three short years. Some of our paths may have never crossed if it were not for Anita's initial vision for our families.

Our plans are to follow that vision and continue with our mission to provide families with support resources from birth through adulthood. We have been successful in achieving one of our initial goals and are very proud to announce that DSAA has secured a grant from the Stuller Foundation and a private donor which will complete the funding for our New Parent Guides. These binders will be professionally tailored and filled with invaluable information for all new parents, physicians and hospitals in the Acadiana area. It will also include local testimonials and pictures of our children involved in family and community activities.

As you can imagine, nothing would be possible without a strong Board of Directors. I appreciate every one of them. Each board member has a unique strength and remarkable knowledge that allows everything to come together. They are steadfast and tenacious in their passion to provide the best possible services to our membership. However, we are in desperate need of additional volunteers to help lift the overwhelming load from our Board. I am respectfully asking each of you to please consider offering your services to our organization. We would certainly welcome your services for any of the several events that are held for our families each year. No offering is too small – we need you! Please contact us to volunteer just a small amount of your time to this great organization.

Thank you very much for your continued support. Let us know if we can help you in any way.

Marlene Meche

DSAA Call for Photos

DSAA is now accepting photo submissions for our New Parent Guide. This new guide will be given to every new parent as well as hospitals to help them through the maze of questions those first few years bring. We are looking for children, teens, and adults with Down syndrome working, playing and learning with family and friends. We are also looking for parent testimonials as well. To submit a photo, testimonial or both, please fill out the consent form below and mail to: DSAA, P. O. Box 81323, Lafayette, LA 70508. You can also send them via email as long as the below consent form follows by mail. For more information, please give us a call at (337) 234-3109.

We will notify you if we accept your submission for the guide. Unfortunately, we are unable to return any photos.

I hereby give Down Syndrome Association of Acadiana permission to use this photograph of me or my child in DSAA's New Parent Guide and other DSAA promotional and educational materials. I understand that the photo will become the property of DSAA and will be credited to DSAA for all journalistic purposes. I understand my photograph will not be returned.

Name of Person or Persons in Photo _____ Date of Birth _____

Name of Person Submitting Photograph _____

E-mail Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____

Address _____

Signature of Photo Subject or Parent/Guardian if under 21 _____

Board Officers

- Marlene Meche.....President
- Charmaine Welborn.....Vice President
- Trisha Darbonne.....Secretary
- Julie Romero.....Treasurer

Board Members

- Cynthia Dartest.....Membership Chair
- Shauna Escott.....Social/Goodwill Chair
- Loretta Girouard.....Newsletter/Parent Support
- Ramona Hebert.....Member at Large
- Kay Marcel.....Meeting / Special Events Chair
- Laura Trahan.....Parent Support/Public Relations Chair
- Kim Tullos.....Children's Activities Chair
- Tony Piontek.....Self Advocate
- Anita Ford.....Founder

Brag Section

Steven Gilley, celebrated his 43rd birthday at the bowling alley with family and lots of friends!



Jordan Manlove graduated from Kaplan High School in May, 2007 and then attended Project Graduation where she won prizes & money. Congratulations Jordan!



Congratulations to Brooke Hebert, Dave McAllister, Tony Piontek, Jennifer Miller & Christina Welborn for bringing home many gold, silver & bronze medals from the Special Olympic State Swim Meet that was held in July.

Eric Ford's picture was Selected for the 2007 NDSS video presentation in Times Square!! The Show will run on Sept. 30th at 10:30 am to kick off National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. This is Eric's fourth time to win!

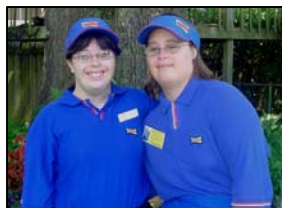


Special Olympics held their Unified Bowling Tournament in Lafayette in August, Jennifer Miller & Christina Welborn's team took 1st Place! Go Girls



Employer in the Spotlight

WOW! Jennifer Miller is now working at Sonic & Christina Welborn is celebrating her 2nd year at Sonic.



Upcoming Events

- September 3rd Acadiana Top Soccer Registration
- October 27th 3rd Annual Buddy Walk
- December 16th DSAA Christmas Party, 2-5 pm

Welcome New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Baumbach
 Ms. Misty Gauthier
 Ms. Joyce Fernell
 Ms. Joyce Benoit

There is still time to renew your membership. Send in today—don't delay! We want you to continue to receive this valuable information!



Acadiana Top Soccer Registration Deadline, Sept. 3rd. Registration form available at www.acadianatopsoccer.com For more information contact Jason or Loretta Girouard at (337) 237-6284 or (337) 322-4597

Buddy Walk Sponsor Help



We are hoping we can count on everyone's help to secure Buddy Walk sponsors! If anyone knows or has a connection with any possible sponsor, please contact us and we can get a personalized sponsor packet to you. Sponsors can pay for sponsorship this year online through our website. We can make this year's Buddy Walk bigger and even better than last years!!

Birthday Greetings !!

- | September | October | November |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Natalie Holmes- 3rd | John Michael Miguez- 5 th | Dynell Terry -1st |
| Jack Juul- 4 th | Crystal Tullos- 19th | Joshua Allen- 1st |
| Jordan Manlove- 6th | Krystal Roosa- 23rd | Nash Norwood - 13th |
| Linzi Coleman -11th | Isaiah Gardner- 28 th | John Sonnier, Jr.- 17th |
| Travis Delcambre- 12 th | | London Ledoux - 24th |
| Kristen Tucker- 17 th | | |
| Culver Gall- 29 th | | |
| Seth Viator, II- 29 th | | |



More Support Services Will Be Available for People with Disabilities & Their Families By: Kay Marcel

Thousands of children and adults with disabilities and their families will gain access to much needed supports and services in the coming year as a result of actions by Governor Blanco and state legislators during the 2007 Legislative Session.

For many people with developmental disabilities who have been waiting for waiver services for as long as twelve years, relief will come this year. A total of 2,100 additional Medicaid waiver slots to address the long waiver waiting list were funded as follows:

- 1,500 New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)
- 200 Children's Choice
- 200 Supports Waiver (for adults)
- 200 Residential Options Waiver (new waiver)

There is also hope for the thousands on the waiver waiting list that will not receive one of these 2,100 slots. This hope for the future is the result of Senate Bill 98 by Senator Tom Schedler (Slidell), co-authored by almost every other member of the legislature, and signed into law (Act 481) by Governor Blanco on July 19th. This bill directs the state treasurer to deposit twelve percent of all recurring state general fund revenue, not to exceed \$50 million per year, as recognized by the Revenue Estimating Conference at the beginning of the fiscal year, into the New Opportunities Waiver Fund to fund additional NOW slots. In other words, in every year there is a budget surplus, money will be deposited into the fund and additional people will receive waiver services.

Also of importance to many families of children with disabilities in Louisiana, was the inclusion of funding in the budget to implement the Family Opportunity Act (FOA). This new optional Medicaid program made available to states by Congress will allow families of children with disabilities up to 300% of the federal poverty level to buy into the Medicaid program. This will provide Medicaid for many children with disabilities who have not been eligible for Medicaid due to family income, and as a result have been un-insured or under-insured. The Department of Health and Hospitals, with input from stakeholders, is currently working on the details of implementing the program.

The additional waiver slots, passage of SB98, and funding for the FOA are all the result of LaCAN's (Louisiana Citizen for Action Now) organized grassroots advocacy campaign. Parents whose children will benefit from this program are encouraged to join LaCAN to help advocate for the program's funding and implementation, and to stay informed about this important new program. To join LaCAN, call the Developmental Disabilities Council (1-800-450-8108) or visit LaCAN's website at www.lacanadvocates.org.

Buddy Walk We Need Your Help!!



We are waist deep in planning our next Buddy Walk and we are anxiously waiting for you as a volunteer. All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt and free admission to all of the days activities. You can either go to our website dsaa@dsaa.info and download the volunteer form or you can call us and we can mail one to you. Help us make this year's Buddy Walk bigger and even better than last years!!

Tips Fine Motor Skills

Keyboarding is great for fine motor skills, buy games or work games for their level, helps with letter/number recognition as well as hand eye coordination

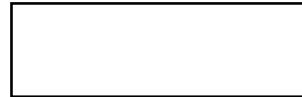
Special Prayers

Camille Domec – daughter of Brian & Michelle Domec

dsaa

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Dated Materials

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Charmaine Welborn Loretta Girouard

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

The DSAA Voice is published 4 times a year. This is a service of the DSAA, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide information, support and resources to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and their communities.

Registered members will receive our newsletter quarterly. Associate members will receive it for a three issue trial basis.

Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 12th of even numbered months. Ideas, articles, and pictures for the newsletter should be sent to the newsletter chair on our web site.

DSAA does not endorse or recommend any therapy, institution, treatment, etc. and does not promote any particular political, educational or religious view. Inclusion of an item does not necessarily imply promotion or approval of its sponsors. The editor reserves the right to make corrections as appropriate and in accord with established editorial practice in material submitted for publication.



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