

Committee and Outreach Programs Down Syndrome Association of the Valley



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Buddy Walk Planning Committee

The Buddy Walk Planning Committee consists of dedicated volunteers that meet once a month to plan the Buddy Walk, DSAV's largest fundraising event. This group of individuals handles the details of the event such as obtaining corporate sponsors, print material and t-shirts, coordinating with donors for prizes and lunch items, and many, many other countless details that are necessary to provide a fun-filled day for families to enjoy.

Members of the planning committee are assigned a sub-committee chair position in a role suitable to each individual's skill sets. They are responsible for coordinating and managing their area of specialty. Examples of the various sub-committees are:

- Activities and Crafts
- Advertising and Promotion
- Brochure Distribution
- DSAV Store/Info. Manager
- Entertainment
- Event Logistics
- Food Tent
- Games
- Parking
- Photography
- Registration
- Buddy Town
- Set Up Crew
- Tear Down Crew
- Signs, banners & rental equipment

A sub-committee chair takes on the role of establishing volunteer and supply needs for their respective teams. As a rule, sub-committee chairs do not participate in the walk, but act as a host of the event.

Community Connections

This position requires the successful completion of the Community Connection training as well as adhering to the DSAV volunteer guidelines. Community Connection leaders host meetings (monthly preferred) for other DSAV parents in their geographic area covering various topics and needs. Leaders are also familiar with the programs and policies of their particular county Developmental Disability (DD) to help facilitate and connect families to the appropriate services. Additional training or resources may be needed through the county or state DD offices.

Community Outreach Volunteer

This position entails attending community events/activities where it is appropriate to have information about our organization displayed. An example of this would be the Special needs expo, the Special Olympics, Millcreek Holiday Display, etc. Duties include obtaining appropriate DSAV print material and display board from the DSAV office, bringing it to the resource fair, man the table at the resource fair, and know enough about DSAV to provide answers to questions. This committee is also responsible for the public library displays during the month of October or other designated times.

Corporate Contact Volunteer

Enthusiastic volunteers who are willing to share their story about their experience with DSAV to solicit potential corporate donors for a financial contribution are always welcome. If you have an "in" with a corporation, this is a great way for you to help the organization.

D.A.D.S.

The DSAV Dad's Appreciating Down Syndrome group is a chapter of the national D.A.D.S. organization. The purpose of D.A.D.S. is to assist and support the fathers and families of individuals with Down syndrome. D.A.D.S. was created around the idea that fathers can make a significant contribution to improve the lives of our children - and all individuals with Down syndrome by working together.

Event Photographer

Volunteer photographers are always welcome to provide professional or candid shots of individuals participating in our events.

Fundraising

The fundraising committee is responsible for establishing various fund raising efforts.

GRANDS

Grandparents relating, advocating and networking for Down syndrome is a place for grandparents to work together in support of each other and their grandchildren. Activities involve support, social volunteer and fund raising programs.

Healthcare Partnership Program

The DSAV Healthcare partnership program works to ensure that all parents and expectant parents being told of a possible or actual diagnosis of Down syndrome are given this news with accurate information, sensitivity and support including information about and directed to the DSAV. The program also works to see that individuals with Down syndrome receive health care that addresses the specific developmental and medical needs of those with Down syndrome and the best practices to address them.

Legislative Awareness Volunteer

We are always looking for energetic and articulate volunteers who are willing to share their experience with DSAV and serve as advocates in the community to protect the rights of individuals with Down syndrome. When legislative issues come up that affect the rights or benefits of individuals with Down syndrome (or any individual who has a disability), it is important for us to have a pool of volunteers who actively keep abreast of these topics and are willing to publicly make their voice be heard locally, in Columbus and perhaps in D.C.

LAMP (Literacy, Arts & Math Program)

LAMP is in place to assist parents and teachers in the education of children with Down syndrome by "shining light" on strategic programs and systems that suit the specific needs of those with Ds. Materials are available to be used in the Center for Success, at home or within the classroom or school the child attends. LAMP is perpetually funded for Trumbull county families through the Sherry Freeda fund.

Office Assistant

Office volunteers are needed on a regular and episodic basis. Ideally, we like to have three volunteers who come in on a regular basis whether it is once a month, twice a month, or once a week. Typical tasks performed by office volunteers include: photocopying, assistance with large mailings, assembling packets of print materials for our programs, and affixing labels to various print materials.

Parent Podium

We are always looking for energetic, eloquent and articulate volunteers who are willing to share their experience with DSAV serve as volunteers for speaking engagements when the opportunity arises. If you have an area of professional expertise or insight that you would like to share with either our constituents or people in the community, we welcome your talent and would like to provide the appropriate platform for you to share your message.

Parents & Schools in Partnership

The DSAV Parents and Schools in Partnership Program promotes collaborative relationships between DSAV and local school districts to effect positive outcomes for students with Down syndrome and their families. This program requires certified teachers, paraprofessional or others with a strong commitment to education to establish and help facilitate the program with schools.

Playgroup Pals

The need for playgroups varies widely across our service area. Ideally, we would like a Playgroup Pal in each county or segment of a county so gatherings are conveniently located for caregivers and children to attend. Until a Playgroup Pal is established in each area, more generalized gatherings will be held at the Center for Success or other locations. A Playgroup Pal will organize age-based gatherings and the DSAV will promote them on line and in print.

Plus Twenty-One

Plus Twenty-One is a social committee that caters to individuals with Down syndrome age 21 and older. Events include bowling, picnics, sporting events or any activity that those in the group might enjoy.

Self Advocate Spotlight

Whether a self advocate is volunteering for DSAV or showcasing their abilities outside in the community, it speaks volumes and reinforces our vision of assuring that individuals with Down syndrome are active participants in a fully inclusive society.

Social Committee

The Social Committee is charged with the tasks of organizing the DSAV annual Christmas Party, Costume party, and other social events (except Buddy Walk). In addition, the Social Chair is responsible for putting together a line itemed budget for all of these events.

Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine committee is responsible for sending birthday greeting cards to DSAV members with Down syndrome. The committee also sends sympathy, get well or other cards as necessary.

TULIP parent program

This position requires the successful completion of the TULIP training program. Parent Visitors are volunteers who visit new or expectant parents who have received the diagnosis of Down syndrome for their child. (Volunteer openings are limited for this sensitive program.)

Time – (as much or as little as you need to work through your feelings and move forward)

Unity – (with a group of parents who have been where you are and want to help)

Love – (for you, your family and especially your new baby)

Insight – (we want to provide you with resources and information to help you on this journey)

Promise – (it is not the end of the world...our children have great promise for a great future!)



