



Making The Connection

SUMMER 2011

DOWN SYNDROME CONNECTION OF THE BAY AREA



Hailey and mom Jenn walk the parade with Hootie their dog



Rich Kelley and son Cole drive the float and wave to the crowd.



DSCBA Office Manager Peggy and her family join in for the fun!



Next Step Volunteers Macee and Lauren came out to show their support!



Conner proudly showed his smiling face as a "future" leader



Float Chairperson Heather Peterson with Mark and Ellie



The Cannons were enjoying this year's "future leaders" float

THE 2011 FOURTH OF JULY float building and Kiwanis Danville parade were fabulous again this year! We had 40 people at float building and a comparable amount riding and walking alongside the float the day of the parade. As usual we had the loudest cheers! A big thank you to the Kelley's, Garcia's, and Perkins for putting in the extra effort as usual! A big hug to Conner Anthony and Hannah Bornstein for sticking their cute little faces through our interactive float design! You guys rock! See everyone next year!!

— Heather Peterson



Nora and Mom Mary enjoy the festivities



Christian had a fun time at the parade. He'll be back next year!!



Jayden with his dad enjoying the float.



Brandon had the "best seat" in the house!



Board President Terese Ghilarducci and her family walk the parade with pride!

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TERESE'S TALES:

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE NEW BOARD PRESIDENT

— Terese Ghilarducci



When I was eight years old, I was blessed with the arrival of a new friend. Little did I know at such a young age that this person would forever change my life for the better. The little baby that was born on November 10, 1977, was no other than Blair Hogan and ever since his birth I have been a part of his life. Even in our adult years we spend a lot of time hanging out. Blair and his family are members of my family and we have been “joined at the hip” ever since.

In 1998 when Martha founded the Connection she asked me to be the Board Secretary, which continued until 2006. My mom, Camille, was Martha’s administrative assistant until her illness in 2002, when Kathy Harkins took over. Even outside of the Board, I have worked on fundraising events such as the Cajun Fest and last year’s first Annual Gala. Needless to say, the Connection has also been a part of my life and I am honored to be the new Board President. I have already met amazing people and I am pleased to announce our new Board members, Judith Clark, Paul Crawford—Treasurer, Rick Acuna—Central Valley Liaison, and Mike and Karen Zolnier.

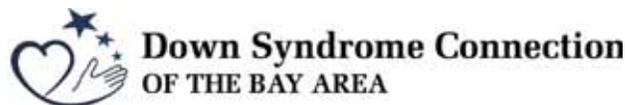
I want to take this time to thank past President, Maura Perkins, for establishing such a fine DSCBA Board of Directors, and who took the time to mentor and train me. I couldn’t have asked for a more talented predecessor and will continue to keep her “connected.” I also want to extend my gratitude to Nancy LaBelle, who continues to be our fearless leader.

As Board President I encourage all of you to support the upcoming fundraising events that keep our Connection “connecting.” Many thanks to Karen Lochner who organized the recently held Bowl-a-Rama; Marianne Iversen who supports our programs; Peggy Alreck-Anthony, who keeps the office running, and to my second mom, Martha Hogan, who continues to love and encourage me. I think secretly she has groomed me for this position since I was eight years old.

As we continue to make connections, get ready for the most fun(raising) ever at the 2011 Buddy Walk, chaired by Tammy Garcia and Jo Kelley. You will be inspired to walk, picnic, share time with family and friends and raise money for the Connection. I can’t wait until October 2nd. Look out for many announcements and emails about how you can participate in this event.

Thanks to all of you for allowing me be your President and feel free to contact me at teresehariem@comcast.net.

Enjoy the summer!



2010-2011 Board of Directors

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2011 Board Meetings

101 J Town & Country Drive
Danville, 6:45 pm – 8:15 pm

The Board meets on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 25; no Dec meeting. To attend or bring a guest please call Board President, Terese Ghilarducci at 925-872-5858.

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WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION SUPPORTS DSCBA PROGRAMS

Thank you to Mark Flower, SVP Regional Director Wells Fargo Private Bank – East Bay for his personal delivery of \$10,000 from the Wells Fargo Foundation.



A special thank you to the VandenBerghe and Zolnier families for their advocacy work on behalf of adorable Mason and all people with Down syndrome.

2011 Parents' Support Group*

Sept 27, Oct 25 and Dec 6. No Nov meeting. Parents of children with Down syndrome are welcome and encouraged to join our monthly support group to exchange information, share common experiences and be encouraged by other parents with similar issues and concerns. The group meets at the Connection office in Danville, 101 J Town & Country Drive.

Please call Martha Hogan if you have questions or to tell her you are coming: 925 362-8660.

*Childcare is not available. Babies under 10 months are welcome. This group is for parents.

Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area

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Danville, CA 94526



SCIENTISTS WORK TO IMPROVE COGNITION

— The following information was provided by researchers from Stanford University in Palo Alto, April 2011

In April I had the pleasure of attending a thank you luncheon in Palo Alto. The honored guests were researchers from Stanford who are working to improve cognition in people with Down syndrome by identifying safe drug therapies. The luncheon was organized by an online group of parents of children with Down syndrome based out of the south bay. As I sat there and listened to these researchers explain their work and how far they've come, I was brought to tears. In a nutshell, here is a description of where they are in their research.

— Angie Retig

Individuals with Down syndrome have an extra copy of more than 200 genes. The extra copy of these genes disrupts the delicate balance of proteins and molecules in the body. For the brain this means that it cannot function normally, causing reduced learning and memory abilities.

Scientists have created mice that carry an extra copy of many of the genes triplicated in Down syndrome. These mice possess fundamental features of Down syndrome such as deficits in learning and permit exploration of potential treatment strategies. Researchers at Stanford and elsewhere have discovered some potential causes of memory deficits in this mouse model of Down syndrome.

Studies in the Garner lab have confirmed that in this mouse model of Down syndrome communication between two types of brain cells—excitatory and inhibitory neurons—is out of balance. There is too much inhibitory communication, which prevents learning from properly taking place.

It's as if somebody forgot to release the parking break—the car just won't go.

The Garner lab further investigated whether inhibitory communication between neurons could somehow be reduced in this mouse model. For this purpose, Down syndrome mice and normal mice were tested on two tasks that were designed to assess learning and memory. As expected, the Down syndrome mice performed significantly worse than the normal mice.

The Down syndrome mice were then treated for several weeks with different drugs, which are known to reduce inhibitory communication.

These drugs work by partially blocking a receptor located on the neurons called GABA A receptor. Blocking these receptors should reduce inhibitory communication, thereby increasing excitatory communication. When tested on the learning and memory tasks, the Down syndrome mice now performed almost as well as the normal mice. Even several weeks after drug treatment had been terminated, these mice still performed better.

These results confirm that too much inhibitory communication between neurons indeed

prevents learning from taking place in this mouse model of Down syndrome. Reducing this inhibition with specific drugs restores the balance between inhibitory and excitatory neurons so that learning can take place.

The results also suggest that a similar treatment strategy may address the cognitive deficits seen

in individuals with Down syndrome. Several known drugs can turn down inhibition through GABA A receptors. Some of the drugs used in the animal studies have a long history of safe use in humans, but they have not been used to treat individuals with Down syndrome.

All of us parents sitting around the tables were excited about the work that these dedicated men and woman had committed to researching. There are still a lot of questions as to the safety of the drug, what dosage should be given, how long people need to take it, will it affect sleep etc. I think for me, I became emotional because I can't believe that there's a possibility that some day

there may be a safe pill that Gabriel will be able to take that will help his speech become clearer, that will allow him the ability to make good choices but most importantly that will allow him to function on an even playing field with his typical peers. The most amazing thing is that this research is happening in our own back yard. The researchers are friendly and happy to meet with anybody to explain their work. Most importantly, they are dedicated to helping people with Down syndrome.

For more information please feel free to visit Garner Lab's website at: www.garnerlab.stanford.edu/DS_Research.



Gabriel Rettig

"I became emotional because I can't believe that there's a possibility that some day there may be a safe pill that Gabriel will be able to take that will help his speech become clearer, that will allow him the ability to make good choices but most importantly that will allow him to function on an even playing field with his typical peers."

A POEM FOR LILY

— Pamela Brady,
Lily Fatehi's grandmother



Some time ago I wrote this poem for Lily in honor of my daughter, Bernadette, Lily's mom, for all the wonderful work she does for all these precious children and adults. Surprise, Bernadette!!!

Through Lily's Eyes

The stars that shine in the Heavens at night, are easy for us to see, but I know a star that shines bright all the time, and her name is Lily Fatehi.

When Lily walks into a room, there's a radiance that encircles her.

She only has to smile at you, and your heart cannot help but purr.

The goodness that flows from this child, is a fountain for all to partake; as for myself, she can make me forget about every pain and every ache.

Before Lily arrived, we went about our lives, just doing what we had to do; but now that she's here, she draws us away, to a place of magic, a place free of care.

When I think back to the day of Lily's birth, I remember how we were so unprepared; we were not aware what a gift she would be, and day after day, she proves that to me.

What is it about Lily that draws people in, what makes her unforgettable to us? She possesses a heart that's filled with pure love, in a world over-flowing with turmoil and fuss.

Her world is the present, not the future, not the past; it would do us well to learn from her; Lily shows us how to live in the moment, and do our best to make it last.

Now, don't get me wrong, Lily does have her days, when she'll push your last button, if things don't go her way.

But even when Lily has played her last pin, and 'time out' is required to put Lily in; She'll sit on the rug, and won't hold a grudge, And when her time's up, she comes back with a hug.

Each of us is born with our own unique gift. That gift is how we view the world. It is through Lily's eyes that I see only the good; through Lily's eyes, I see God as I should.

There will always be stars that twinkle at night, and their numbers are countless, that is true, but the star on this earth; the one brightest of all, is a star I call Lily Dew.

Love Gramma, 2010



2011 DSCBA ANNUAL MEETING: MILLION DOLLAR ROUND TABLE FOUNDATION PRESENTS \$ 2 5 0 0 TO DSCBA PROGRAMS!



The mission of the MDRT Foundation is to encourage volunteerism among MDRT members and to provide grant funds to worthy charitable organizations in member communities worldwide. Since its formation, the MDRT Foundation has contributed more than 26 million dollars in grants to charitable organizations in 67 countries and all 50 United States.

Thanks to the MDRT Foundation we have provided our members in 2011 with the following opportunities:

- SF Exploratorium for young adults
- Yoga for children
- Music Therapy for teen and young adult classes
- Occupational Therapy/Baby Steps
- Night out for adults — bowling and pizza



Steve Wilcox, Investment Advisor with Summit Financial Group and friend of the Connection presents check to DSCBA Executive Director Nancy LaBelle.

HAPPY KIDS... HAVE GREAT BIG SMILES!!

— Heather Peterson, MS SLP-CCC



Did you know that a wonderful effect of Oral Placement Therapy is a toned smile? In a nut shell, Oral Placement Therapy can be considered physical therapy for the mouth. Often you will see your child's cheeks become thinner, his/her face have more movement (mobility), and you may even get a big ol' puckered kiss too! Here are a few examples of all of the Happy Kids who have clearer speech and great big smiles to prove it!



ORAL PLACEMENT THERAPY — Kristy Acuna

Oral placement therapy?? What was the difference between this and the speech therapy Joaquin was receiving at school? The answer: A BIG difference. Since Joaquin's birth he has struggled not with hypotonic arms or legs....but with his mouth and jaw. He has difficulty chewing, he has difficulty sucking from a straw or sipping from a water bottle. I began speaking with Heather Peterson and had our first full therapy session a little over a month ago. After just two weeks of working with Heather, Joaquin has made HUGE progress in speech, eating and drinking. She has equipped me with simple exercises and massage techniques I can do at home everyday.



When I first spoke with Heather on the phone about some of my concerns, she gave me some "tough love" which I wasn't expecting, and to say the least, irritated me the WHOLE day. She basically asked me "where do you see Joaquin

with his speech?" My response was "He's doing great! I can understand him; it's just everyone else that has a hard time." Then she said something along the lines of "sometimes we can have low expectations for our little guys." WHAT?? Me? Have low expectations? NO WAY!

Then it began to resonate in my heart. I was settling. My expectations of my son's speech were at a stand still. I had lost that fight to push him. To make him work for clear speech. My son has Down syndrome, yes, but he is MORE than capable of achieving clear, productive speech. I was limiting him! I can't thank Heather enough for lighting that fire in me again. The amount of progress Joaquin has achieved in just one month has made me a believer for oral placement therapy!! Thank you so much Heather Peterson! The tools you have given me and the time spent with my son is priceless!!

TALK TOOLS

— Mari Pongkhamsing



Last winter our family received a grant from the non-profit T21: Together in the 21st Century. The grant paid for my son Oliver to work with Margaret Bourne, a speech therapist located in Alameda. Margaret specializes in Sara Rosenfeld-Johnson's Talk Tools method and the grant covered speech therapy tools as well as four sessions with Margaret. We were interested in using the Talk Tools method because Oliver has low muscle tone in his mouth and I had read that the SRJ method helps strengthen these muscles. Here are a few helpful things that we learned by using Talk Tools:

- Doing a simple series of pre-feeding exercises can help strengthen mouth muscles and "wake-up" the mouth for feeding.
- Specialized spoon feeding techniques can help a child learn to close his lips around a spoon and swallow rather than thrusting the tongue forward and out of the mouth.
- Chewing exercises can help strengthen a child's jaw so that he will learn to chew food properly and not simply mash it with his tongue.
- Drinking from a straw is preferable to a sippy cup because it requires a child to use more mouth muscles and keep the tongue retracted.

I recommend the Talk Tools method and T21's services to other parents who might be interested.

ELLA IS DRINKING FROM A STRAW

— Rachael Kriksciunas



Ella is now 8 months old and has been eating solids for about 2.5 months and really enjoying it! At her appointment with Heather Peterson as a follow-up to her introduction to solids, I knew that Heather was thinking of introducing straw drinking, but wasn't sure if Ella could do it. Well, as soon as Heather gave me the honey bear Ella latched right on and started sucking! She even held on for more! I couldn't have been more proud of her at that moment! I know how much effort these seemingly small steps take for our kids to accomplish. Heather started working with Ella when she was 5 weeks old, using oral motor techniques and massages diligently. The success could be seen that day!



SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

— Laurie Hawley

Special Education Preschool Services

The California Department of Education has published a series of handbooks on “Early Childhood Special Education.” The series consists of seven handbooks focusing on core concepts and preferred practices gathered from an in-depth review of current literature, statutes, and regulations. They include:

- *Handbook on Family Involvement*
- *Handbook on Administration*
- *Handbook on Assessment and Evaluation*
- *Handbook on Developing Individualized Family Service Plans and Individualized Education Programs*
- *Handbook on Developing and Implementing Programs and Services*
- *Handbook on Developing and Evaluating Interagency Collaboration*
- *Handbook on Transition*

The handbooks can be downloaded for free at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/fp/ecseries.asp>. They are written in a very parent friendly format and are a wealth of information. I wish I had known about them when my son was transitioning into preschool. Not only are they full of information but they would be helpful to reference when negotiating with your school district for services and placement. The Handbook on Developing and Implementing Programs and Services has some great information and support for those looking for an inclusive preschool placement.

Book Review

Teaching Everyday Skills

Steps to Independence, Teaching Everyday Skills to Children with Special Needs, by Bruce L. Baker and Alan J. Brightman.

I just got this book this week and I am going to have to keep it on my bedside table for years to come because I know I will be referring to it often. It is filled with step-by-step guides for teaching your child skills in the areas of:

- get-ready
- self-help
- toilet training
- play
- self-care
- home care
- functional academics

I have already begun following the step-by-step programs for teaching Liam how to use a fork to eat, and stacking rings on a ring stack toy in the correct order. These are two skills that have eluded Liam for years now. He just turned 5 and I am so glad that I have found this book that gives such clear directions on how to teach these important skills. And I am seeing progress (and it has only been a few days!). Today Liam fed himself with a fork more than 50% of his waffle, hot dog and fish sticks. This book also goes over the method for breaking skills down into smaller parts, instructing, shaping behavior, fading prompts, etc., so that you can create programs for skills you want to teach that may not be included in this guide. I highly recommend this book. The authors indicate it was written to teach skills to children from age three through young adulthood.

DANIEL SODESTROM, BOY SCOUT

— Julie & Dirk Sodestrom



Daniel Sodestrom has officially begun his Boy Scout career with Troop 212 in Moraga, CA. The young men of Troop 212 have been amazing in welcoming Daniel into the Troop, and wanting him to have a successful experience in Boy Scouting. Daniel is proudly following in his

older brothers footsteps, Calvin and Jeff, who are Eagle Scouts. We are so proud of Daniel and look forward to helping him succeed in Scouting.



Kassidy Lloyd sharing one of her wonderful smiles following Speech Therapy



LIAM IS LEARNING TO READ!

— Laurie Hawley

Since Liam was about 2 years old, and I heard about young children with Down syndrome being able to learn to sight word read, I have been trying to teach him to read. I have purchased and tried a number of programs...Love and Learning, Out of the Box (now eReading Pro), and See and Learn. Much to my disappointment, I did not have significant success with any of these programs. This past spring

Liam turned 5 and I had pretty much given up on teaching him to sight word read, deciding I would just wait until he started kindergarten and see if he learned to read the phonetic way along with the other kids.

Then in April, I saw the announcement that the Down Syndrome Connection was going to be hosting a workshop by Natalie Hale free of charge. Natalie has her own business called Special Reads for Special Needs (www.specialreads.com), has presented at the annual Down Syndrome Conventions and does private reading tutoring in the Bay Area (a couple of days a week she works out of the Connections office in Danville). I decided I would go in one last ditch effort to see if I could learn anything new that might help me teach Liam to sight word read.

Some of what I learned at Natalie’s workshop was similar to programs I had tried with Liam in the past such as fast flashing flash cards, but there were 3 key differences or new ideas I took away...creating homemade HIGH interest books, putting the pictures on a separate page following the text, and having Liam use a pointer to track the words as he read. These seem small, but they made a world of difference. After two weeks, Liam began to read. And I mean REALLY read. His current love is Toy Story and I made a simple Toy Story book for him with sentences such as “I see Woody.” One day about two weeks after I started working with him, he walked into our office room where I was typing up flashcards unbeknownst to him and he looked at my computer screen, pointed and said “Woody.” I was shocked and I scrolled the screen down to the next word and asked, “What does that say?” And he said “See.” Wow, he had just read two of the words we had been working on and completely out of context without any clues!

One of the best parts of Natalie’s program...it is so much more affordable than other programs I purchased! I have been able to implement it for just the cost of card stock, binder rings and ink. Over the past two months, I have gone on to make 4 Toy Story themed books and Liam can now read 12 words. I plan to keep making high interest books for him and I can’t wait to see how many words he can read when he enters kindergarten in a year.

I would like to say a big thank you to Natalie Hale for helping me discover the keys to unlocking Liam’s ability to learn to read. As well as many thanks to the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area for providing such an informative workshop!



MASON'S SCHOOL VISIT

— Karen Zolnier

It has been so hard to feel like a program is a good fit for Mason and us, and today we had a wonderful time touring Burton Valley School. We feel very hopeful that we've found a good match. Mason was thrilled! He was showing off and bouncing around. Big kids were saying how cute he is! When we were leaving the first classroom, Mason found a little toy purse and finished the tour with it!



NICO BARILLAS

— Marty and Veronica Barillas



Nicos graduated from the Lynn Center's Early Intervention Program at the George Miller Center on his 3rd birthday February 27, 2011. Nico's favorite parts at his school were making new friends in class, his teachers, finger painting and snack time! He is now attending pre-K at Burton Valley Elementary in Lafayette and loves his new class and teachers.

ELIJAH GOZUM AND HIS GLASSES

— Pam Gozum

My son Elijah, who is turning four on June 12th, has been wearing eyeglasses to correct his lazy eye since he was a year old. I just got him a



new pair of glasses from SPECS4US. When I came across their website, they specialize on frames for kids with Down Syndrome. I have finally resolved the issue of Elijah's glasses from slipping down his nose; these frames fit him perfectly! If you're in need of glasses for your child, definitely check-out SPECS4US.

LEAVING THE COCOON

— Jo Kelley, Proud Mom

Cole is here at another stepping stone. Since he was born we had been receiving services from The Regional Center. We had been blessed with the loving, talented and hard-working therapists who came to our home weekly since Cole was an infant until he turned two and I began teaching at Joyful Noise Preschool where Cole was able to attend. Each therapist arranged their schedules to accommodate Cole's new school schedule and location. I felt like this was an ideal situation for us. He was surrounded by typical peers, still had the support of those trained to help him succeed and I was able to be with him.

It was not so long ago when Cole was turning three and I was feeling a lot of apprehension about leaving the cocoon of The Regional Center. At three years old the responsibility of a child's educational support goes to the school district and is no longer under the umbrella of The Regional Center. This transition starts with several assessments. These assessments can be uncomfortable for a parent, seeing test scores and results not meeting standards for his age level. These assessment procedures looked a lot like playing and Cole was not uncomfortable, so I knew I had to embrace the journey as well. The test score numbers were lower than I felt accurately illustrated my "perfect child." This is probably why the school district does not rely solely on parent assessment.

When all was said and done, Cole was placed in the Walt Disney Elementary Special Day Preschool. Anne Flatley Nott was his teacher and had a lot of support in the classroom. She is teamed up with fellow teacher Michelle Kosinski. The aides, Montse Barr, Kelly Otis, Lisa Mitchel, and Mary L Penaro, in that class clearly reflected the leadership they were given. I couldn't have hand picked a more caring and energetic group of people to influence and guide my son through this stage of his education. After two and a half years in this class, Anne advocated for an extra year of preschool for Cole and others who she knew would greatly benefit from the extra time and guidance for growth and mastering of skills. During this extra year of preschool, Cole was placed in Michelle Kosinski's class with the support of Anne. I considered this extra year a great blessing and am very grateful for this gift. Once again Cole is surrounded by teachers, aides, and therapists who put more than just time into their jobs. They want the children they work with to succeed. They put their hearts into it and what loving hearts they have!



Linda Johnson, his O.T. (occupation therapist) since he began at Walt Disney, is very competent and is great about communicating with me regarding his struggles and successes. Laura Wilson, his speech pathologist this year, not only cared about Cole but she pulled me aside after assessing him. She was concerned about my reaction to the test results and wanted me to see the numbers prior to the IEP (individualized education plan) meeting. She explained how she knew he could do more than the standardized tests could show. I know my son and how non-compliant he can be when he doesn't want to do something and I appreciated her many efforts to let him shine although he continued to be uncooperative. I was touched by Laura's consideration for my feelings, which is certainly not in her job description. Linda Gordon Taylor, his school psychologist, also met with Cole at different times and settings to get the most accurate results for his testing.

Cole's teachers, Michelle and Anne, answered my endless questions as I tried to come to a decision on where Cole would go next in his educational journey. I entertained the thought of full inclusion at Sycamore Valley Elementary, our home school. Amy Black, Sycamore's principal, was supportive and willing to look at what it would take for Cole to have a positive experience and successful Kindergarten year. After careful consideration my husband, Rich, and I decided that this would not be the most beneficial placement for Cole at this time. Cole will be continuing his education at Montair Elementary in the Special Day Kindergarten class. He will be mainstreamed into regular education classes and will have daily interaction with typical peers. Rich and I will continue to re-evaluate throughout Cole's education and try to make what we feel are the best decisions for our son.

I never thought when Cole entered preschool that I would be feeling even more of a sense of sadness upon his leaving than I did when he left the arms of those who came to our home and loved and cared for him, but I do. Thank you to all those who touched not only Cole's life during his time at Walt Disney, but mine as well. I especially want to thank his teachers, Michelle Kosinski and Anne Flatley Nott. I don't know how teacher of the year is chosen, but they do not get any better than these two. In my book they are the winners!



DSCBA AND BERKELEY UNIVERSITY CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL HOLD THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL PARENTS' DAY OUT! — Nancy LaBelle

The crew from Berkeley University, all members of the community service organization Circle K International, came out in full force to offer a day of child care to our families in May.

This particular group led by Laura Redmond has volunteered at our events and annual meetings which has been an amazing gift to the Connection and its members over the past few years.

It was a sunny Saturday afternoon. We had 16 children registered for the day and we were ready to roll. The rooms were prepared with obstacle courses, arts and crafts, music, a movie, drumming and games for children from 17 months to 10 years old.

As the parents arrived I asked them what they were going to do for the next three hours: bicycle ride, yoga, movies, lunch, absolutely nothing and shopping

were some of the responses given. It was clear how important 3 hours of free time could be to anyone with children or a busy schedule. We quickly scooted parents out the door and the fun began!

Thank you to Marianne Iversen for coordinating and helping to set up and again to the beautiful young people from Berkeley University Circle K. Their vision is to be the leading global community-service organization on college and university campuses that enriches the world one member, one child and one community at a time.

We are very grateful for their partnership and commitment to the community we serve.

Watch out for the next Parents Day Out...

PUPPET SHOW...

In March we were fortunate to present a puppet show by Kevin Menegus and Fred C Riley III of The Fratello Marionettes. Both children and adults alike were entertained by the wonderful marionettes!

If you are interested in having the Fratello Marionettes perform for a party or event they can be reached at 925-984-3401 www.FratelloMarionettes.com





JARED WONG & ANGEL LOVE



from the Richmond step group participated in the Northern California Special Olympics Track and Field event on Saturday May

7th, and won several medals. Congratulations Jared and Angel!

VOCATIONAL LIVING SKILLS GRADUATES

— Mary Erickson

Congratulations to fellow classmates Rob Erion and Marissa Erickson on completion of the Vocational Living Skills Program at the College of Alameda. Over the course of two years, both of them participated in and passed classes on money management, independent living skills, communication strategies and vocational assessment. They both received Certificate of Completion Awards at an Award ceremony on May 24th, 2011. Congratulations Rob and Marissa!

Rob Erion and Marissa Erickson, pictured with moms Jan and Mary



DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'!!!

— From My Idol blogger melodywrites57

It was a cool Saturday morning in Santa Cruz, California. After playing ukulele on the beach by the harbor, I head over towards the Boardwalk and parked my car. As I walked down the street towards the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, I met several people along the way -- they were all going to the Boardwalk for the same reason I was -- to see James Durbin's homecoming! We were all devastated to hear that he was voted off [American Idol] on Thursday night -- it was such an unexpected upset because I'd already planned on going to James Durbin's homecoming.

So we were all relieved when it was decided James would have his homecoming after all in Santa Cruz, and we were all going to be there for it, even if it meant claiming a spot on the beach as close to the stage as possible and waiting for several hours -- it was all for James.

The crowds had just begun to form when I got to the beach and staked a spot close to the front. The environment was festive and fun.

I met an amazing young girl named Marissa. Me and another woman I met were admiring her fabulous purple t-shirt with James Durbin's picture in the front that said "James Durbin Rocks" in huge letters. "Where'd you get that t-shirt?" I asked.

Marissa, who is a very special young lady with Down syndrome, proudly proclaimed that she had made the t-shirt herself. We were all impressed. I ended up hanging out with Marissa for a long time. She sat next to me on the jacket I had spread in the sand to sit on and told me how excited she was to have the opportunity to see James Durbin -- and how sad she was when he was voted off the show. "I cried," she said.

But now we were all excited because we were still going to see James.

More and more people began to show up -- people from all walks of life. It wasn't until I turned around that I realized there were literally thousands down on that beach -- more people than had ever been down there for any concert. People were everywhere, on the sides of the stage and way beyond, sitting on cliffs, all lined up on the boardwalk and on the steps, even one guy way up on top of a roller coaster taking pictures. It was incredible!

The anticipation was almost too much, and, finally, there he was right there on the stage -- thousands of us cheering for him! He was overcome by emotion when he saw all the people yelling and cheering for him.

At first, we were all told James could only sing two songs, but everyone yelled, "one more, one more!" Thousands of us in unison ...and "Durbin, Durbin!" "I can only do one more song!" he said to us ...all of us.



That's when James broke into his amazing rendition that should have made his spot on American Idol stable, "Don't Stop Believin'!" Don't stop believin' I found myself thinking,

keep believin' James...we believe in you.

That's when James pointed at the young girl Marissa whom I'd hung with before the concert -- the young girl with the beautiful t-shirt she made... "I want that girl with the Durbin t-shirt who's crying right now up here on the stage -- someone get her up there!" It was amazing how James honed right in on her, how he just knew... Tears filled my eyes when Marissa got up on the stage and James gave her a big hug... This is just one of many reasons why James is so amazing. He is an inspiration to all -- don't stop believin'!



WAY TO GO, OLIVIA!!!

— Lili Byers

Olivia Byers-Straus started to play baseball with San Francisco Little League's Challenger Giants team in 2002. After seven years as a player, in 2009, she decided she was "too old" for the team—but that she wanted to volunteer. As an assistant coach, Olivia's principal duties are managing the line-up, making sure each team member is ready when it is their turn to bat. At San Francisco Little League's recent Coach Recognition Dinner, the league recognized Olivia's initiative, commitment to the team and diligence in performing her duties, and awarded her a \$75 gift card at Sports Basement. Way to go, Olivia!



Best friends Olivia Byers-Straus and Alaina Schlier welcome guests to their high school graduation dance party. The party was hosted by the girls and their parents, and a fabulous time was had by all!



Below: Olivia Byers-Straus and Jackson Soderquist are ready for prom! After meeting at Jackson's house for photos, they headed to Ristorante

Parma for dinner with their friends Alaina, Bobby and Maggie. Then on to the Exploratorium for the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts High School prom. Olivia graduated from SOTA in May, and she and Jackson will both be back there in the fall as students in a CAT class. They are both looking forward to the classes they will take at San Francisco City College.



DEL AMIGO ALL STARS WERE IN THE HOUSE

— Coach Janet Herman

Congratulations to all our All Star swimmers! Del Amigo Swim Team has considered it a privilege to work with such an amazing group of kids. All Stars was designed to offer fun, loving swim lessons for children who would normally be unable to participate in traditional swim lessons. In such a short time, we had children conquer their fear of the water, learn the butterfly stroke, swim in deep water and participate in a swim meet. More importantly this program was able to bridge the Del Amigo community to some wonderful families and give them an opportunity to share in the joy of making a difference to someone else's life. We look forward to offering All Stars again next spring!





LEARNING TO DYE SCARVES

Thank you to Joan Long for showing the Next Step class how to dye scarves using the Shibori process.



SF STEP VISITS THE EXPLORATORIUM

Thanks to a generous grant from the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation SF Step took a field trip to the Exploratorium where lots of fun and learning took place.

Thanks to Step student Jackson who works at the Exploratorium the students received an awesome tour!





ANGEL LOVE

My name is Angel Love, I'm 25 and a new member of the Richmond step group. I love to dance, and love drawing. I'm a good friend to my friends! Someday I hope to start my own business designing tee shirts.

BENICIA STEP BBQ

— Tamara Reed

The Benicia Step group hosted a BBQ to kick off the summer. Lisa, Mike, Andrew, Rachel, Martin, and Damien planned every aspect of the party, from the menu, grocery, and job list, to the guest list. It rained the day of the party, but that didn't stop the Benicia Rockstars from enjoying their day! Here's what they had to say about the party:

Martin: "I liked having my family, shopping with my friends, and helping out!"

Andrew: "I make the best dips like salsa and guacamole! I had fun with my family and friends...It was the best BBQ party in town!!"

Mike: "I liked the hamburgers and the hotdogs and I love cake!"

Lisa: "I loved helping my friends and cooking. The shopping was fun, and Andrew's dips really were the best. I liked being a chef!"



Damien: "Yep...I had fun!"

Rachel: "I loved the cake...It had our names on it! I liked being with my friends and having my father come to the party!"

In spite of the weather, the group had a great time and is looking forward to hosting the next big bash! Thank you to WalMart, Trader Joe's, Raley's, and Safeway for the donations.

Central Valley support group, Modesto



A parent support group meets every 2nd Friday of the month. All members of the family are able to attend

REACHING OUT TO THE CENTRAL VALLEY

— Marianne Iversen

We are excited about the success of our new programs in Modesto. Music Therapy and Parent Support Groups are offering an environment for new parent relationships as well as many wonderful experiences being shared by the children.

Thank you to board member Rick Acuna and his wife Kristy for their dedication and advocacy work to create services in the Central Valley.

Babies (ages 0-5) meet every 3rd Wednesday



Teenagers through adults meet every 1st Wednesday



Elementary school aged children meet every 4th Wednesday



Central Valley Music Therapy



STEP IN UPDATE

— Virginia Bonham

What a successful year we have had in Step In. The students worked so hard on many projects. We washed cars, we went bowling at the "Rock" n Roll Bowl" in Danville and following had a pizza party. The students took great photos of their friends and family. (We have some great photographers in the class!) We then worked on scrap books utilizing their photos: what a great project and in turn it ended up allowing everyone to get to know each other even better.

We showed off our stuff in a year-ending celebration and party/performance. The performance started with everyone reading short but descriptive poems about themselves. JR Dantes introduced himself, "I Love my friends, because I am love. Love and smooth. Life is complex. Life is about building trust. Don't cut the programs I am JR." Nicole Hodson wrote: "I love purple. I love

to write. I am good with the computer. I am a great friend and a tool works buddy. I am Nicole." Katrina Taylor wrote, "I am strong. I am independent. I am an artist. I am a great friend. I am Katrina." Others wrote great introduction poems as well.

After we danced a couple of dance numbers, K. Leigh Alfrey played California Dreaming on the clarinet. She did such a great job. Blair Hogan led us in some cheers to get the crowd revved up and ready for more dancing. We ended with a great group photo.

Teachers Tamara Reed and Virginia Bonham were all smiles at the end of a wonderful show and party the students of Step In put on. We are looking forward to summer and a session of more dancing and fun!!!



K. Leigh playing the Clarinet



Garrison reading a poem he wrote



Step Group



NEXT STEP VISITS HOME DEPOT

Thank you to Chrissy and Cynthia of the San Ramon Home Depot for the wonderful tour of the garden center and planting lesson.

A great time was had by all.





A TIME WARPING MIRACLE

— Lali Zayas del Rio

There's someone born every day, every minute, every second, but when Tatiana was born time stopped. She was born in July, around the time this issue will come out. And she was born to a big, loving, loud family, with tons of cousins waiting for another so that we could put on more of our plays, fashion shows, and tournaments. (Basically, anything that would entertain us for hours, creating a very special bond that, until recently, I thought was common in every family. I didn't realize how wonderfully weird and fantastic this cousin relationship was amongst us... we were more like siblings!)



So, finally, we were getting another member for our troupe. Word spread fast that Tatiana (or Tats) was born; it also came with a quick note: "Please pray, the doctors told aunt Gloria and uncle Paul she might not make it through the night." Then it turned into "the week." It will be a miracle if it's "the month." But that's exactly what Tatiana was at her birth...a time-warping miracle. She proved the doctors wrong, she was (still is) a fighter. And who could blame her – we're a pretty awesome family! We're close, we try to see each other as much as possible no matter in what corner of the world we're living in. Yes, there are times we get on each others nerves, but that's part of the fun, and most of all, I have never doubted my family's

love. Tatiana she knew bunch; that in, and that love her un-While Tats the hospital grandpar-

"Every time I see someone with Down syndrome, I smile. I know what they mean to their family. I know the joy in seeing the world every day."

unconditional knew that, we were a fun she'd fit right we would conditionally. was still at my mom, my ents and

my aunts flew to visit her and cheer her up. Soon after Tatiana was born she was taken to the Miami Children's Hospital for open-heart surgery, so my loud family was allowed in. I can say loud: they took instruments and sang the day away. I was too young, in school, and I couldn't go. It's supposed to be a 12-year-old's dream, I mean, I got to stay over at my best friend's house, on a school night no less, while they were in Miami. But I wanted to go with them; it looked like so much fun!

Continued on page 16



THANK YOU CHEVRON



Nancy and Peggy of the Connection promote awareness and whip up Bloody Marys thanks to Chevron who donated their #1 hole at Diablo Country Club at the Chamber Aloha Golf Tournament.

JACKSON SODERQUIST: EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

— Jane Steiner

Jackson Soderquist, 20, won the Employee of the Year Award at the Exploratorium in San Francisco! He is a member of SF Step. At the ceremony where he received his award, Jackson wrote and gave an amazing speech (below) to a group of over 1,000 people. Throughout his speech, Jackson was poised and self-assured. Jewish Vocational Services provided job training and support to Jackson. It was a truly amazing day.



Jackson and his sister Shaney

- I'm excited to be here as the Employee of the Year. I've been thinking about this for a long time.
- It makes me feel really proud to work at the Exploratorium.
- Sometimes other kids who look like me come there. I hope they see me and think that they could work there too.
- I love doing my job at the Exploratorium almost as much as I love the San Francisco Giants.
- I wear a Giants T-shirt almost every day.
- Even right now I have my Giants tie on.
- I love the Giants because they are a good team. They're a team that works together to win.
- I'm lucky because I have my own team to help me win - The Jackson Giants.
- I have Schwab and First Republic who sponsored my award. I have Hashim and all my friends at the Exploratorium who help me at my job.
- I have JVS who showed me what I need to know to work and to be my own team manager.
- I have my sister who came all the way from Washington DC to see me today.
- And of course my mom. I like to tease her but I know she's my biggest fan.

Thank you.



DSCBA BUDDY WALK WINS AN AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY

— Tammy Garcia and Jo Kelley

The DSCBA's Buddy Walk won an award at the 3rd Annual Buddy Walk Conference in San Diego, organized by the National Down Syndrome Society, in April 2011. NDSS staff were impressed with the Connection's unique way of recognizing accomplishments of each walker as they cross the finish

line. Many NDSS affiliates loved the idea and plan on implementing it into their Buddy Walks this year. Thanks to the entire Buddy Walk committee for this idea and their ongoing commitment to making the Bay Area Buddy Walk a tremendous success.

Continued from page 15

They took pictures, everyone was laughing, singing, and my new baby cousin was there. It would be months before I could meet Tatiana.

The first time I held Tatiana was another time warping moment. I had very little time. I had to get to my choir recital (or some other school activity), and we were already running late (typical). But I was going to hold the newest member of our gang. She looked frail, but her stories of battle were already legendary. She had done the unthinkable, she had defeated the odds, and if I could hold her for just one moment, maybe it would rub off on me too. What can I say? Sometimes knowing greatness is surprising, it's hard to define, and it comes in different forms. But when you're holding on to it, you know exactly what it is.

Let's fast forward to the present, because I could write an entire book on what Tatiana has meant to the rag tag team of cousins she grew up with, and especially to me. I live a few hundred miles away from Tatiana, and yet, she's with me every day. Every time I see a Chill's or an Applebee's, or someone asks if I want lemonade, or eat tomatoes – no one loves a tomato like Tats! Every time I see someone with Down syndrome, I smile. I know what they mean to their family. I know the joy in seeing the world every day. I know the simple pleasures that come from admiring the world as if it were the first time. The purest love, the unconditional support, and the willingness to say yes: yes, she's with me every day.

So, if you will indulge me with one last thing, I would like to tell Tatiana how much I love her. I would also like to tell every family who has a child with Down syndrome how lucky you should consider yourselves. I am proud to be related to Tatiana, to have her in my life, to have her whisper in my ear "I love you" in her own special way. We should all be so lucky. I was telling someone Tats' story once, and they said, "That must be so hard." While there are challenges, there is nothing in life that is truly worth it that is not challenging. There is nothing in life that is great that hasn't had to be fought for, and we fight for Tatiana like she fought for her life. If she can do it, so can we.

WALK A MILE & FUNDRAISE Support the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area and the NDSS



2011 Bay Area Buddy Walk & Picnic

Sunday, October 2nd, 2011

Little Hills Ranch

18013 Bollinger Canyon Rd, San Ramon

10:30am - 4:00pm

Registration 10:30am - 11:30am

Walk Starts Promptly at 12:00 noon

BBQ Lunch - Sponsored by Gagnon's Catering

Activities Available:

Dancing to live music, swimming, fishing, rock wall climbing, volleyball, basketball, bouncy house and much more!

The Buddy Walk is our biggest fundraiser of the year that keeps most of our services free of charge....

**PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE DOORS OPEN
& SUPPORT NDSS EFFORTS**

Our 2011 goal is \$100K and all you have to do to support the Connection is send out a webpage to your friends, family and coworkers

**VISIT: WWW.FIRSTGIVING.COM/DSCBA
REGISTER AND BUILD YOUR PAGE NOW!**



TOP 20 REASONS MOMS OF KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ROCK

By Ellen Seidman, author of the blog *Love That Max* (<http://lovethatmax.com>), a blog about kids with special needs who kick butt.

1. Because we never thought that “doing it all” would mean doing this much. But we do it all, and then some.
2. Because we’ve discovered patience we never knew we had.
3. Because we are willing to do something 10 times, 100 times, 1,000 times if that’s what it takes for our kids to learn something new.
4. Because we have heard doctors tell us the worst, and we’ve refused to believe them. TAKE THAT, nay-saying doctors of the world.
5. Because we have bad days and breakdowns and bawl-fests, and then we pick ourselves up and keep right on going.
6. Because we gracefully handle the stares, the comments, the rude remarks. Well, mostly gracefully.
7. Because we manage to get ourselves together and get out the door looking pretty damn good. Heck, we even make sweat-pants look good.
8. Because we are strong. Man, are we strong. Who knew we could be this strong?
9. Because we aren’t just moms, wives, cooks, cleaners, chauffeurs, women who work. We are moms, wives, cooks, cleaners, chauffeurs, women who work, physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, teachers, researchers, nurses, coaches, and cheerleaders. Whew.
10. Because we work overtime every single day.
11. Because we also worry overtime, but we work it through. Or we eat chocolate or Pirate’s Bounty or gourmet cheese, which aren’t reimbursable by insurance as mental-health necessities but should be.
12. Because we are more selfless than other moms. Our kids need us more.
13. Because we give our kids with special needs endless love, and then we still have so much love left for our other kids, our husbands, our family. And our hairstylist, of course.
14. Because we inspire one another in this crazy blogosphere every single day.
15. Because we understand our kids better than anyone else—even if they can’t talk, even if they can’t gesture, even if they can’t look us in the eye. We know. We just know.
16. Because we never stop pushing for our kids.
17. Because we never stop hoping for them, either.
18. Because just when it seems like things are going OK, they’re suddenly not OK, but we deal. Somehow, we always deal, even when it seems like our heads or hearts might explode.
19. Because when we look at our kids we just see great kids. Not “kids with cerebral palsy/autism/Down syndrome/developmental delays/whatever label.”
20. Because, well, you tell me.

Reprinted with permission; copyright 2010, *Love That Max*

BOWL-A-RAMA A GREAT SUCCESS

— Karen Lochner

Thank you to everyone who came out to Earl Anthony’s Dublin Bowl for the 2011 Bowl-A-Rama, and to those who couldn’t make it and purchased raffle tickets! We made \$3,000 on the iPad2 raffle and for that we are truly grateful. Also thanks to the board and staff for donating the iPad. Congratulations to Donna Crawford (TJ’s mom) for having the lucky raffle ticket!





JARED WONG proudly remembers his graduation day from the Independent Studies Program at Contra Costa Christian School.



LONG TIME DANCING WITH THE STARS FAN MARISSA ERICKSON

had her dream come true when she traveled down to LA for a live taping of the show. She was invited on stage by two of her favorite pro dancers Mark Ballas and Maksim Chmerkoskiy and even got to show a few dance moves of her own. It was a night she will never forget. Kudos to Mark and Maks and all the dancers for giving her VIP treatment!

JACKSON SODERQUIST

and Larry Baer of the San Francisco Giants (with his ring from the World Series win).



UNLEASH OUR COMMUNITY'S UNLIMITED POTENTIAL WITH A LEGACY GIFT

A legacy (planned) gift to the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area can help ensure that we will continue to provide innovative and cutting edge therapies, information and referral, and support to Bay Area children and adults with Down syndrome and their families long into the future. But remember that such a gift can also provide you with income for life, a reduction in capital gains taxes, and other benefits.

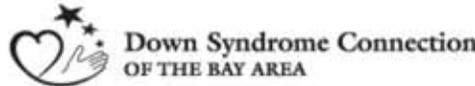
There are many ways that you can be a part of our Down Syndrome Connection Legacy:

- Remember DSCBA in your will or living trust
- Name DSCBA as a beneficiary of your IRA or Qualified Retirement Plan
- Name the DSCBA as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy

If you currently have a will, you can easily add a codicil (an amendment) to include a bequest (a gift in your will) to the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area. An example of appropriate language for inclusion in your will or living trust is:

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation with the mailing address of 101-J Town & Country Drive, Danville, California 94526, (tax ID number 91-1904304) the sum of _____ dollars [or otherwise describe the gift or asset] for its general purposes and use at the discretion of the DSCBA's Board of Directors."

Your gift will help DSCBA continue to serve children and adults of all ages with Down syndrome and their families in the Bay Area and beyond for years to come - helping them to reach their unlimited potential! If you are interested, please contact your personal financial planner or attorney. For basic information, please contact the DSCBA at 925.362.8660.



Please join us on Saturday, September 24, 2011 for the 6th Annual St. Joan of Arc Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament to benefit our lead charity the DOWN SYNDROME CONNECTION OF THE BAY AREA

This fantastic event includes morning golf at Dublin Ranch Golf Course, with an evening dinner at the St. Joan of Arc Gymnasium with wine tasting, auction and dancing to the sounds of Mersey Beach!

PRICING

- \$150 for golf & dinner (\$160 after Sept. 1st)
- \$540 for a golf & dinner foursome (\$580 after Sept. 1st)
- \$50 for evening events only (\$60 after Sept. 1st)

For further information please visit the St. Joan of Arc Knights of Columbus website at www.kofc9206.org, call (925) 263-1776



For Your Time, Talent and Treasures We are Grateful...

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Wayne & Gladys Valley Foundation
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Annual Meeting Thank You's

Marianne Iversen
Jamie and Christopher Hauge
Preston Jones
Melanie Manning, MD
Lyndsey Silva with Whole Foods Market
St Joan of Arc Parish
Steve Wilcox with Summit Financial Group
Bob Cummings
The Gagnon Family
The Kelly Family
Circle K Volunteers

Parent Mentor Workshop Thank You's

Iara Peng, T21
Martha Hogan, Director of Parent Advocacy and Support, DSCBA
Nancy LaBelle, Executive Director DSCBA
Kimberly Barr, Health Educator and Genetics Counselor, Kaiser SF
Tina Liu, Genetic Counseling Student
Dr Ronald Bachman, Retired Geneticist and Member DS Medical Interest Group
Ben Braun, Supervisor for Early Intervention, Regional Center of The East Bay (RCEB)

Eduardo Hernandez, Bilingual Case Manager RCEB
Heather Peterson, Oral Motor, Feeding and Speech Therapist
Gracielo Pagano, CEO, Baby Builders Inc.
Christine Ciavarella, PA-C Homeopathy, Hahnemann Clinic
Nancy Burke, CST, CranioSacral Therapy, Labyrinth Center
Dr Rick LaBelle, Psychologist
Deanna Panko, Resource Counselor, Family Resource Network
Sonia Waters, Resource Counselor, Family Resource Network

In Honor of

Mason Zolnier James and Kathy Zolnier
Eric Ironson
K. Leigh Alfrey and her Step Friends
Layne and Robert Alfrey
Bella Giovanna Lucia's 1st birthday
Stephanie Burton
Katie Buckman Erika Walters
Nico Gustavo Barillas' 3rd Birthday
Monica Cotik
Patrick Harkins Susan and Jim Herzon
Blair Hogan Chip & Mary Mile
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In Memory of

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Jones, Henle and Schunck
Virginia Jennaro

Jim Zolnier's Father

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Jeremiah Scherbert Nancy Scherbert

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Bridie Cremin Catriona Cary

Brenda O'Looney Nora O'Sullivan

Lori Gates Vera Maas

Maureen Murphy Timothy Quirk

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Bowl-a-Rama Thank You's

Karen Lochner for the Bowl-a-Rama
The board and staff for the IPad2 Donation

DSCBA Programs Can Only Continue with Your Help!

43% of our Funding comes from donations and fund raising events.

CASH DONATIONS Send a check to: Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area, 101-J Town and Country Drive, Danville, CA 94526. Phone: 925-362-8660

DONATE WITH PAYJUNCTION The DSCBA is a member of PayJunction a free service which allows you to purchase or donate using your credit card on a secure web site. PayJunction deposits your donation directly to our account. Visa and MasterCard are accepted at www.dsconnection.org/donate

DONATE AN AUCTION ITEM

This is a great opportunity to showcase your business products and services or to give a great tax deductible item to be auctioned at one of our events. Some past items that are popular are wine packages, vacation homes, sports memorabilia, fine art, jewelry, spa packages etc.

SPONSOR AN EVENT Sponsor an event at a level that works for you. Publicize, advertise and show off your company logo while giving to a worthwhile cause. Have a booth and speak at our event.

HOLD A FUND RAISER TO BENEFIT THE CONNECTION We are looking for community service organizations or businesses to hold a benefit in our name. One way to do this is to have a Charity Golf Tournament, Auction/Dinner or Crab Feed to name a few. Have ideas? Please call the Connection.

VOLUNTEER Do your community service with us! Volunteer your time and work at an event, spend time in one of our classes, come help out with newsletter mailings and other project. Call us for more information.

TAX ID# 91-1904304

How Can You Help Us?

CORPORATE GIVING AND MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS Sign up for your corporate giving program at work which automatically can be taken out of your paycheck. Some companies even have matching programs which doubles your giving ability.

ATTEND A FUND RAISING EVENT We would love to see you at our fund raisers such as the Charity Gala and the Bay Area Buddy Walk. Your participation and support makes a huge difference and our events are a lot of fun!

SIGN UP FOR THE ESCRIP PROGRAM eScrip is an easy way to give back to the Connection! Just register your grocery, debit or credit cards at merchants such as Safeway, Macys, Nordstrom or EBAY for example. A portion of your purchase will be donated to the Connection. Visit www.escrip.com to get started. ID#4843658.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AMORE Marketing & Events Car Wash to Benefit the DSCBA

Saturday **September 17** • 10 am – 4 pm • \$10 per car
Back parking lot behind Connection off Town and Country
Buy a raffle ticket and win! *Thank you Aleece Cancilla*

AAC* Workshop – AAC Applications for iPad, iTouch and iPhone

Wednesday **August 17** • 6 - 7:30 pm, Danville

AAC* Workshop – AAC in the School Setting

Wednesday, **August 24** • 6 - 7:30 pm, Danville

Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament

Saturday, **September 24** • For details see page 18

Bay Area Buddy Walk

Sunday, October 2 • For details see page 16

*AAC – Augmentative and Alternative Communication



Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area

Phone 925.362.8660 • Fax 925.362.8663

101 J Town & Country Dr. • Danville, CA 94526

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SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Party with Santa and friends Sunday December 11th
Spring Fling Auction Gala benefitting the DSCBA - Diablo Country Club May 5, 2012

SAVE THE DATE

Vehicle DONATION PROGRAM



The DSCBA has a new vehicle donation program where you can donate your car, truck, van, motorcycle, RV and boat.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the vehicle is given to the DSCBA for our programs and services.

All donations are eligible for a tax-deduction; please talk to you tax advisor. For more information or to donate your vehicle, please call 1-888-686-4483.

SOCIALLY CONNECTED!

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DSCBA**

**170 FANS SO FAR – WHY DON'T YOU
BECOME ONE TOO?**

**GET UPDATES FROM THE CONNECTION
AND LEARN ABOUT EVENTS**

**FANS CAN POST TEXT, PHOTOS AND VIDEO
TO THIS PAGE**

