



Family and Friends Celebrate the Holidays

By Teresa Schaub, Program Manager

THIS YEAR'S DOWN SYNDROME CONNECTION of the Bay Area (DSCBA) Holiday Party was a special one, with nearly half of the families attending for their first time. As the festivities began, Santa surprised everyone with a merry and exuberant "Ho, ho, ho!" Families and children of all ages enjoyed visiting and taking photos with Santa and his elves throughout the party. Olaf the Snowman was a welcome addition this year, and he made many new friends.

Music Therapist Nicole Patton once again welcomed everyone onto the stage and worked her magic, turning volunteer performers into a bell choir performance of several holiday favorites. Party guests were treated to three talented musicians, each sharing their amazing gifts of music, song, and composition.

Rachael Burbach entertained partygoers with a festive performance on the piano. Christian James performed a song he wrote himself, accompanied by his brothers on guitar and harmonica. K. Leigh Alfrey graced the celebration with a lovely clarinet performance.

Thank you all for joining us for a special day of celebrating friends and family, welcoming many sweet babies, and making new friends!



Left: Rachael Burbach played piano for guests.



Right: K. Leigh Alfrey performed a clarinet solo for guests.



Left: As always, Santa was a hit!



Left: Baby Jayden met Santa.
Below: Christian James and his brothers performed the song Christian composed.

Below: Patrick Harkins and two volunteers cozied up to Olaf.



Sam Small crafted with Dad.



At right: The bell choir, led by Nicole Patton.





Nancy's Notes

Stepping into Our 21st Year

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE and thank you! It has been a wonderful twentieth year celebrating with all of you throughout 2018.

In 2018 our passionate and dedicated staff welcomed 36 beautiful new babies, expanded programs into new Bay Area locations, and furthered our outreach and training about abilities of people with Down syndrome (through our Education Alliance) and delivering a Down syndrome diagnosis (through our Medical Outreach Alliance). We were named Charitable Organization of the Month by Assemblywoman Catherine Baker, and we raised more than \$450,000 through our two main fundraising events (our Gala and our Step Up for Down Syndrome walk), thanks to the generosity of our members and the community.

As we step into our 21st year, we continue to be a lifeline to our new members by offering many opportunities for support and connection with other DSCBA families. We had another year of successfully empowering parents/caregivers who have children of all ages, as well as educators and medical professionals through education-based opportunities and support. Each year for two decades DSCBA and its supporters have built and strengthened the lives of the Down syndrome community. We're here for the duration.

As you can imagine, welcoming new families and sustaining our substantial growth each year only happens with your help. Thank you for your generosity and for making our twentieth anniversary one to remember.

We are now entering our twenty-first year and we have lofty goals that include expanding to more Bay Area locations with our very successful Peer Development Program, which brings our members together to socialize, share, offer expression opportunities through art and dance, and develop lasting friendships. We will continue to assess ways to support our adults and aging community and enhance our most valuable services for all ages using best practices. Additional resources will be offered to our families with children and adults who have both Down syndrome and autism, and many new workshops will be offered this year that we hope will empower and inspire both parents and the education community.

Needless to say, our plan for the new year includes researching new avenues of funding that will aid in supporting our 2019 goals, and we welcome our members' and community's help in making connections and understanding opportunities we may have not considered.

Here's to a happy and healthy New Year!

Warmly,

Nancy LaBelle – DSCBA Executive Director

Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area 21st Anniversary Gala

Proudly celebrating **21** years empowering, inspiring and supporting
our community with an extra **21st** chromosome

You are cordially invited to a magical evening
of fine dining, live & silent auctions and dancing!

Saturday, April 13, 2019

5:30 to 11:00 pm • Diablo Country Club

1700 Clubhouse Road, Diablo, CA

Empowering Sponsor



Down Syndrome Connection
of the Bay Area

A limited number of VIP Tables for 10 are available at \$2,500.

Reserve yours now by calling 925-362-8660. Individual tickets will be available
for purchase starting February 1, 2019 at dsconnection.org/gala

We warmly welcome sponsors and auction item donations. Please contact:
events@dsconnection.org



Notes from a First-Time Step Up Observer
Step Up for Down Syndrome 2018
A Day of Celebrating Families and Achievements

By Mallory Ensminger, DSCBA Supporter

FOR TWENTY YEARS, the DSCBA has provided resources and support to families of individuals with Down syndrome. Two main events are held each year: the Step Up for Down Syndrome walk and the Gala. These events are opportunities for members to meet and connect with other members, and with medical professionals and our generous donors. Fundraising is an important aspect of both events. The 2018 Step Up walk was held on Sunday, October 7, 2018, at Pleasant Hill Middle School. Mayor of Pleasant Hill Tim Flaherty declared October 7 Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

One highlight of this event was the number of activities in which children and adults could participate. Many carnival games and

activities promoted a fun, inclusive atmosphere. Games included a beanbag toss, miniature golf, a football toss, and more. Activities included a pumpkin patch provided by Danville Sycamore Rotary, face painting, character photos, several booths with information, and more. Children laughed and ran around, enjoying the games and activities.

It was a pleasure to see many steadfast DSCBA supporters, donors and sponsors who continue to fortify the services of DSCBA over the years.

Approximately 1,400 people attended the 2018 Step Up walk. Each year, the DSCBA sets a fundraising goal in conjunction with the walk; 2018's goal was \$200,000. As of October 12, 2018, a total of \$228,524 had been raised. In total, more

than 100 teams registered for the walk. Team Drucker raised the most money, with \$13,330 as of October 12. The top ten fundraising teams combined to raise a total of \$90,000.

The walk around the track and the individual recognition were among the most rewarding parts of the day. Each team who participated in the walk had their own team sign. Most of the signs focused on the achievements within the last year of an individual with Down syndrome. No achievement was too small. Some achievements included learning to stand up, making new friends, and going to college. Each participant was greeted with applause and a medal as they crossed the finish line.

As a first-time observer of the Step Up walk, I was impressed. One thing that stood out was how inclusive the event was. I also was thrilled to see that everyone was supportive of individuals with Down syndrome. Seeing the warm atmosphere and how everyone was having a good time made me proud to cover this event. A fun time was had by all!

Thank you to ALL of our fundraisers, including each of these 6 teams raising over \$10,000!

At left: 5th place fundraising team Leah's Team raising \$10,250. Below from right: 1st place fundraising team Team Drucker raising \$13,330, 6th place fundraising team Team Navya raising \$10,195, and 4th place fundraising team Dubh Nation raising \$10,310. Center row from right: 2nd place fundraising team Sofia's Sunshine raising \$12,470, and 3rd place fundraising team Team Ayala raising \$10,460. Bottom row: Thank you to everyone from Community Presbyterian Church in Danville for volunteering and walking in honor of Will Drucker.



A Birthday Fundraiser



Christi Hockel and her husband Austin Davenport at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria fundraising for the DSCBA in honor of her 40th birthday. The community event raised \$850! Thank you Rocco's!!!!

Ability Awareness School Presentations

Elizabeth Lewis, Education Support Manager

REMEMBER TO SCHEDULE one of our popular Ability Awareness presentations at your child's school this year! These K-12 presentations take place in a single classroom or an assembly-style setting and provide a unique way to educate students about Down syndrome through an engaging story, a Q&A segment, and an optional hands-on empathy activity. Students and staff who participate in Ability Awareness presentations will gain a better understanding about:

- What it means to have Down syndrome.
- Common strengths and challenges associated with the learning profile of a student with Down syndrome
- Helpful communication strategies/tips
- Why certain behaviors occur and effective strategies to help reduce challenging behaviors
- Ways to empower, support, and establish a meaningful friendship with a student with Down syndrome



DSCBA Education Support Manager Elizabeth Lewis (second from right) with Ability Awareness associate and self-advocate Eli Cooper (right), teacher Suzanne Kossa (left), and Clio Rasler (second from left).

To schedule a presentation at your child's school please contact Elizabeth Lewis at elizabeth@dsconnection.org.

Aktion Club Celebrates Its Fifth Anniversary

By Marianne Iversen, Director of Programs and Adult Services



THE AKTION CLUB is a community-service group sponsored by the San Ramon Valley Kiwanis and the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area. The San Ramon Valley Aktion Club is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year and ended another successful year with a holiday gathering at Mountain Mike's pizza.

their appreciation for all of the firefighters' hard work across the state.

A favorite activity was making dog toys out of used tennis balls and socks. The Aktion Club also collected old blankets and towels for the East Bay SPCA. A few of the members delivered the items to the SPCA and were rewarded with a tour of the facility.

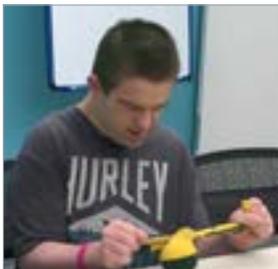
In the fall, the club decided to create a banner to deliver to Danville Post-Acute Rehab. The nursing-facility residents were thrilled to receive the banner, and it was promptly hung up in their dining area.

The club also has an ongoing collection drive for small toiletry items that are distributed to the local Blue Star Moms group.

The Aktion Club meets at 6:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Down Syndrome Connection office. If you are interested in learning more about this group, contact Marianne Iversen at Marianne@dsconnection.org or at (925) 362-8660 x103. New members (adults 18 and over) are always welcome. This is a wonderful opportunity to get together with friends, learn new skills, and give back to the local community.

This year's projects included baking goodies and delivering them to San Ramon Valley Fire Station #31. It was important to the members that they show

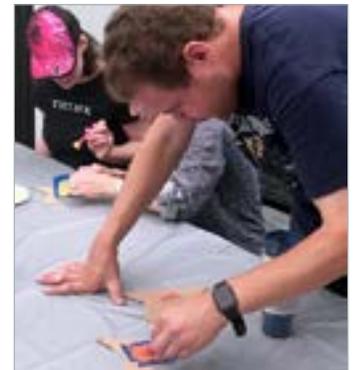
Left: Aktion Club member Reid Geiger helped make dog toys for the East Bay SPCA.



Left: Ryan Cook, Justin Macinick, Matt McClellan, and Stacey Elliott delivered the banner to Danville Post-Acute Rehab.

Below left: Aktion Club members delivered tasty treats to San Ramon Fire Station #31.

Below right: : Aktion Club members Stacey Elliott and Justin Macinick hard at work on the banner for Danville Post-Acute Rehab.



A Transition

By Jennifer Cooper

Transitions can be difficult. Becoming a parent, establishing our children in the school system and then preparing for them to exit that system—these are big transitions. Our children are known to often have challenges with transitions. We work to inform, structure, and gently guide them for change. I've been working on my own slow transition at the DSCBA; the end of 2018 marks the end of my role as Director of Education. Though it is certainly with mixed emotions, I strongly believe this is a positive change on all fronts.

By now, you have hopefully been introduced (in person or via the newsletter/emails) to Laurie Hawley (see August 2018 newsletter) and Elizabeth Lewis (see January 2017 newsletter). Laurie and Elizabeth will continue the work and vision of the Down Syndrome Education Alliance (DSEA) with trainings, consultations, ability awareness work, and more. I have been, and will continue to be, in communication with the DSCBA team for consultation and, most importantly, camaraderie! Our community will forever remain a piece of my perspective, passion, and heart.

Early Connections



Kids-n-Need Foundation Provides Decades of Support to DSCBA

By Tempra Board, Grants Manager

AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW BY NOW, the Down Syndrome Connection relies on community. Not only is connecting families part of our mission, but connection to the communities we serve is the reason we have thrived as a nonprofit organization for twenty years.

A case in point is the Kids-n-Need Foundation and its annual golf tournament. Started decades ago by Dale Stockbridge, owner of the historic "everyman's" Elliott's Bar in downtown Danville, proceeds from this tournament have helped support the DSCBA since our beginning.

"Kids-n-Need has been helping so many organizations for years, and if it had not been for Dale and others at Elliott's Bar and beyond, our beginnings and years to follow would not have been possible," shares the DSCBA's co-founder and current board member Martha Hogan. "Their golf tournament and dinner has always been my favorite because of their kindness...and my love for golf!"

With the help of a group of Castlewood Country Club members, Kids-n-Need was formally incorporated as a nonprofit in 2013. Its purpose, according to current Chairman Larry Crawford, "is to generate funds for organizations that assist medically challenged children and their families who may be financially incapable of meeting the costs of their child's care." The organization is completely volunteer-managed, and 100 percent of the funds go to children via a few nonprofits such as UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area.

"It is quite fulfilling seeing our generated funds increase each year, and we hope our April 29, 2019, tournament continues with the trend," adds Crawford. "Having said that, it means that we need to continue gaining local support in sponsorships, participation in the tournament, and our silent/live auctions."

Fundraisers put on by other organizations on our behalf are a huge boon to the DSCBA, because we don't have to put the staff time and funds behind them. "It's such an honor to be one of the four recipients of the Kids-n-Need golf tournament each year," says DSCBA Executive Director Nancy LaBelle.



Above: Laurie Hawley, Director of Education, presented My First IEP to Early Connections families.

At top: Christina Lyons, OTR/L, discussed gross and fine motor skills in babies and toddlers at our Early Connections class.

Above center: Three of our new families enjoyed the festivities at the Holiday Party!

"We absolutely depend upon events like this and our community's generosity, which allows us to put our efforts directly toward supporting families with a child with Down syndrome, rather than fundraising."

The Down Syndrome Connection would like to send a huge shout out and thank you to everyone who makes Kids-n-Need possible and for their ongoing support. We hope you will participate in the upcoming tournament in April. For information or to get involved, visit <http://kids-n-need.org>.

Tweens/Teens Go International

By Laura Briggs, Peer Development Class Facilitator

IT BEGAN AS A THOUGHT to cook and plan a dinner party for ourselves. After many exciting discussions, it evolved into an international restaurant tasting, where the members of DSCBA's Tween/Teen Peer Development class in Danville would go out to restaurants and sample new and tasty foods. It will culminate in their own homemade Italian fiesta of gluten-free lasagna and garlic bread, along with a lovely green salad.

It is an exciting adventure that starts with the students doing a few chores or jobs to earn a little money to help pay for the dinners. Then, every other week in class the members select a restaurant, look at its menu, and vote for several dishes, always trying to select something they haven't eaten before. The following week, we head out into the community to the chosen restaurant. After each tasting, the tweens and teens write in their food journals the name of the restaurant, whether they liked the dish, sometimes a comment or two, and then they draw a picture of their favorite dish.

So far, we have dined on Italian, Mediterranean, Chinese, and Mexican food. Soon, we will be going out for Indian and American. Everyone has kept their promise to try at least one bite of everything, and most of the responses have been very positive (although stuffed grape leaves were not liked by all). The teens and tweens have made me proud!

Right: The foodies from Danville's Tween/Teen Peer Development class.



Below: Valentino Ortega, Rohan Bhupatiraju, and Roan Purpura at Santorni's Restaurant.



Right: Jonah Zimmerman-Bloch enjoyed the Mexican food but decided he is not a fan of cilantro!



Left: Jane Pugsley enjoys trying Mexican dishes at Peer Development class.



Above: Rohan Bhupatiraju skipped the fork in favor of chopsticks while sampling delights at Leo's Chinese Restaurant.

Above: The tweens and teens enjoyed a bounty of good eats at Santorini's Restaurant in Danville.

Grandparents Group



Our Grandparents Group wrapped up the year with a fun meeting at our Danville office. The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month—the schedule can be found at <https://www.dsconnection.org/connection-groups.php>. For more information, contact Nancy Ferguson at [NFerguson@dsconnection.org](mailto:N Ferguson@dsconnection.org)

MEDICAL OUTREACH ALLIANCE

2018 TRAININGS

Cathleen Small, Director of Medical Outreach Alliance, leads our Medical Outreach trainings. Trainings include basic info about DS, how to deliver a DS diagnosis, ways to build a strong relationship between family and medical team, and local and national resources available for families with a member with DS. Trainings have been held in several cities and counties and have included providers in the greater Bay Area and across the state.

10 trainings were provided to:



82 Pediatricians and pediatric nurses and staff



55 Geneticists, genetic counselors, and genetic counseling students



10 Family Resource Center employees



55 Students

TRAININGS ARE AVAILABLE VIA WEBINAR!



GENETICS OUTREACH

In conjunction with Kern Down Syndrome Network, presented to approx. 40 genetic counselors and geneticists at the California Prenatal Screening Program annual directors' meeting.

Sent outreach materials to 125 genetic counseling offices who make up the California Prenatal Screening Program and are delivering many of the prenatal diagnoses.



PEDIATRICS OUTREACH

We contacted more than 1,000 local pediatricians.

96 packets sent to offices serving patients with DS.

76 packets sent to offices that don't yet serve patients with DS.

DSEA in Review and Looking Ahead

By Laurie Hawley and Elizabeth Lewis

THE DOWN SYNDROME EDUCATION ALLIANCE (DSEA) team has been hard at work in 2018, bringing a variety of educational workshops, consultations, trainings, and in-school presentations to students, families, and educators across the Bay Area.

In November, we hosted our first Accommodations and Modifications workshop at the DSCBA, which gave educators and parents an opportunity to learn effective accommodation and modification strategies to support children with Down syndrome in a general-education setting. The workshop was a big success, and we look forward to bringing it back in the future!

Road to Success

An exciting development this year was being asked by school districts to present to their staff. In September, we presented our Road to Success workshop to more than thirty educators in Napa and to more than one hundred educators from twenty-two districts in Sacramento. In September, we had the privilege of being a keynote speaker at a local school district's all-staff professional development day, where we presented to more than four hundred educators on the topic of inclusive education and strategies to support it. And in January 2019, we presented our Accommodations and Modifications workshop at a school district in the South Bay.

Professional Development

Providing professional development workshops in local school districts is a great way for us to reach a large number of educators and hopefully improve educational opportunities and experiences for our children with Down syndrome. Parents, please send your child's educators our way if they need advice on best practices for educating children with Down syndrome. Our phone and email consults are always free.

Ability Awareness

Our Ability Awareness presentations are more popular than ever. In fact, in 2018 we brought Ability Awareness education to more than 3,400 students—that's two thousand more students than in 2017.

We strive to bring the most current information, best practices, and effective strategies to the community we support. Last November, several members of the DSEA staff attended the Best Practices in the Education of Children with Down Syndrome conference in Stockton, California (see tbods.com). Dr. Richard Villa from Bayridge Consortium, a world-renowned expert on inclusion, gave an amazing presentation. We encourage you to check out his website at www.ravillabayridge.com.

Maximize Your Child's Potential

Don't miss a brand-new workshop on February 13, 2019, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Amy Allison from the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City will be at the DSCBA to present a workshop titled "Motivating Your Child with Down Syndrome to Be as Independent as Possible." Register at independence2019-dscba.eventbrite.com by February 10, 2019, to attend.

The Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area is Proud to Present:

MOTIVATING Your Child with Down Syndrome to Be as INDEPENDENT as Possible

A workshop for educators & caregivers

Are you struggling to engage your child with Down syndrome and keep them on task?

Is your child capable of more, but you just can't figure out what motivates them and how to help them manage impulsive behaviors that distract from learning and accomplishing daily tasks?

Learn practical strategies and real-time solutions to help you foster independence and motivate your child with Down syndrome to be fully engaged in family life and school with as minimal supports as possible.

Topics covered:

- Understand the learning profile of a student with Down syndrome
- Learn how poor working memory causes behaviors and impacts learning
- Foster independence and on-task behavior
- Help your child be responsible for their own behavior
- Identify coping strategies to help a child deal with schedule interruptions
- Determine whether behaviors are a result of a skill or will issue

Who should attend?

- Special and General Educators
- Professionals/Aides
- Behaviorists
- Parents
- Anyone else supporting students

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

DOWN SYNDROME CONNECTION OF THE BAY AREA
101-J TOWN AND COUNTRY DRIVE, DANVILLE CA 94526



Register Today!

**COST \$25 if register by 1/31/19
Cost goes up to \$30 in February**

URL: independence2019-dscba.eventbrite.com



PRESENTER

Amy Allison

B.S. Psychology, B.S. Sociology
CEO, Down Syndrome Guild
of Greater Kansas City

Reflections and the Future from the Peninsula

By Julie Tang, Program Manager

WOW! It's hard to believe that 2018 has passed. It has been a whirlwind of lessons and events. A snapshot of 2018 includes:

- Monthly Music Therapy classes
- Four Connection meetings/workshops
- Teen Peer Development class through spring
- World Down Syndrome Day fundraising event hosted by Jack's Prime in March, which raised \$400
- The first of several volunteer orientation trainings for all volunteers in April
- Parents' Day Out event in May
- Third anniversary party in July
- Reading workshop facilitated by Natalie

Hale, founder of Special Reads for Special Needs, in September

- New partnership established with National Charity League, Skyline Chapter, in September
- Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk in October, where DSCBA-Peninsula families raised more than \$20,000
- Comedy benefit show hosted by Mex-E-King in October, which raised \$400
- Halloween party in October
- Free photo shoot and digital images, sponsored by Chasity Ann Noel from Savvy Images
- Holiday party in December

Before moving into a new year I like to reflect. I am reminded that the lessons we learn make us better while serving our community. Our slips and falls are opportunities for growth. Without them, we would not know how to do better, and mediocrity is not in our dictionary. With that, I have seen growth in the numbers of committed members and supporters, volunteers, and sponsors who have become a part of our community.

In 2018 the number of members attending our support group meetings and social events has more than doubled. Although we recognized the need for more manpower and resources to provide adequate support for our families, it took months of searching and reaching out to volunteer organizations as potential partners before we finally found our match made in heaven. Through the connection of one of our members, Christy Woods, we established a beautiful partnership with National Charity League, Skyline Chapter, a nonprofit of mothers and daughters whose values and passions are very much aligned with our own, and most importantly, we share the same mission: create a world of acceptance and inclusion for all kids.

We have more than fifty volunteers now including core volunteers we have recruited. The Halloween Party in October was the first event where our own DSCBA volunteers and NCL volunteers joined together. It was purely magical. I saw the gifts and talents each individual

Continued on page 10

Below: Grateful to have Mercy Forde and the amazing team from Dance for All perform for us at the holiday party!



Below: Our beautiful belly dancer, Tamsyn Bindal from Broadway Babies and Kids, gave a magical performance at the holiday party!



Continued from page 9

brings to our community and how they all naturally spread love and joy into our families. Making it even more unforgettable, a total of eighteen businesses and vendors supported us that day. We are so blessed to have all of these special volunteers and sponsors. Each one is our ally, our advocate, our family.

Since we started in 2015 the number of supporters and sponsors has increased substantially. Their support and contributions to our meetings and events have helped us tremendously. Every gathering is a reminder that we cannot do this alone. It takes a community, not just of our own members, family, and friends, but also of our neighboring businesses, organizations, and volunteers to make it all happen. Thank you so much again to all who support us!

My hope for 2019 is that will we maintain all the relationships we have built and also create more relationships and partners as we continue to meet the growing needs of our families. Through these relationships we help magnify the voices of our Down syndrome community, which helps lead to a brighter future for our kids.

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!

Teen Peer Development class is back! We are very fortunate to have found someone who is passionate about serving our community. Joanne Tabora is excited to be our facilitator starting in 2019. With her experience and skills, we are confident that she will effectively facilitate the class and help create memories that her students will cherish. Please help me welcome Joanne to our Down Syndrome Connection family!

We also hope to build more classes for different age groups. If needed, we can make it happen. Are you are interested in having your child participate in starting a new class? Please contact me at julie@dsconnection.org.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

Thank you to all of our supporters and sponsors!

In no particular order, **THANK YOU** to Jen Quan Rec Room Creative, Myri Fun and Confetti, Terri Cerise Cerise Photography, Rise Pizzeria, Nachoria, Urban Bistro, Pizza My Heart, Pizzeria Delfina, Lucky Foster City, Healthy Horizons, Morning Glory, Del’Oliva, Sixto’s Cantina, Baby Gap, Therapy, Lululemon, Athleta, Flavas Jamaican Grill, Corner Bakery Foster City, Safeway Foster City, Jay Torres Latizmo Hip Hop Productions, Kirtana Ahluwalia Golden Shutter Portraits, Chasity Ann Noel Savvy Images, Tim Scott Tim Scott Photography, MOD Pizza, Terún Restaurant Palo Alto, BiteSize Baking, Rosario’s Tacos, 4Cs of San Mateo County, San Bruno Flower Fashions, Ellen Cookman Cookman Law, Natashe Washington Miller & Washington, LLP, Trader Joe’s San Mateo, Romolo’s Cannoli, Specialty’s Café & Bakery San Mateo, North Beach Pizza, Plaza Gourmet Delicatessen, Celia Ma Paint the Town, Bob Dills Massage Escape, Michele Coxon, Stillpoint on the Coast, Angela Magaoay, Millbrae Medical Supply, Mia & Emma Love, Sabine Senay, Delizie, Micheál Mallie Jack’s Prime Burgers & Shakes, Maverick Jack’s, The Grill House, Village Hummus, Treats by Joy, El Sinaloense, Joanne Chan Wing Fat, Jordan Chan Jonin, DJ Ed Enriquez, Monique Redmond, Katie Kerwin-Gielniak Broadway Babies and Kids, Tamsyn Bindal Broadway Babies and Kids, Jennifer Mulry Buddies in Action, Paulette Gill Paulette’s Art and the Joy of Painting, Tina Ashamalla, Michael Rhino Regalia, Mercy Forde Dance for All, E. Ambriz DeColosio Mex-E-King, Emon Dismore, Jeen Yee, Inanc Ino, Rachel Dee, Chris Posadas, Fernando Pereira, Sandra Risser, Harbor Pharmacy, Marco Nascimento Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, John Rockwell, Hope Lutheran Church, Jennifer Liu Foster City Parks and Rec, City of Foster City, Kevin Miller former City Manager of Foster City, Jeff Moneda City Manager of Foster City, Gloria Wu Opening Doors PTA, Peninsula Jewish Community Center, Congregational Church of San Mateo, all of our amazing 50+ volunteers, including NCL, Skyline Chapter, our friends and families who have stepped up when needed, and last but not least, the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area (DSCBA).

Right: Thank you so much to Mex-E-King for organizing and hosting our comedy benefit show. And thank you to all of the wonderful comedians for volunteering their time and talents to make this event possible.

Below: Group photo at the Halloween party.



THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

FOUNDATIONS, FAMILY FUNDS, BUSINESSES, AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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 Laurie McGrath
 Mary Ann Jones
 Kati Skulski
 John and Betty Barr
 Grant and Suanne Inman
 Mike and Layne Alfrey
 Anne Sweeris
 Sydney Addington
 Gary Schroth
 Steve Wilcox

CAR DONATIONS

Elaine Screechfield
 Elizabeth Hockel
 Abraham Gunter
 Carolyn Rover

MEMORIALS AND HONORS

IN MEMORY OF MY MOTHER DORIS LINDBERG
 Kim Lindeberg
IN HONOR OF MY DAUGHTER AND HER CLOTHING BRAND T21LOVE
 Monique's Royalty Shop
IN HONOR OF RABBI LEE BYCEL
 Marvin and Michele Zwerin
IN HONOR OF AMTB, GOD BLESS YOU!
 Diting XU
IN MEMORY OF HENRY A. FIELD JR.
 Julianne Maggiore
 Brad Liddle
 James Bartzen
 Mark and Patti Mackesey
 Mark Hoppe
 Dale Leibowitz and Amy Kaster
 Steven and Kathi Riley
 James and Mary Hamre
 Lee and Robert Trummer
 Roseanne Hefko and Charles Deming
HAPPY BIRTHDAY ABIGAIL
 Melissa Hansen

IN HONOR OF EMERY DELACRUZ
 Robin Birakos
IN HONOR OF WESTON DEAN FUSSELMAN
 St. Joan of Arc Grief Ministry
 Ken & Susan Fusselman
 Edmund and Barbara Gil
IN HONOR OF ERIC WELLS
 Bernadette Wheeler
IN HONOR OF K. LEIGH AFLER
 Tracy and Anne Trotter
 Janet Richman
IN HONOR OF JAY PURCHIO
 Jeanne Leland
IN HONOR DANIEL SODESTROM
 Thomas and Marise McIntosh
IN HONOR VIVIAN HALE
 Frances Hale
IN HONOR OF BIAGINA COVELLO
 Joseph and Carolyn Covello
IN HONOR OF SAMANTHA COPELAND
 Debra Copeland & Family
IN HONOR OF LIAM HAWLEY
 Laurie Hawley
IN HONOR OF SANTIAGO MALLIE
 Heather Husmer
IN HONOR OF ROBERT BERG
 Caroline Archambault
IN HONOR OF THE MALACARNE FAMILY
 Tim Crawford

IN HONOR OF WILL DRUCKER & JOE AND KATY DRUCKER FAMILY
 Katherine Drucker
IN HONOR OF CHRISTI HOCKEL'S 40TH BIRTHDAY
 James Francis
IN HONOR OF MATTHEW TRUEBLOOD
 Peter and Cindy Trueblood

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

Dan Ensminger's Giving Tuesday
 Jim Ensminger
 Steven Pugsley
 David Palmer
 Bethany Villafuerte
Swingin Door Comedy Fundraiser
 Eduardo Diaz
So Much Yellow Premier & Auction
 Erica Milson
 Walt Disney Foundation
GIVRS Donation Fundraiser
 The Athenian School

EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

PG&E
 Valerie Pool
 Ray Szeto
 Laura Martinez
 Jenny Rios - In honor of my daughter
 Bianca

Give With Liberty
 John Najjar In honor
 of Sara Najjar
 Valerie Pool
Macy's East
 Scott Ferguson
 Alex Ferguson
Kaiser Permanente
 Rick LaBelle
United Way Campaign
 Jimmy Sparrow
Genentech, Inc.
 Christian Small
 Christina Rabe
Chevron
 Paul Casadont
 Marian Cathedral-King
McKesson Foundation
 Mark Vukelich
The Clorox Company
 Toby Gavino
AT&T Giving Campaign
 David Kimbel

Apple
 Edwin Tang
Workday, Inc.
 Krista Veri
Cisco
 Marcos Gonzalez
 Miguel Hernandez

Marcos Gonzalez
America's Best Local Charities
 Anonymous
 Laverne Aubry
 Jaime Selby

VOLUNTEERS

Music Therapy Volunteers
 Megan Bame
 Abby Bareiss
 Sophie Bareiss
 Sydney Biekert
 Emily Gillett
 Sierra Leverage
 Leslie Moore
 Lillian Segol
Peer Development Class Volunteers
 Abi Coulson
 Mary Bridget Gallagher
 Sydney Guastucci
 Sophia Guastucci
 Dawn Handley
 Jana Labib
 Keaton Littlefield
 Benjamin Park
 Emily Petroni
 Joey Powada
 Malvika Singh
 Gracie Sula
 Toni Sweet

BIRTHDAY HONORS Thank you to our generous Facebook Fundraisers, who raised more than \$16,000 by donating their birthdays!

Raquel Escobar O'Keefe

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Colleen Garin
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Tina Edmiston Brown
Joelle Machado
Neuza Garcia
Jeanine Iac
Sandi Brimmer
Jeffrey Unck
Dana Roberson
Jeff Collins
Alice Jalilvand
Michele Francis
Nat Nat
Cindy Butler
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Dolores Eusanio
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Mary Kagan
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Shannon Boutchyard

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Angel Morales
Michael Fuentes
Letty Arellano

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Vishnavi Urs
Donna Bussey
Terry Gross
Lori Brooks
Patricia Mgbam
Monique Henry
Valerie Metcalf
Theresa Kaufman
Yvonne Randle
Carmen Ned
Christine Zarate
Saira Hassan

Sylvia Romo Feliciano

Debbie Coleman
Veronica DeRouen Duran
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Sophie Eath Barnes

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Sambo Ly

Nicole Roja

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Ryan Kast
Danny Rodgers

Maricar Foronda Tacotaco

Blesilda Dela Rosa
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Karen Ramirez
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Kimberly Baxter
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Anthony Mayorga

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Jags Sharma

Shayna Danielsen

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Harsh Sadhvani

Harsh Sadhvani
Keerthana Gowda
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Mit Shah

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Yash Arya
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Jenny Lam
Jonathan Wong
Anthony Do
Luz Estrella

Diego Alcantara

Diego Alcantara
Deidson Camargos

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Lekisha Ross
Rosalind Winter
Holly Delaney

Lekisha and Madisyn Aos

Jean Garner
Holly Delaney
Maria Ross

Floyd Ruffin

Avery Jackson
Floyd Ruffin
Kendra Butler

Nancy LaBelle

Sean Parham
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Alanna Powell
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Elaine Sioras
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Jennifer Cooper
Judith Clark
Marie Vidal
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Erika Mora Ocegueda
Bonnie Armendariz
Claranne Jones
Paola Mpalombo
Eva Gomez
Lana Largusa
Alisha Bleakley
Erika Ocegueda

Luz Betty

Carlos Herrera
Marilyn De Castro
Audra Harvey
Alels Lugo Bon
Albert Martinez
Mahuma Williams
Chito Desuasido
Rob Madri Galantis
Rob Galantis
Lovisa Davidson



It's Easy
**TO CREATE A FUNDRAISER
ON FACEBOOK AND GIVE
YOUR BIRTHDAY**
to the
**DOWN SYNDROME CONNECTION
OF THE BAY AREA**

START AT:
WWW.FB.COM/FUND/DSCBA
**TO CREATE YOUR FUNDRAISER
AND SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

Thank you to everyone who has created a facebook fundraiser for the DSCBA so far. Your giving has truly impacted our programs.

Our Mission

To empower, inspire, and support people with Down syndrome, their families, and the community that serves them, while fostering awareness and acceptance in all areas of life.

Upcoming Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019
MOTIVATING YOUR CHILD WITH DOWN SYNDROME TO BE AS INDEPENDENT AS POSSIBLE: A WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS AND CAREGIVERS, see page 7

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019
WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019
21st ANNIVERSARY GALA, see page 2

Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area



Save the Date
Sunday, March 24, 2019

Come celebrate with us!

Relaxing time getting to know other families. Play at Matteo's Dream Park, built for children of all abilities. Picnic lunch. Lots of fun games and activities!

DOWN SYNDROME CONNECTION
 OF THE BAY AREA

CONNECTION GROUPS



An opportunity to meet and share with those who have similar interests, seek peer support and give back to other DSCBA families by providing guidance from your own personal experiences. Facilitators help keep the dynamics of each member's input a helpful and meaningful experience. As a result of the connections made in these settings, many members experience lifelong friendships of support and understanding along with gaining powerful knowledge that leads to success for the child, the family and the community at large.



- ★ **Parents/ Caregivers of Teens and Adults with Down syndrome**
 Open to all Bay Area parents and caregivers of teens and adults with Down syndrome.
www.facebook.com/groups/dscba.teensadults
- ★ **Bay Area Down Syndrome and Autism Alliance**
 Open to all Bay Area parents, family members, caregivers, and others working with a child or adult who has a diagnosis of both Down syndrome and autism.
www.facebook.com/groups/dscba.autism

Group Connections



Many groups meet at scheduled times to provide connections and support in person. Most groups meet monthly at the DSCBA office in Danville, but please see our website for current dates and times. Please note: some groups may involve bringing your children. Please check the website for details.
dsconnection.org/connection-groups

- ★ **Early Connections**
 Friendly and supportive environment for parents and their babies (ages 0-3) with Down syndrome where we share helpful information to support your baby's development.
- ★ **Parents with School Aged Children**
 Parents supporting each other with knowledge and information necessary to meet the educational needs of their children: best practices, rights and advocacy.
- ★ **Peninsula Family Support Group**
 A group of Peninsula based parents, who come together monthly to share, learn and take part in fun activities.
- ★ **Grandparents**
 Grandparents of children with Down syndrome are welcomed and encouraged to join our group to exchange information, share common experiences and be encouraged by other grandparents with similar issues and concerns.