



# 2023 Year in Review

## ACCEPT, INCLUDE & RESPECT People of ALL Abilities

### History and Mission

The Down Syndrome Association of the Valley (DSAV), a 501c3 non profit serving eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania was established in 2007 to provide support resources, advocacy, education and opportunity to individuals with Down syndrome and their families. DSAV is committed to implementing a climate which encourages independence and opportunity for all individuals with Down syndrome while assuring they have the assistance, support, advocacy and opportunity to enable them to reach their full potential.

DSAV has tripled in membership size since 2007 with 370 members with Down syndrome and their families. In addition, more than 500 medical professionals as well as countless educators and therapists have benefited from DSAV information and programming.

Membership is free and open to individuals with Down syndrome, their families, educators, healthcare professionals and anyone interested in making a difference in the lives of those with Down syndrome.

### A Year of Growth

In 2022, as the demand for in person programming increased, DSAV expanded and completed a renovation project that doubled the size of it's existing space and included a full kitchen, therapeutic play area, private tutor rooms, and a creative arts space. The Center was renamed the Regional Down Syndrome Center for Success of Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. In 2023, as a result of the expansion, DSAV offered six new in-house programs:

- DSAV Cooking & Nutrition
- Toddler Time
- Cardio Drumming
- Parent/Caregive Support Group for those caring for an adult with Down syndrome.
- Summer Enrichment Camp
- Improvaneer Summer Camp



### IMPACT SNAPSHOT

# 370

Members with Down  
syndrome

# 3,850

Community members  
served

# 102

Community  
volunteers

# 200+

Hours of purposeful  
programming in 2022



## 2023 Highlights



- Distributed \$5,000 through the DSAV Family Medical grant program to 30 families to assist with medical bills including OT, PT and speech services not covered by insurance.
- Distributed 17 DSAV Cares packages to members with Down syndrome that were undergoing medical treatments, recovering from surgery and/or illnesses.
- Distributed 10 ipads and learning apps to school aged children to aid in speech development and academic goals.
- Awarded \$3,500 in Academic Scholarships to 5 high school seniors pursuing post secondary education in fields that directly benefit individuals with Down syndrome.
- Hosted 15 Fitness & Tennis clinics and 23 Yoga classes to promote health and wellness.
- In partnership with All Abilities Swim, provided private swim lessons to children that were at risk of drowning.
- Partnered with Aaris Therapy Group to provide 40 hours of private speech services.
- Welcomed 8 NEW families to DSAV distributing welcome baskets with resources and gifts.
- 25 individuals with a disability learned to ride a two wheeled bicycle at the iCAN Shine Bike Camp with the help of 56 volunteers.
- 12 adults improved social and communication skills through the Improvaneer Method program.
- Hosted 6 social events to DSAV families that fostered friendship and support.
- Distributed Down syndrome awareness classroom kits and books to 62 classrooms impacting more than 1,400 students in grades Pre-K to 6th grade.

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### DSAV PROGRAM FUNDING

74%  
DSAV Fundraising

15%  
Community Grants

11%  
Individual Donors

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*"DSAV has given us life long support, resources and friendships that have helped us through the difficult times and celebrated the wonderful and never ending accomplishments of our loved one."*

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**Regional Down Syndrome Center for Success**  
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# DSAV 2023 PROGRAMS

## Program

- Buddy Up Tennis & Fitness
- DSAV Cooks
- DSAV Learn to Swim
- DSAV Yoga & Cardio Drumming
- iCAN Shine Adaptive Bike Camp
- Improvaneer Method
- Private Speech/Tutoring
- Toddler Time

## Down Syndrome Awareness and Outreach

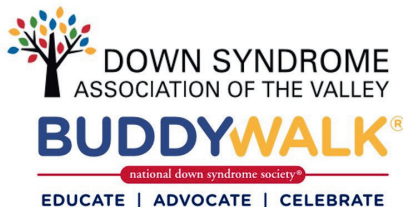
- Accept, Include & Respect inclusion Banners
- Classroom Awareness Kits
- Academic Scholarships

## Support Program

- New Parent/New Member Support
- Family Medical Grants
- Educational Assistance Grants
- DSAV Cares
- Parent Connection Facebook Group
- Lending Library
- Parent/Caregiver of Adult Children with Down Syndrome Support Group

## Social Events

- World Down Syndrome Day Dance Party
- Down Syndrome Awareness Night with MV Scrappers
- Santa's Hide-a-way Hollow
- DSAV Night with MV Scrappers
- DSAV Costume Party
- DSAV Holiday Party



The Buddy Walk is the world's largest and most recognizable Down syndrome awareness event in the World. DSAV celebrated its 16th Buddy Walk in 2023 at Eastwood Field in Niles. The event drew more than 2,500 people from eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

## DSAV is an affiliate member of



as well as an active participant in the Ohio Coalition of Down Syndrome organizations that meet in Columbus quarterly.

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