



Fall 2011 Newsletter

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Buddy Walk Update

Forgive my tardiness in getting this quarter's newsletter out in a timely fashion. I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. First of all, a great big thank you goes out to those who helped with and participated in our 4th Annual Buddy Walk. Despite getting started with organizing the event later than usual, with the help of a lot of our members and supporters we were able to put on a successful event. Through the Buddy Walk we were able to raise over \$1,000 after expenses and increase awareness of Down syndrome families in the community! Part of the proceeds raised will go toward a new banner for the group. If there is support from the group membership, we may also join the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce as a nonprofit member.

**This is the Thank You Letter to our Donors that was sent to the
Las Cruces Sun-News and the Las Cruces Bulletin:**

I would like to thank those who participated and supported the 2011 Buddy Walk fundraiser and awareness event for the Southern New Mexico Down Syndrome Families (SNMDSF). Our sponsors included AmeriCorps, Angel Care of New Mexico, Aprendamos Intervention Team, Caliches, Chilitos – Aaron Perez, Dairy Queen Brazier Pan Am - Harry Hatch, Direct Therapy Services, Hillrise Dental – Vince Straley, James Margarit, D.D.S., Jackson Hewitt, Kristi Justice, Soil Conservationist, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Kool Smiles Dentistry, MECA Therapies, NMSU Aggie Dance Sport Team, NMSU Round Up, Peter Piper Pizza, Progressive Insurance – Valina Hamilton, Claims Mgr., Sam's Club, Subway at Pic Quik-Jesus Grijalva, Tresco, Inc., Walmart, Wells Fargo, White Sands Federal Credit Union, White Sands Missile Range CYS Services, and Wienerschnitzel.

In addition to participants from all over the state of New Mexico, we also had walkers from Indiana, Illinois, California, Kansas, and Colorado. We want to specifically thank the family of Jude Matthew Pelton for their participation in this year's Buddy Walk to honor his memory, and Rachel Christiansen of the Las Cruces Bulletin for her well-written and thoroughly researched article about the event.

SNMDSF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of families and interested persons working to increase public awareness, support families, and improve opportunities for those touched by Down syndrome. For more information, see our web site at www.snmdsf.org.

Tim Query
2011 Buddy Walk Chair

Farewell!



One of our newer members this year has been Lee McGough, pictured at the Buddy Walk in the lower right hand corner. Although he was only part of SNMDSF for a brief period of time, Lee will be leaving us shortly to take a position in Clovis, NM. Lee was one of those members who always asked, "What can I do to help?" His participation and enthusiasm, topped off by his valuable assistance with this year's Buddy Walk, will be missed. Lee had already approached a business about supporting the Buddy Walk in 2012! Best wishes to Lee, Sherry, and their son Brogin, pictured here.



Holiday Party!!

SNMDSF Holiday Party

Will be on Saturday, December 10, 2011

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Peter Piper Pizza

2290 Bataan Memorial East (near Sam's Club), Las Cruces

Enjoy Pizza, Wings, Drinks, and Tokens provided by SNMDSF!

Fiesta Navideña

Sábado, Diciembre 10, 2011

4:00 PM a 6:00 PM

Peter Piper Pizza

2290 Bataan Memorial East (near Sam's Club), Las Cruces

Disfruten de Pizzas, Alitas, Bebidas, y Toquens ofrecidos por SNMDSF!

Community Outreach



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

Hello,

My name is Shannon Enright-Smith and I am working on a project with The Arc of New Mexico funded with a grant from The Arc of the United States. The purpose of this project is to identify best and significant practices relating to care, support and education of people with Down syndrome in New Mexico. In order to determine current practices and needs in our state, my partner on the project, Ann Badway, and I will be conducting focus groups and individual interviews with individuals with Down syndrome, family members, caregivers, advocates, service providers, and in particular, healthcare providers. A significant piece of this assessment will address health care services. Life expectancy of people with Down syndrome has increased significantly over the past twenty years with many living into their 50's and 60's. Thus, as people with Down syndrome are living longer, their health care needs become more significant and with increased longevity, individuals with Down syndrome often outlive their caregivers.

Because of the diversity of culture in New Mexico, we will be selecting areas of the state, both rural and urban, in which to conduct focus groups and individual interviews. At the conclusion of the assessment, research findings will identify best and significant practices, obstacles and gaps in service, and make recommendations for promising solutions.

An important piece of this assessment is locating and speaking with community members involved in the care, education and support of individuals with Down syndrome. We would very much appreciate the opportunity to introduce ourselves and speak with community stakeholders and our contact information is below.

Thank you.

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Planning for 2012

I am applying for a sabbatical for next fall, so I will likely not be able to coordinate the 2012 Buddy Walk. If anyone has an interest in taking the lead next fall, please let me (Tim Query) know. It's really not that difficult when there are members willing to help spread the workload, like we had this year. Plus, we will begin planning much earlier (in late spring), which makes it less hectic.

Also, if anyone has suggestions for improving future Buddy Walks, we always like to hear those. One thing I would like to do is coordinate a way to get walkers from the end of the parade back to their vehicles near the start (a shuttle?). Someone also suggested a SNMDSF parade float. Let's hear those ideas!

If anyone would be willing to organize or has a suggestion for a meeting, activity, guest speaker, etc. during 2012 please let me know. One thing the group might consider over the next year is reaching out to those who don't live in Las Cruces. Maybe we can have events in places such as Truth or Consequences, Hatch, or Alamogordo, where we also have members.

I would also like to see SNMDSF provide support to those with newborns in local hospitals. When Mateo was born, a nurse came by who had a kindergarten-aged daughter with Down syndrome, and she was very encouraging and a great comfort. She also helped us tremendously with what to expect in the future.

"Southern New Mexico Down Syndrome Families is a non-profit organization exclusively for charitable, educational and social purposes, promoting public awareness, providing support to families, and improving the quality of life and opportunities for those people touched by Down syndrome, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code."