



VISION

The Down Syndrome Association of San Diego envisions all people with Down syndrome will be afforded the same life opportunities, to be valued and respected as contributing members of society.

MISSION

To enhance the quality of life for people with Down syndrome and their families through education, social and support programs

Our GOAL is to provide quality programs that will promote awareness and acceptance of people with Down syndrome.

The Down Syndrome Association of San Diego, a non-profit organization, was established in 1978 by families with a need to create a support network and a resource with comprehensive information on Down syndrome and support services. The Family Support Program is invaluable in assisting parents with unique education, healthcare and social issues. The DSA continues to evolve and currently serves 1000 families and professionals in San Diego County. The DSA is affiliated with the National Down Syndrome Society, National Down Syndrome Congress and the Exceptional Family Resource Center.

FAMILY SUPPORT

- Families can request contact by a support parent for advice, encouragement and information.
- The DSA hosts numerous family oriented social events. Most of these activities are inclusive of all ages and some are age group and need specific.
- The Booster Buddy Program is a social network for young people with Down syndrome, other disabilities and peers between the ages of 16 – 30.
- DSA provides current information, resources and referral services.
- The DSA Newsletter provides a forum for communication and a source of information for members.

EDUCATION

- The DSA Resource and Lending Library offers books, periodicals, audio/video tapes.
- DSA provides current literature on health and social issues, educational programs and research.
- DSA hosts a Speakers Bureau.
- The Family Resource Guide provides information and inspiration to “new” parents and their families.
- DSA hosts educational conferences for families, professionals and the community.

ADVOCACY

- DSA participates on a multi-agency disability awareness network, which provides interactive presentations focusing on diversity, sensitivity and ability to schools, businesses and community organizations.
- DSA informs members of legislative “updates” and “alerts” and organizes visits to local, state and federal legislators.
- DSA provides training for parents and professionals on advocacy issues.
- In 1996, DSA sponsored the first Buddy Walk in San Diego during the month of October, Down Syndrome Awareness Month, to promote awareness and acceptance of people with Down syndrome.