



Buddy Walk 2006

Thank you to everyone for rounding up your buddies and heading out to Reunion Ranch! The Best Yet!

Over \$74,000 Raised and over 1900 participants!!!!

The 2006 Buddy Walk was held on Sunday, October 1st, at Reunion Ranch in Georgetown and was a tremendous success! My heart fills with so much joy to see what we accomplished. The weather was incredible and everyone was happy to be out in the beautiful sunshine at Reunion Ranch. This year we broke all previous records for attendance and fundraising with more than 1900 people and more than \$74,000 raised. So many participants and Teams came to show their support for Down syndrome awareness month and all those with Down syndrome in their lives. We raised a remarkable amount



of awareness for the Down syndrome community in Central Texas.

We far exceeded our fundraising expectations this year thanks to all of the individuals, sponsors, businesses and Buddy Walk Teams who donated so generously to the Buddy Walk. The Buddy Walk this year has raised so far \$74,000 and money is still coming in! WOW! An outstanding accomplishment!! **DSACT will donate a percentage of the funds to The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) which supports education, research, and advocacy initiatives. The remaining will stay in Austin with our local association to support programs and services for DSACT.**

I hope everyone got to see and enjoy the people on horseback that guided your way to the walk again this year. This was provided by the wonderful people with the Williamson County Sheriffs Posse and The Buffalo Soldiers, which were on horseback along Hwy 183 and Hwy 29 holding Buddy Walk signs. Each organization volunteered to help lead the way to the Buddy walk and provided much excitement along the way! The kids just loved seeing the horses. A big thank you to the Williamson County Sheriffs Department that had a patrol car along the highway as well, which provided safety to all.



"What an incredible Buddy Walk experience!" This is just one of the many exclamations we heard at the Buddy Walk. Families and children of all ages enjoyed all the activities and games Reunion Ranch generously provided for our Buddy Walk. Reunion Ranch provided so much fun again this year: hayrides, swimming, paddle boats, basketball, pony rides, playscapes and much more that brought so many smiles to all. We thank Shawn Vickers at Reunion Ranch and all of their staff for opening their hearts and time to us that day!

We were honored to have Melissa Gale from KVUE News return as our master of ceremonies and we thank Melissa for her continued support for DSACT as this was Ms. Gales third year at

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Share the Passion Calendar Gallery Event AN EVENING TO REMEMBER!

DSACT Models and Local Celebrities Walked the RED Carpet and "Shared the Passion" for Down Syndrome Support

The red carpet was rolled out! The television crews were ready as the limousines dropped off our calendar models at the front door of the Davis Gallery, Tuesday, September 12th for a grand celebration of our first DSACT Calendar, Share the Passion 2007.

Each calendar model walked the red carpet as they made their way into the Davis Gallery to sign autographs and preview the beautiful photographs taken by Austin Photographer, Jean Louis. The evening was remarkable with over 150+ people that attended and viewed the photographs on display at the gallery.



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A HUGE Thank You to our 2006 Buddy Walk sponsors!



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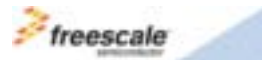
AND to our 2006 Dash for Downs sponsors!



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BARKER FINE ART



ROCKET SCIENCE SPORTS

DSACT EVENING OF GIVING 2006

Barton Creek Square Mall

November 19, 2006

6:30 to 9:30pm

You're Invited to this Festive Holiday Event

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas was chosen from Barton Creek Square Mall to participate in the 5th Annual Simon Evening of Giving on Sunday, November 19th, from 6:30 to 9:00pm.

Not only is this a fundraising opportunity for DSACT but DSACT will also receive community exposure by participating in this event by helping us raise awareness for Down syndrome.

Can YOU help sell tickets to this festive holiday event?

OR Would you like to purchase some for your family to attend?

DSACT will receive \$7.00 from each \$10.00 ticket we sell. There will be shopping discounts, food, musical entertainment, Santa Claus, fashion shows, silent auction, drinks and much much more.....it's a wonderful family holiday event.

DSACT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We also need volunteers to work the DSACT booth on November 19th from 6:30 to 9:30 at Barton Creek Square Mall. Will you help volunteer?

DSACT has this wonderful opportunity to share information about DSACT with 8,000+ ticket holders at Barton Creek Evening of Giving . We may raffle and sell items at our booth as well.

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**What if my favorite charity
had a penny for**



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**every time I searched the
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Now it can!

Go to www.goodsearch.com and in the Who Do You GoodSearch for? box, type Down Syndrome.

Then select Down Syndrome Association - Central Texas (Austin, TX)

Many thanks to Cindy Lopez who is using this and wanted to pass on to all of our members and their families.

Announcement

Notice is hereby given that the Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas will hold its annual election for the following positions for the 2007-2008 term:

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Directors / Committee Chairs:

Fundraising

Outreach

Education

Communication

Social

Public Relations

Programming

Volunteers

At Large Board Member

The elections will be held at the DSACT Annual Meeting before the Holiday Party on December 10th from 2:00pm to 3:00pm (see back page for directions).

All members are not only welcome, but encouraged to attend. Please come to the party early to participate in YOUR organization. If you wish to stand for a position or nominate someone please look out for the postcard that should have been mailed to you, or contact one of the Officers listed on page 21.

Waiting List Lawsuit What's the Latest?



The Arc of Texas continues to aggressively pursue the McCarthy v. Hawkins Waiting List lawsuit in the United States Federal District Court. The lawsuit, originally filed against the State of Texas in 2002, seeks Medicaid Waiver services for more than 40,000 Texans with mental retardation and developmental disabilities who are on lengthy Waiting Lists for Home and Community-based Services (HCS) or Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS). Many of these individuals have been waiting for services for seven or more years. The Arc believes that the denial of services for which these individuals are entitled violates federal Medicaid law and provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

McCarthy v. Hawkins was set for Trial in mid-June. However, despite earlier failed efforts at mediation and just days before the trial was to begin, both parties agreed to reopen talks that might result in a settlement or, at least, which might narrow the legal issues that would actually go to trial. The judge granted the parties until late June to discuss the issues and report progress to him. Following a series of discussions, both parties reported to the judge a willingness to continue discussions into the summer. Your help is needed: The Arc of Texas has already spent some \$100,000 dollars to pursue this litigation. We expect that the cost could exceed \$250,000 before a final judgment is made in McCarthy v. Hawkins. Your tax-deductible contribution to The Arc of Texas Legal Fund is needed. All receipts will be used only to pay our attorney fees and other lawsuit related costs. Please make a contribution of any size to The Arc of Texas Legal Fund today. For more information about the Waiting List lawsuit, contact Mike Bright – Executive Director, The Arc of Texas at 8001 Centre Park Drive, Austin, Texas 78754; 800-252-9729, or by e-mail at mbright@thearcoftexas.org

Scioto Properties Changes Lives with New Housing Options

[Scioto](#) is national housing service with a sole focus to make community homes available and affordable to people with disabilities anywhere in the country. They have a regional director here in Texas and their presence is quickly growing. Scioto is partnering with organizations and programs such as The Arc of Texas' Real Life Program to offer solutions for individuals who want to transition to a self-determined life and live in their own home. Their vision is to make available quality neighborhood homes that offer Choice, Affordability and Self-Determination to all people with disabilities.

For more information, call the Scioto Texas Regional Director, Therese Palombi, at 372-6255 or tpalombi@sciotollc.com or visit their website, www.sciotollc.com

Real Life Demonstrates its Effectiveness in Marshall

People with disabilities desperately need long-term reliable living options and daily assistance while waiting on long lists for Medicaid Waiver Programs. The Arc of Texas is developing Real Life—an innovative, first-of-its-kind program where families and individuals with disabilities can organize to access generic community services to live in homes, work in jobs, and have friends in their own communities.

The Real Life program is based on a series of Family Support Networks. The Family Support Network organizes and manages services for two to three individuals with disabilities choosing to live in a home together, while remaining focused on the individual's specific interests and needs. Families and friends will pool their resources and time to locate housing and coordinate the appropriate care, transportation, job coaching, and social activities.

A Real Life demonstration project is currently underway in Marshall, TX. The individuals at the center of the Family Support Network are Buster and Janice, a soon-to-be-married couple from the Marshall area. In a couple-centered planning session they identified their first priority: finding and furnishing their own home. Buster would also like help finding a job. They both agree that in the future, they will need help budgeting, managing benefits, maintaining their home, planning a healthy menu, and making more friends.

In creating this new program, The Arc development staff draws inspiration from successful out-of-state and Canadian models while generating new ideas of their own. Real Life has developed partnerships with several organizations and works closely with The local Arc Chapter in Marshall. Real Life is currently seeking corporate, foundation, state, and individual donor support in order to broaden the effectiveness of this new and progressive program.

For more information, contact Lisa Rivers, Development Director at 800-252-9729 X116 or livers@thearcoftexas.org.

UT Kids Club.

Some info for members with kids 14 and younger

[http://www.texassports.com/doc/lib/Kids_Club_brochure\[1\].pdf](http://www.texassports.com/doc/lib/Kids_Club_brochure[1].pdf)

Group tickets to basketball games are available for \$6 each for members and kids. This could be a great outing for Teens and Adult group too!

We, Stefanie Martinez and Irene Myers, just did a photo shoot with Coach Barnes and one of our kids for the 2008 calendar.

He was a really nice guy.

DSACT EVENING OF GIVING 2006

(Continued from page 3)

Anyone interested in helping sell tickets or volunteer for DSACT for the Barton Creek Simon Evening of Giving Nov 19 please contact Stefanie at 716-1561 or email her (mikeandstef2000@aol.com). We need to begin selling now to make the event a success. Remember you can sell them to anyone: friends, family, co-workers, church friends etc.

ABOUT THE EVENING OF GIVING EVENT:

Simon Evening of Giving at Barton Creek Mall is a special one night only holiday event at Barton Creek Mall -highlighted by shopping, prizes, entertainment and good will.

Simon Evening of Giving is a ticketed "after hours exclusive night of shopping" event that raises money for charities and kicks off the holiday season. The event highlights includes exclusive discounts offered by mall retailers, holiday entertainment, and the raising of millions of dollars for local charities.

The 2006 Simon Evening of Giving will include:

- One time only merchant discounts
- More than 40 participating charities with the opportunity to receive an unlimited amount of monetary contributions
- Thousands of ticketed attendees
- Musical entertainment, silent auction, local restaurant sampling, cash bar, prizes, and much more

Thanks for your help with this event!

Stefanie Martinez, 716-1561

STATE ACTION PLAN: IDEA FINAL REGULATIONS

September 29, 2006

Introduction

Most States have been waiting to revise their special education laws and regulations until after final IDEA regulations were published. Even though the final regulations were not officially released until August 14, 2006, the States may be prepared to move forward quickly with this process. There are many ambiguous and harmful provisions in IDEA 2004 and its regulations that you don't want to see incorporated at the State level. Key provisions will be highlighted in this document. The full NDSS Summary of IDEA Final Regulations can be found at <http://capwiz.com/ndss/issues/alert/?alertid=8970991>.

Some of the harmful changes can be avoided or minimized if parents work together to preserve and/or amend their State laws and regulations. The work that needs to be done at the State level is very complex, but this State Action Plan will serve as a guide. It will explain the relationship between the Federal and State statutes/regulations, provide tips on building coalitions, list strategies and describe key provisions for your coalition to focus on.

NDSS urges you to join forces with other family members of children with disabilities across your State. The more people you can enlist to join your advocacy efforts, the more successful you will be. It is critically important that parents meet with the State Director of Special Education, present testimony at any public meetings or hearings that are held on the State regulations and provide written comments. If your State statute is being amended, you will also need to communicate your position to your State legislator(s).

Parents have already successfully advocated at the State level for important protections in their statutes and regulations. For example, the Massachusetts Statewide Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) joined with other advocates to stop their State regulations from being amended before the IDEA regulations were released. Also, the co-chair of the New Jersey GAC joined with other advocates to meet with the State Director of Special Education and the Commissioner of Education about the New Jersey regulations. One of the issues they discussed was the importance of short-term objectives for all students with disabilities. These regulations will soon be released in final form. Short-term objectives have been retained, in spite of the fact that the proposed regulations provided otherwise. The New Jersey Director of Special Education has credited parents with changing the outcome of the regulations.

The first step is to ensure that your State gives the public an opportunity to provide input in a meaningful manner as part of the regulatory process. You should try to get parent representation from your coalition on any task force or committee that is developing the regulations. It is also critically important that public meetings or hearings on the regulations are held at convenient times and in various locations spread throughout the State. When you meet with your State Director of Special Education you should discuss the State's plan for obtaining public input and encourage opportunities for the broadest possible participation from stakeholders. If the list of locations, dates and times for public meetings or hearings is not adequate, you and your coalition members

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DSACT Holiday Donation cards are Here!

Place Your Order Now in time for the Holidays

You can now send your friends and family Holiday Donation cards that indicate a donation has been made to DSACT on their behalf. The suggested minimum amount is \$5.00 per card but can be made out for any amount. We will be selling them online and at all upcoming events.

If you would like to purchase DSACT Holiday Donation Cards please contact Stefanie Martinez at 716-1561 or mikeandstef2000@aol.com to place your order.

IDEA FINAL REGULATIONS *(Continued from page 5)*

should appeal to as many State policymakers as possible (e.g. the State's Superintendent or Commissioner of Education, Director of Special Education, Board of Education members, legislators) for additional meetings or hearings.

States Can Have Stronger Protections Than IDEA

In some instances, amendments to federal law, through IDEA 2004 and its regulations, have weakened protections for children with disabilities that still may exist under your State laws and regulations. State provisions giving students and their parents' greater protections have NOT necessarily been "preempted" or overridden. IDEA dictates the minimum standards that a State must uphold in order to receive federal special education funding. States have the discretion to go beyond these requirements and to offer additional services and protections, as long as the State's requirements do not conflict with IDEA requirements or undermine Congress's purpose for the law.

A conflict occurs if it is impossible to follow both the IDEA 2004 and State requirements. As a result of this rule, there are some protections that you cannot get back at the State level. For example, IDEA 2004 expressly authorizes the district and the parent to make "agreements" that waive certain rights. Your State law and regulations will have to recognize these agreements because to deny their legality would contradict IDEA. However, your State can add a requirement that these agreements are only valid if there is evidence that a parent has been fully informed of the consequences of such an agreement. This additional safeguard does not appear in the IDEA 2004 or its regulations, but it doesn't conflict with federal law or undermine Congress's purpose in encouraging greater collaboration between parents and school districts.

The final IDEA regulations make it clear that broad authority is delegated to the States. State regulations have to be consistent with State law so you need to find out if any statutory amendments have been made to conform to IDEA 2004. To the extent your State law has already been amended to mirror the diminished State and local requirements in IDEA 2004, your efforts with respect to the State regulations will be limited by these changes. You can urge the State Department of Education to clarify these statutory provisions with regulations that preserve as many protections as possible for students with disabilities. To the extent your State law has not been amended, you have an opportunity to retain as many protective provisions as possible in both your State law and regulations and to add clarification where it is needed. The good news is that most States have not yet amended their laws to incorporate the new provisions in IDEA 2004.

If you have questions or comments about this bulletin, contact Ricki Sabia at rsabia@ndss.org. If you or others you know would like to be added to the NDSS mailing list, send name(s) and email address to advocacy@ndss.org
 NDSS National Policy Center
 8650 Georgia Avenue
 Silver Spring, MD 20910
 Phone: (800) 743-5657 Fax (301) 563-6896
 e-mail: advocacy@ndss.org

Settlement of the Waiting List Lawsuit: McCarthy v. Hawkins

The Arc of Texas and Advocacy, Inc. announce the settlement of the four year old McCarthy v. Hawkins waiting list lawsuit. This litigation was originally filed in federal district court in late 2002 against the Commissioners of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) as well as the Departments of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) and Human Services (DHS), now consolidated into the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). McCarthy sought to bring relief to the thousands of individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities on waiting lists for community-based services. When the lawsuit was filed in 2002, more than 15,000 individuals were on waiting lists for the Home and Community-based Services (HCS) and Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) programs. As of last spring that number had grown to more than 40,000.

The McCarthy case used legal arguments based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision in an attempt to compel the State to take immediate and affirmative action to address the needs of individuals on the waiting lists.

On August 4, 2006, a Settlement Agreement was reached with state officials which includes the following provisions:

- The seven individual named plaintiffs who have not as yet received services will be offered a waiver slot.
- Within 12 months the State will initiate an informal assessment of individuals requesting HCS and/or CLASS services and who are subsequently placed on a waiting list. The assessment will obtain information about the functional status and diagnosis of the individual, ensure that the individual is presented information about all services for which he/she might be available and facilitate placement of the individual on the correct waiting list (s). The aggregation of such information will also be valuable to the state in developing trend and need data that can inform the development of public policy in the future.

Recognizing that personal circumstances may change over time, the informal assessment will not address financial eligibility for Medicaid services or provide full information about the individual's functional need. It will not be used to determine eligibility for any specific service and is not subject to administrative review.

- For the next three (3) biennial legislative sessions (the 80th, 81st, and 82nd), HHSC will include in its Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) a request for sufficient funding to:

(1) offset the estimated increase in the number of persons listed on the HCS and CLASS waiver waiting lists during the preceding biennium. (Note: approximately 3,000 individuals have been added to the HCS waiting list alone in each of the past two biennia)

(2) achieve a five percent (5%) to ten percent (10%) reduction in the number of persons listed on the HCS and CLASS waiver

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Buddy Walk *(Continued from page 1)*

our Buddy Walk.

The entertainment line up was wonderful this year. Craig Blackburn, self advocate, was our keynote speaker from Louisiana and one of our special guests before the walk began and delivered one of the most inspiring speeches to all. We thank Craig for sharing all of his accomplishments as he touched many hearts and lives. Monte Warden returned this year along with son Van delivering a fantastic performance as always and performed our new Buddy Walk song he wrote!!! What an awesome song it was! Thank you to both of them for their continued support! Augie Garrido, UT Head Baseball coach, made a guest appearance and delivered a wonderful speech. Thank you to the Leander High School Dance Team, the Blue Bells. They performed their award winning performance to kick off the walk along with the Marine Color Guard and Robin Dearing who sang the National Anthem and gave an awesome memorable performance.

For the first time this year DSACT honored and recognized 5 area teachers and principals that made a difference in the lives of our kids with Down syndrome. Congrats to all for making a difference!

After the walk, the participants enjoyed a wide array of entertainment and festivities. There were all the awesome activities that Reunion Ranch had for us as well as: moon-walks, bake sale, kids games. Hearts and Hooves walked around their special miniature horses and Liberty Hill Fire Department with their fire truck. The mascots brought so much joy once again. The HEB Buddy really made the day special. All kids just loved him. Radio Stations Majic 95.5, Beat 104.3, and Recuerdo 107.7 came out and showed their support and provided games and prizes for all.



This year we once again had the silent auction and the exhibitor's area. The wide array of baskets that were available to bid on was just amazing! Raising over \$5,000!!! We had so many in-kind donations we were able to make well over 60 baskets to bid on! In our exhibitor area we had about 20 different exhibitors that provided services and products of interest to you and your family. A special thank you to all exhibitors for your participation and providing us with information about services available in Central Texas.

The 2nd Annual Buddy Walk Softball Tournament was a huge success! This year we had two softball games. First up to bat was....Samsung Austin Semiconductor vs. Freescale Semiconductor which battled it out on the softball field. Second up to bat was Freescale vs Intel.... All teams did a great job in raising donations and helping raise awareness in their workplace. We thank all companies for their dedication to the Buddy Walk this year. Samsung did defeat Freescale and in the second game Intel defeated Freescale. All teams are ready to do it again at the 2007 Buddy Walk!

We far exceeded our fundraising expectations this year thanks to all of the individuals, businesses and Buddy Walk Teams who donated so generously to the Buddy Walk.

We had another \$30,000+ of in-kind advertising donations from radio stations Majic 95.5, Beat 104.3 and Recuerdo 107.7. All stations provided live public service announcements throughout the day and a couple weeks before the walk.



Amy Parham, our PR chair, was featured in a radio interview on Majic 95.5. Elizabeth Bradley, BW Volunteer Coordinator, had a television interview on the KVUE Morning News. We thank them all for coming out to the Buddy Walk to show their support! We were also featured by Parent:Wise Magazine, which ran two Buddy Walk advertisements and a touching story written by DSACT member Lizzie Martinez. Thank you Parent:Wise for your continued support this year! A big thank you to the Austin American-Statesman for running Buddy Walk advertisements in their Community Connections section two weekends in a row!

A huge Thank YOU to our sponsor RunTex for providing us with the large start/finish blow up for the Buddy Walk and arranging for us to have T-shirt and Packet Pickups at their Riverside and Gateway locations. The packet pickups were a huge success as this helped keep down the long lines the day of the walk. RunTex also provided wonderful coupons for all of our goodie bags. Thank you RunTex for everything in helping our walk be a success!

I want to personally thank the Buddy Walk committee for all their hard work and long hours they committed to making this the best Buddy Walk yet! We could not have done it without YOU! All committee members put their heart and soul into this Buddy Walk and those many hours and months of preparation paid off. Thank you to the following:

Stefanie Martinez , BW Chair	
Lori Barta, BW Co-Chair	
Danielle & John Worsfold	Irene Myers
Deborah Trejo	Cynthia Ochoa
Bill Ebs	Serita Silvestri
Teana & Jeffrey Ross	Melly Mendoza
Rachel Collins	Elizabeth Bradley
Jullee Mapes	Rich Daughtery
Amy Parham	Rich Daughtery
Laura Williams	Tom & Susan Prior

In addition to these committee members, we had over 200 volunteers at the walk to help with many areas. Our volunteers did an incredible job for us. We had the University of Texas Rugby Team, The Singles Volunteer Association of Austin just to name a few. Students from Leander High School, Vista Ridge HS, Cedar Park HS, and Westwood HS all did an amazing job to help everything run so very smoothly!

We are already in the planning stages for the 2007 Buddy Walk. If

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Buddy Walk *(Continued from page 7)*

you are interested in helping, please contact me at 716-1561 or mikeandstef2000@aol.com. As our Buddy Walk grows each year we need much more help to plan an event of this magnitude. If you can give any of your time and talents please let us know. We would appreciate any help.

Thank you so very much to everyone. The 2006 Buddy Walk was an incredible success! My most memorable moment that gave me goose bumps and brought tears of joy to my eyes was seeing the incredible line of people walking the one mile route. It was a HUGE line of supporters and all the Buddy Walk Team signs and banners were so inspiring!!! The Teams this year were a great success! WOW over 55 Teams....that was breathtaking!! It was an amazing sight to see how our families and the community came together that day to support all people with Down syndrome. We all made a difference on that day.

All generous donations will benefit national education, research and advocacy initiatives, and our local programs and services. But more importantly, all the participants helped us spread our messages of acceptance and inclusion of all people with Down syndrome. Those messages will last long after the Buddy Walk!

From the bottom of my heart THANK YOU!!!! I enjoyed working with everyone and look forward to next year! Just imagine what we can accomplish in 2007.

The 2007 Buddy Walk is looking for committee members if you are interested please contact Stefanie Martinez at: 716-1561 or mikeandstef2000@aol.com or Lori Barta: Imtullos@yahoo.com

Our sincere thanks to Shawn Vickers and staff at Reunion Ranch for your continued support!

Thank you for all your support!
Stefanie Martinez – DSACT Fundraising Chair



Buddy Walk Team Winners

The Buddy Walk committee extends a sincere thank you to all 55 families and corporations who formed teams for Buddy Walk 2006. We were amazed by the outpouring of support and the dedication of all team captains, and are proud to announce that this year's team captains raised over \$50,000!

Top Family Teams 2006

MOST FUNDS RAISED:

Mighty Max's Team

Team Captains: Rich & Kim Daugherty

Funds Raised: \$ 4,016

Honorable Mentions: Over \$3,000

The "A" Team, Berkeley's Golden Bears, Alejandro's Amigos

Honorable Mentions: \$ 2,000 to \$ 2,999

Patrick's Pack, Wesley and Ian's Best Buddies, Rustin's Rodeo Round Up

Honorable Mentions: \$ 1,500 to \$1,999

Walking with Faith, Sofia Jimenez's Cowboy Trail Riders, Team Presley, Cristian's Conquistadors, Bananas for Hannah, Sabine's Soldiers, Hayden's Helping Hands

Honorable Mentions: \$ 1,000 to \$1,499

Lora Ann's Hippie Band, Team Alejandro Trejo, Rigel's Stars, Lone Star Circle of Care, Sam's All Sung's Softball Team

Honorable Mentions: \$ 500 to 999

Phight for Phoebe, Lilliana's Superstars, Grace's Gladiators, Richard Payton's Team, Team Dean, Karra's Krew, Shelby's Shelter, Elijah's Entourage, Tyler's Posse, Priya's Peeps

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Buddy Walk Teams

(Continued from page 8)

LARGEST TEAM:

Team Presley

Team Captains: Jeff & Teana Funk Ross

Number of Walkers: 113

Honorable Mentions

Walking With Faith (61), Berkeley's Golden Bears (51), Andrew's Angels (40), Grace's Gladiators (33), Elijah's Entourage (33), Bananas for Hannah (31), Alejandro's Amigos (27), Patrick's Pack (25), Rustin's Rodeo Round Up (25), Sabine's Soldiers (24)

MOST SPIRIT:

Chapman's Champions Team Captain: Jodi Ross

TOP ALL-AROUND TEAM:

Berkeley's Golden Bears

Team Captain: Serita Silvestri

Funds Raised: \$ 3,435

of Walkers: 51

In addition, Serita made presentations to a local 6th grade class about Down syndrome!



Top Corporate Teams 2006

MOST FUNDS RAISED:

Parsons House

Team Captain: Christy Ferreri

LARGEST TEAM

Lone Star Circle of Care

Team Captain: Wren Deavers

MOST SPIRIT

Starbright Shining Stars

Team Captain: Heather Doreck

Thank you very much for making Buddy Walk 2006 such a great success!



PHOTOS of the Buddy Walk

Buddy Walk pictures are now available for viewing and purchase via these links listed below. You will be able to view all photos and purchase them at will. Each registered Buddy Walk Team will receive one free team picture.

We are honored by the professional photographers that donated their time and talent to our organization the day of the Buddy Walk.

Thank you so very much to all photographers for capturing our special day!

Jean Louis Photography – DSACT Photographer

www.jeanlouisphotography.com/2006BuddyWalk.htm

Michelle Allmon

<http://www.myphoto.com/>

"Click on Recent Shoots"

Anneliese Pickard

<http://www.pbase.com/macybean/buddywalk>

John Beveridge Photography

<http://www.millersalbums.com/?event=14671WBuddy>

Any questions concerning Buddy Walk pictures should be directed to the above photographers.

THE BUDDY WALK SONG

(PHIL THOMAS / MONTE WARDEN)

CHORUS:

TAKE A FRIEND BY THE HAND
WALK TOGETHER ACROSS THIS LAND
EVERY MILE WITH A SMILE
LAUGH AND TALK ON THE BUDDY WALK

STEP BY STEP WE'LL MAKE OUR WAY
DOWN LIFE'S ROAD DAY BY DAY
EVERY STRIDE WE'LL TAKE WITH PRIDE
LAUGH AND TALK ON THE BUDDY WALK

EVERY TIME I COUNT MY BLESSINGS
I'M SO THANKFUL FOR YOU
WITHOUT YOU BY MY SIDE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO
AND WHEN I GET TO FEELING
DOWN, LONESOME, AND BLUE
I LOOK INTO YOUR EYES

AND I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO

REPEAT CHORUS

TAG:

EVERY STRIDE WE'LL TAKE WITH PRIDE
LAUGH AND TALK ON THE BUDDY WALK

Many thanks to Monte Warden and Phil Thomas for writing this inspiring song for the Buddy Walk.

2006 Buddy Walk Sponsors

We would also like to thank the many sponsors who made this walk possible with their support. Thank you for all of your tremendous generosity!

BUDDY WALK ANGEL:

Reunion Ranch	Albertsons
Sheshunoff	Majic 95.5
Beat 104.3	RunTex
Recuerdo 107.7	

SPONSOR:

KVUE News	American Color Labs
Keller Williams	Monte Warden
RunTex	Austin American Statesman
Parent:Wise Magazine	Jean Louis Photography
Carl Williams Printing & Copying	

PARTNER:

LCRA	Med-Equip
Walmart	Hyatt Regency Austin on Town Lake
Identity Austin	Toucan Productions
Cantilo & Bennett, LLP	

PATRON:

Central Texas Herff Jones	Austin Wranglers
Kemp Smith, LLP	Bounce with Me Moonwalks
Hearts and Hooves	Austin Regional Clinic
The Buffalo Soldiers	Williamson Country Sheriffs Posse

SUPPORTER:

Trudy's	Lakeway Aquatic Therapy & Wellness Center	
Krispy Kreme	Lance Armstrong Foundation	
Purple Iris Florist	Paramount Theatre WholeBody Connection	
Canyon Eagle	The Mansion at Judges Hill	
Yoga Yoga	Lavendar Lotus Therapeutic Massage	
Chaparral Ice	Leander High School Blue Bells	
ShadowGlen Golf Club	Robin Dearing -National Anthem	
Ancient Way Day Spa	Liberty Hill Fire Department	
Hudsons on the Bay	Copeland Bed & Breakfast	
Alcoa Aluminum Plant	Manor MS Cheerleaders	
Austin Parks and Pizza	All Points Communications	
Wildfire Georgetown	UT Performing Arts Center	
ExerciseFriends.com	Austin's Park and Pizza	
Alamo Drafthouse	Little Gym - Palmer Lane	
Zachary Scott Theatre	Treehouse Pediatrics	
Doubletree Hotel	Austin Rock Gym	Omni Hotel
Downtown	Austin Martial Arts	HEB Buddy
Blazer Tag	Ruby's BBQ	Interstate Lanes
Topaz Salon	Teacher Heaven	Pump it Up
Genie Carwash	Eden Day Sap	Cupidz Clozet
Austin Dental	Buffalo Soldiers	MACTEC
Shirley Lyssy	Gymboree	Vintage Villas
Super Suppers	StateFarm	Hair By Gayle
The Oasis	Round Rock Donuts	Starbucks
Kiddie Acres	El Arroyo	Hobby Lobby
Williams Sonoma	1379 Sportswear	Origins

Local Press Coverage for Down Syndrome Awareness Month

We wanted to let you know of the wonderful local press DSACT secured for Down Syndrome Awareness Month and the 7th Annual Buddy Walk held on October 1st. Thanks to Lori Barta for the following information.

- 1. Friday, September 29th - KVUE News Daybreak (ABC)**
Between 6 and 7 a.m. - DSACT member *Elizabeth Bradley* and her son, *Patrick*, in an interview with Buddy Walk Emcee Melissa Gale.
- 2. Parent:Wise Magazine October issue**
An article by DSACT member *Lizzie Martinez* about why we need individuals with Down syndrome now more than ever.
- 3. Majic 95.5, Mix 94.7, Beat 104.3 & AM 1370.**
Sunday morning, Oct. 1st at 6 a.m. - an interview with DSACT Public Relations Coordinator, *Amy Parham*.
- 4. News 8 Austin**
Sunday, October 1st - coverage of Buddy Walk 2006.
- 5. Taylor Daily**
An article with DSACT member *Christi Hall* & son *Rustin*.
- 6. Austin American Statesman**
Community Connection profile on Sunday.
- 7. Rare Austin Magazine (mid—October)**
An article by DSACT Public Relations Coordinator, *Amy Parham* featuring photos of her children, *Ava & Reid*, with Austin's own *Patrice Pike*. <http://www.rareaustin.com/>
- 8. KVUE: Melissa Gale interviews photographer Jean Louis**
<http://www.kvue.com/sharedcontent/VideoPlayer/videoPlayer.php?vidId=87762&catId=12> Highlighted the talents and passions of individuals with Down syndrome, and the *Share the Passion* calendar project, which pairs individuals with Down syndrome and local celebrities like UT's Mack Brown, local musicians and Mayor Will Wynn.
- 9. KEYE News "Share the Passion" video clip**
<http://keyetv.com/video> Scroll to videos from September 12, 2006 to video entitled "Exhibit Showcases Special Kids" to see interview with DSACT members *Anneth & John Winkler* and their son, *Sam*, as well as coverage of the exhibition of the "Share the Passion" exhibit at the Davis Gallery.

Waiting Lists

There are 2 waiting lists for services that will make a big difference later : CLASS and HCS. These services provide funding for therapies, assisted/supported living, home modifications, nursing and more. Waiting lists are years long. Call today for more information regarding criteria and specifics to disabilities.

Home and Community-Based Services (HCS)

(any age, for people with developmental disabilities). Call your local MHMR center to get on the waiting list. For Austin/Travis Co, call 512.483.5800 and ask to be placed on the HCS interest list.

Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)

(Provides home and community-based services to people with disabilities) Call 877.438.5658 to get on the waiting list.

Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas Programs & Services

DSACT has been growing steadily for the last few years. We have had a number of inquiries as to what programs and services DSACT provides for their members. Below is a list of what we have been, what we are, and what we are planning to provide. Many of these services and programs are provided free of charge or are heavily subsidized. For more information please contact either a Board member or the committee chair for that group (contact details under "Who We Are" on page 21).

For various age groups:

- Speaker series, Behavior Management Workshop
- Lending library
- Comite Latino
- Website & Newsletter
- Yahoo Group
- Education resources (seminars, trainings, information, Wrightslaw)
- Scottish Rite partnership
- Round Rock Express Game
- Opportunities to network & socialize at Holiday Party; Annual Picnic
- Buddy Walk
- Public awareness & proclamations

Ideas for Future Programs & Services

- Informational packets on education &/or inclusion
- Informational packets for families who are relocating to Austin

0 to 6 Age Group:

Current Programs & Services

- New Parent Packets & "Baby Buddies"
- Outreach to hospitals & ECI agencies
- InkDots (2006 informational component; handouts; experts)

Ideas for Future Programs & Services

- Programming (sign language, infant massage, Hanen program - if interest is shown)
- Conference on transition to PPCD (co-sponsored with ECI agencies)

6-12 Age Group

Current Programs & Services

- KiDSACT
- Programming (swim, dance, arts)

Ideas for Future Programs & Services

- Conference or round-table discussion on transition to middle school

13 -18 Age Group

This is a new group that was, until very recently, combined with the 19 years and older group listed below.

19 & older Age Group:

Current Programs & Services

- Teen & Young Adult social group

Ideas for Future Programs & Services

- Programming (cooking, computers - if interest is shown)
- Transition planning (workplace, independent living)
- Collaborations with McBeth, VoCat

Share the Passion Calendar Gallery Event *(Continued from page 1)*

The photographs in Share the Passion calendar were unveiled that evening in an exhibition at Davis Gallery. The Share the Passion project aims to break down the common myths about Down syndrome and illustrates that these individuals have the ability and desire to engage in life-enriching activities...a passion they share with others.

The Share the Passion calendar project of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas brought together 14 local celebrities sharing their passions with children, teens and young adults with Down syndrome.

Celebrities & DSACT Models featured in Share the Passion calendar include:

- Ballet Austin Dancers pictured with Kayleigh W.
- Mack Brown, University of Texas Head Football Coach pictured with Tyler M.
- Ben Crenshaw, Masters Champion & PGA golfer pictured with Brennan O.
- Jody Conradt, University of Texas Women's Basketball Coach pictured with Andrea K.
- Melissa Gale, KVUE News anchor pictured with Ava P. & Hannah B.
- Sara Hickman, singer/songwriter pictured with Sam W.
- Joe McDermott, Austin Children's Entertainer pictured with Trent M. & Sydney K.
- Bruce Robison, Recording artist & songwriter pictured with Charlie F.
- Reid Ryan, CEO/Owner Round Rock Express pictured with Richard P.
- Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts pictured with Christina P.
- Rick Trevino, Grammy winner, songwriter pictured with Felix C.
- Monte Warden, Recording Artist, songwriter pictured with Van W.
- Kelly Willis, Recording Artist, songwriter pictured with Tyler W.
- Will Wynn, Austin Mayor pictured with Lilianna S.



The money raised at the calendar unveiling and through calendar sales will be used to expand existing and initiate new programs for DSACT members. "This is a new and unique opportunity to showcase the talents and abilities of individuals with Down syndrome. We hope to raise awareness through this event and further our goal of full inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome in the community and our schools," stated Stefanie Martinez, DSACT Board Member and Fundraising Chair.

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas would like to recognize the great talents of Jean Louis at [Jean Louis Photography](#). Jean Louis was able to capture the beauty of our children in this truly amazing inspirational calendar. Without her ability to create magic and her selfless work ethic this project would not have been possible. Thank you Jean for giving so much of your time and heart for this project.

We would also like to thank Susanne Gross with Smart Art Design for designing our calendar. www.smartartdesign.com Thank you for donating your time and superior creative services to create a beautiful design for the calendar.

Thank you to Ron Jones with the Whitley Printing Company for helping print our calendar and donating some of the printing costs. A big thanks to GCI Read Poland, Meghan Butler for helping us secure celebrities and media for our project.

Thank you to Mr. Bill Davis with Davis Gallery for donating his gallery to DSACT for this event to be able to take place, Neuvo Leon for donating the wonderful food for all to enjoy. Thank you to Ron Jones at the Whitley Printing Company for making a generous printing donation.

Thank you to all others that made Share the Passion a Success:

Mary Catherine Gardner –Apple-Gardner Design, Grapevine Market, GCI Read Poland, USA Training Co. Inc., Carl William Printing, Whole Foods, Flowers Flowers, Yanez Alejandro Limousine Service, and Becky with Kittleman Photography.

Thank You to ALL
What a GREAT Success!

Stefanie Martinez
DSACT Fundraising Chair

Definitions of Related Services

DSACT have had some questions asked by members about what services our children are entitled to receive once they are in special education. Below are the definitions of related services in the IDEA taken with permission from [Wrightslaw: Special Education Law](#) (pages 144-145), authors Peter W. D. Wright, Esq. & Pamela Darr Wright www.wrightslaw.com

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997 defines **related services** as: The term related services means transportation, and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services (including speech-language pathology and audiology services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, including therapeutic recreation, social work services, counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling, orientation and mobility services, and medical services, except that such medical services shall be for diagnostic and evaluation purposes only) as may be required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education, and includes early identification and assessment of disabling conditions in children. (20 U.S.C. Section 1401(22))

From [Wrightslaw: Special Education Law](#) (page 28-29)

The **IDEA Regulations** define related services as:

Sec. 300.24 Related services.

(a) General. As used in this part, the term related services means transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a child with a [FR Page 12424] disability to benefit from special education, and includes speech- language pathology and audiology services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, including therapeutic recreation, early identification and assessment of disabilities in children, counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling, orientation and mobility services, and medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes. The term also includes school health services, social work services in schools, and parent counseling and training.

(b) Individual terms defined. The terms used in this definition are defined as follows:

(1) Audiology includes--

- (i) Identification of children with hearing loss;
- (ii) Determination of the range, nature, and degree of hearing loss, including referral for medical or other professional attention for the habilitation of hearing;
- (iii) Provision of habilitative activities, such as language habilitation, auditory training, speech reading (lip-reading), hearing evaluation, and speech conservation;
- (iv) Creation and administration of programs for prevention of hearing loss;
- (v) Counseling and guidance of children, parents, and teachers regarding hearing loss; and
- (vi) Determination of children's needs for group and individual amplification, selecting and fitting an appropriate aid, and evaluating the effectiveness of amplification.

(2) Counseling services means services provided by qualified social workers, psychologists, guidance counselors, or other qualified personnel.

(3) Early identification and assessment of disabilities in children means the implementation of a formal plan for identifying a disability as early as possible in a child's life.

(4) Medical services means services provided by a licensed physician to determine a child's medically related disability that results

in the child's need for special education and related services.

(5) Occupational therapy--

- (i) Means services provided by a qualified occupational therapist;
- & (ii) Includes--(A) Improving, developing or restoring functions impaired or lost through illness, injury, or deprivation; (B) Improving ability to perform tasks for independent functioning if functions are impaired or lost; and (C) Preventing, through early intervention, initial or further impairment or loss of function.

(6) Orientation and mobility services--

- (i) Means services provided to blind or visually impaired students by qualified personnel to enable those students to attain systematic orientation to and safe movement within their environments in school, home, and community; and
- (ii) Includes teaching students the following, as appropriate: (A) Spatial and environmental concepts and use of information received by the senses (such as sound, temperature and vibrations) to establish, maintain, or regain orientation and line of travel (e.g., using sound at a traffic light to cross the street); (B) To use the long cane to supplement visual travel skills or as a tool for safely negotiating the environment for students with no available travel vision; (C) To understand and use remaining vision and distance low vision aids; and (D) Other concepts, techniques, and tools.

(7) Parent counseling and training means--

- (i) Assisting parents in understanding the special needs of their child;
- (ii) Providing parents with information about child development; and
- (iii) Helping parents to acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child's IEP or IFSP.

(8) Physical therapy means services provided by a qualified physical therapist.

(9) Psychological services includes--

- (i) Administering psychological and educational tests, and other assessment procedures;
- (ii) Interpreting assessment results;
- (iii) Obtaining, integrating, and interpreting information about child behavior and conditions relating to learning;
- (iv) Consulting with other staff members in planning school programs to meet the special needs of children as indicated by psychological tests, interviews, and behavioral evaluations;
- (v) Planning and managing a program of psychological services, including psychological counseling for children and parents; and
- (vi) Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.

(10) Recreation includes--

- (i) Assessment of leisure function;
- (ii) Therapeutic recreation services;
- (iii) Recreation programs in schools and community agencies;
- & (iv) Leisure education.

(11) Rehabilitation counseling services means services provided by qualified personnel in individual or group sessions that focus specifically on career development, employment preparation, achieving independence, and integration in the workplace and community of a student with a disability. The term also includes vocational rehabilitation services provided to a student with disabilities by vocational rehabilitation programs funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

(Continued on page 14)

Definitions of Related Services *(Continued from page 13)*

- (12) **School health services** means services provided by a qualified school nurse or other qualified person.
- (13) **Social work services** in schools includes--
- (i) Preparing a social or developmental history on a child with a disability;
 - (ii) Group and individual counseling with the child and family;
 - (iii) Working in partnership with parents and others on those problems in a child's living situation (home, school, and community) that affect the child's adjustment in school;
 - (iv) Mobilizing school and community resources to enable the child to learn as effectively as possible in his or her educational program; and
 - (v) Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.
- (14) **Speech-language pathology services** includes--
- (i) Identification of children with speech or language impairments;
 - (ii) Diagnosis and appraisal of specific speech or language impairments;
 - (iii) Referral for medical or other professional attention necessary for the habilitation of speech or language impairments;
 - (iv) Provision of speech and language services for the habilitation or prevention of communicative impairments; and
 - (v) Counseling and guidance of parents, children, and teachers regarding speech and language impairments.
- (15) **Transportation** includes--
- (i) Travel to and from school and between schools
 - (ii) Travel in and around school buildings; and
 - (iii) Specialized equipment (such as special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps), if required to provide special transportation for a child with a disability. (Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1401(22))

From [Wrightslaw: Special Education Law](#) (pages 144-145), authors Peter W. D. Wright, Esq. & Pamela Darr Wright. www.wrightslaw.com

Editors note : . . . We were asked if we would be interested in reviewing a Wrightslaw publication for our newsletter. *Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy, 2nd edition will have a review in our next newsletter, and a copy has been donated to DSACT's lending library for our members.*

The ECI Library

The ECI Library collection contains information on all aspects of early childhood intervention. Housed at the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Audio Visual Library, 1111 North Loop Blvd., Austin, Texas 78756, the collection is available to any resident of Texas.

The ECI Library collection includes books, video tapes, journals that address all aspects of: Early childhood intervention Disabilities and developmental delays such as autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy and others, Families and siblings Assessment and evaluation (including tools and kits) Advocacy Child development Laws and legislation affecting children with disabilities and developmental delays. In addition, all ECI library users will have access to the materials in DSHS's Medical and Research Library, the Audio Visual Library and the Rehabilitation Services Library collections. Upon request, the Medical and Research librarian is also able to do reference database searches on specific topics of interest. The overview listed above comes from <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/resources/library.shtml>

Our Rehabilitation Services collection includes videos, books and journals on all aspects of rehabilitation and disabilities. Examples of topics include: disability awareness and rights, assistive technology, ADD and ADHD, brain injury, deafness, blindness, ergonomics, returning to work, sign language, etc.

These materials are available on a free loan basis to residents of the state of Texas for up to 10 business days. Mailing time is automatically added to the two-week loan period. Patrons may also visit us in person.

Every month we produce the library matters newsletter which provides readers with a listing of articles, books, videos and journals on a particular subject <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/resources/librarymatters/index.shtml>

Elizabeth de Leon, M.L.I.S.

Librarian, Audiovisual Library

Texas Department of State Health Services

www.texashealthlibrary.com

AV Library Homepage www.dshs.state.tx.us/avlib/default.shtm

Warehouse Rm. 115, Mail Code 1975

Phone: (512) 458-7111 ext. 2787 / Fax: (512) 458-7474

Toll Free: 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7260



Jean Louis Photography

Tel 512-301-2431

Email: jeanlouis@austin.rr.com

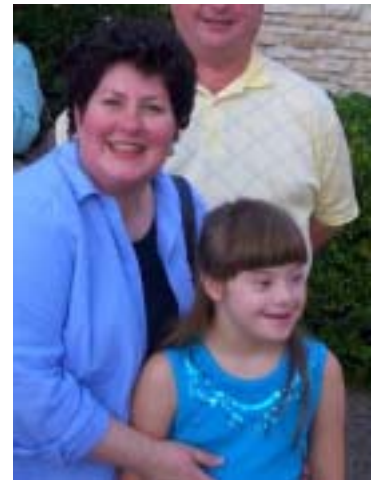
<http://www.jeanlouisphotography.com/>

Jean Louis is formally trained and experienced in photographing children with special needs. If you've hesitated to take your child for a formal portrait because you were concerned about how the photographer would interact with your child we would love to work with you. Please call us for a consultation so we can discuss your child's specific needs and abilities. Jean Louis is also The Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas - Share the Passion Calendar Photographer.

Photo Gallery



Share the Passion Calendar Event Party



Georgetown Proclamation



Thanks DSACT member Julie Mapes for your work!



Order Your 2007 Share the Passion Calendar

The Share the Passion calendar project of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas brings together local celebrities to share their passions with children, teens and young adults with Down syndrome. Taken by photographer Jean Louis, the calendar breaks down the common myths about Down syndrome and illustrates that individuals with Down syndrome have the ability and desire to engage in life-enriching activities...a passion they share with others. Central Texas celebrities that participated in our calendar include; Mack Brown, Ballet Austin, Ben Crenshaw, Jody Conradt, Melissa Gale, Sara Hickman, Joe McDermott, Bruce Robison, Reid Ryan, Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Rick Trevino, Monte Warden, Kelly Willis and Will Wynn.



Buy your 2007 Share the Passion Calendar Today and help educate the public about the talents and abilities of all individuals with Down syndrome. Sharing the Passion is a PERFECT gift for everyone on your gift list!

We'll mail the calendars directly to your friends and family just in time for the holidays! Order by mail using the form below or online at www.dsact.com

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

___ # of 2007 Calendars @ \$10 Each \$_____ Postage: 1-2 Calendars \$2.00 / 3-5 Calendars \$5.00

\$_____ Total Cost

Please circle method of Payment Enclosed: Check payable to DSACT / Money Order

Please send your check or money order made payable to *DSACT* along with this form to: Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas, 3710 Cedar Street, Box 3, Austin, Texas 78705



DSACT Share the Passion 2008 Calendar

We are looking for our Share the Passion 2008 Calendar Models

Jean Louis Photography and the DSACT Calendar committee will be selecting the models matching them with the Central Texas celebrities very soon.

If your child is chosen you will be contacted via mail and phone.

Please contact Stefanie Martinez or Irene Myers to have them send you the calendar application if you are interested.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Stefanie at 716-1561, mikeandstef2000@aol.com or Irene Myers at 238-1877 or clyde-myers@sbcglobal.net

Sincerely,

Stefanie Martinez
Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas
(DSACT)
Share the Passion Calendar Committee
www.dsact.com
716-1561

DSACT Video Montage Through the Years Purchase Yours Today!

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas now has a video montage for purchase that showcases DSACT members and activities from 1994 through the present. DVD's are \$10 each. If you would like to purchase a copy please send check made payable to "DSACT" to:

ATTN Irene Myers
3710 Cedar Street
Box 3, Austin, Texas 78705

McCarthy v. Hawkins (Continued from page 6)

waiting lists each year. (Note: a 5% reduction in the HCS waiting list alone approximates 2,900 individuals per biennium).

However, the agreement does not require the HHSC to request funding to reduce the two overall waiting lists, including estimated growth, by more than 20% each biennium.

It must be noted that the Court is not constitutionally able to compel the Legislature to approve these funding requests. It may only direct the agency to take certain action and then hold it accountable. Advocates must continue their efforts to secure legislative funding to fully implement the Settlement Agreement.

However, the inclusion of such significant budget requests in the HHSC Legislative Appropriations Request gives evidence to the Legislature of the reality and immediacy of the need, the ability of the provider system, with necessary augmentation, to adapt to program expansion and the ability of the HHSC and DADS agency structures to oversee and implement the approved service expansion. Such provides powerful ammunition for advocates approaching the legislature for funding of the HHSC request.

In 2005, under pressure by the McCarthy lawsuit, the 79th Legislature funded more than 2,800 new HCS slots and 1,600 new CLASS slots. Such represents more than \$100 million in new service funding for Texans who had been on the HCS and CLASS waiting lists the longest.

While the Court will not continue a formal and ongoing oversight role, we do have the opportunity through state law to address any failures by the State to implement the provisions of this Settlement.

The Arc and Advocacy, Inc. believe that the Settlement Agreement provides the first six year installment of what could be a long term effort by the State to meet the needs of people on the HCS and CLASS waiting lists. As a result of McCarthy, thousands have already received waiver services. We believe that HHSC is committed to ensuring that additional thousands will receive services over the next six years.

Caveat: Although the agreement has been reached with the State, there remain a couple of procedural issues that must be completed before the court finally authorizes the settlement. A full press release will be distributed to all media following the completion of those details. Feel free to distribute this announcement to members, families and friends. But please wait for the formal press release and related material before discussing the settlement with media representatives.

The Arc of Texas wishes to thank all those who have supported this important case for the last four years. Your generous financial contributions and other support of McCarthy have brought hope to thousands who have waited for far too long.

Afraid to Look Down

In celebration of Down Syndrome Awareness Month, DSANI (The Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana) presented "Afraid to Look Down", an acclaimed one-man play on Saturday, October 28.

Told with unflinching honesty and humor, *Afraid to Look Down* explores the journey actor/playwright Cullen Douglas took in becoming a first-time father to his oldest son Gabriel - born with Down syndrome.

Except for a single chair the stage is bare, as Cullen takes the audience on the roller coaster that was to be the first year of life with Gabriel. Personal moments from that year are revealed sometimes full of intense laughter and at other points quiet sadness.

"Everything was going along exactly as we had planned. It was a typical pregnancy. Despite the fact that I was bursting with fears and anxieties about becoming a father, I felt prepared. I had read all the books, didn't miss a single Lamaze class. I was even practicing my Kegals Exercises.

I was ready or so I thought.

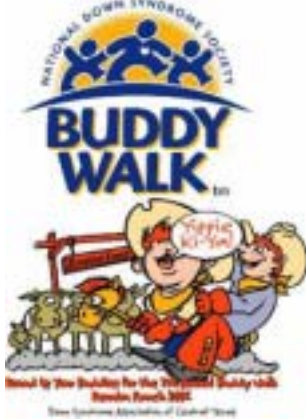
The bottom dropped out the day Gabriel was born. What were we supposed to do? I didn't know how to be a father to a child with a disability.

Slowly however, through some pretty extraordinary - as well as life's everyday mundane events, we began to move forward. I fell in love with my son.

I began writing what would become *Afraid to Look Down* back in 1997. Gabriel had just turned a year old - yet it felt like we had lived a lifetime in that year. I was searching for a way to channel all of the emotions and feelings I experienced on a daily basis. The play that began to emerge however was just awful, a lot of - "woe is me, I hate my life, your life is so much easier than mine". Thankfully I came to my senses and realized that no one would sit through such drivel. So I walked away from the piece. When I returned I was resolved to write only the truth, to expose myself warts and all, and most importantly to keep my sense of humor.

I tried to be very careful about tone as the play began to take shape through its various workshops and staged readings under the direction of Patricia Crotty. I didn't want the play to become a sugary triumph of the human spirit narrative - it's simply the story of how I learned to get out of my own way to let Gabriel teach me how to be his father."

According to the website www.afraidtolookdown.com, Cullen Douglas has played supporting roles in numerous films. He recently guest starred on *The Shield* and can be seen in a recurring role on NBC's *Scrubs*. Cullen lives in Los Angeles, CA with Rachel and their two boys Gabriel and Cameron.



Buddy Walk/Caminata de Amigos 2006

Gracias a todos por su participación en la caminata del Reunion Ranch. La mejor hasta el momento!

Más de \$74,000 recaudados y más de 1900 participantes!!!!

La caminata Buddy Walk del 2006 se celebró el domingo primero de Octubre en el Reunion Ranch de Georgetown y fué un éxito completo.

Mi corazón se llena de alegría de ver lo que hemos logrado. El clima estuvo perfecto y todo el mundo estaba contento afuera asoleándose en el Reunion Ranch. Este año rompimos todos los récord anteriores de participación y recaudación de fondos con más de 1,900 personas y más de \$74,000 recaudados. Muchos participantes y grupos de personas vinieron para mostrar su apoyo en el mes de la concientización sobre el síndrome Down y asimismo a apoyar a todos aquellos con síndrome Down en la comunidad de Central Texas.

Nosotros excedimos por mucho nuestras expectativas de recaudación de fondos gracias a todos los individuos, patrocinadores, empresas, y grupos que caminaron y donaron tan generosamente. No sólo recaudamos \$74,000 sino que el dinero sigue llegando! Qué buen logro! DSACT donará un porcentaje de los fondos a la asociación nacional de síndrome Down (NDSS) que apoya la educación, investigación, e iniciativas de respaldo.

Espero que todos hayan podido ver y disfrutar la ayuda de aquellos montados a caballo que dirigieron el tráfico hacia el rancho. Este servicio fue proveído por los Sheriffs del condado de Williamson y los Buffalo Soldiers, quien estuvieron presentes en la vía de la carretera 183 y la carretera Hwy 29 sosteniendo los rótulos de la caminata. Cada una de éstas organizaciones voluntariamente nos ayudó a llegar al rancho y proveyeron emoción también. Los niños disfrutaron viendo los caballos. Muchas gracias al departamento de Sheriffs del condado de Williamson y a las patrullas que estuvieron presentes en las carreteras para proveernos seguridad.

Qué increíble experiencia que tuvimos este año! Esta ex sólo una de la muchas expresiones que pudimos oír en la caminata. Familias y niños de todas las edades disfrutaron de las actividades que el Rancho Reunion proveyó tan generosamente para nuestra caminata. El rancho proveyó tanto entretenimiento este año, tal y como natación, botes, basketball, montar los caballitos enanos, parque de juegos y muchas otras cosas que nos hicieron sonreír tanto a todos. Agradecemos a Shawn Vickers del Reunion Ranch y a todo su equipo por abrir sus corazones y ayudarnos en ese día!

Nosotros estamos honrados en haber tenido a Melissa Gale del canal de noticias KVUE News para servir como maestra de ceremonias. Agradecemos a ella por su apoyo continuo a nuestra organización dado que éste es ya el tercer año consecutivo que ella está con nosotros.

El entretenimiento estuvo maravilloso este año. Craig Blackburn del estado de Louisiana fué el encargado de ofrecer el discurso principal, el cual fue muy inspirador. Agradecemos a él por compartir con nosotros sus logros y por tocar nuestras vidas y corazones. Monte Warden volvió este año con su hijo Van para darnos otra presentación fantástica como de costumbre. En esta ocasión cantaron la canción que compusieron especialmente para nuestra caminata. Gracias a ambos por su ayuda. El entrenador principal de Basketball de la Universidad de Texas (Augie Garrido) también se presentó en calidad de estrella y también se dirigió a todos nosotros con un discurso muy bueno. También agradecemos al equipo de baile del colegio de Leander, por haber presentado su grandioso espectáculo que abrió la caminata junto con el Marine Color Guard y de Robin Dearing que cantaron el himno nacional y brindaron un espectáculo para recordar.

Por primera vez este año el DSACT honró y reconoció a cinco maestros y directores de escuela que hicieron una diferencia en las vidas de nuestros niños con síndrome Down. Felicitaciones a ellos por hacer la diferencia.

Después de la caminata, los participantes disfrutaron de una gran variedad de entretenimiento y festividades. Habían todas las actividades maravillosas que son parte del Rancho Reunion y también juegos inflatables, una venta de comidas horneadas, juegos especiales para niños, el grupo Corazones y Pezuñas caminaban con sus caballos en miniatura y el Departamento de Incendios de Liberty Hill tenía su bomba de incendios. Las mascotas causaron mucha alegría otra vez. El "HEB Buddy" hizo el día especial, a todos los niños, les encanta. Las estaciones de radio: Majic 95.5, Beat 104.3 y Recuerdo 107.7 vinieron para enseñar su apoyo y proveeron juegos y premios para todos.

Otra vez este año tuvimos el área de subasta y expositores. Había mucha variedad de canastas en que hacer ofertas que levantando mas de \$5,000!!! Tuvimos suficientes donaciones para poder mas de 60 canastas! En el área de expositores tuvimos alrededor de 20 expositores que proveen servicios y productos de interes a nuestras familias. Muchas gracias a todos los expositores por su participacion y por proveernos con informacion sobre los servicios disponibles en el centro de Tejas.

El segundo torneo anual de softball fue un exito tremendo! Este año tuvimos dos juegos. Primero fue Samsung Austin Semiconductor contra Freescale Semiconductor quienes tuvieron una gran batalla en el jardin. Segundo fue Freescale contra Intel. Todos los equipos hicieron un gran esfuerzo en levantar fondos y en promover la concientizacion en el trabajo. Damos gracias a las companias por su dedicacion al Buddy

(Continued on page 19)

Buddy Walk/Caminata de Amigos 2006

(Continued from page 18)

Walk este ano. Samsung gano el partido contra Freescale y Intel gano el partido contra Freescale. Los equipos estan listos hacerlo otra vez en la caminata en 2007.

Fuimos mas alla de nuestras esperanzas este ano gracias a todos los individuos, negocios y equipos de la caminata quienes donaron a la caminata.

Tuvimos el equivalente de donaciones de \$3,000 de las estaciones de radio: Majic 95.5, Beat 104.3 y Recuerdo 107.7. Todas las estaciones proveeron anuncios en vivo sobre la caminata durante el dia y semanas antes de la caminata. Les damos gracias a todos por venir y darnos su apoyo. Amy Parham, la directora de media para el evento, tuvo una entrevista en Majic 95.5. Elizabeth Bradley, coordinadora de voluntarios tambien tuvo una entrevista en la television en las noticias mananera de KVUE. La revista Parent:Wise tambien nos dio dos avisos gratis y publico un articulo conmovedor escrito por Lizzie Martinez, miembro de DSACT. Gracias a Parent:Wise por su apoyo otra vez este ano! Muchas gracias al periodico Austin American Statesman por poner anuncios sobre la caminata por dos semanas corrientes.

Muchisimas gracias a nuestro patrocinador RunTex por proveernos con el inflatables para el comienzo y final de la caminata y por dejar que recogimos las camietas y paquetes en sus tiendas. Esto nos ayudo mantener las lineas mas cortas el dia de la caminata. RunTex tambien nos dio cupones para las bolsitas. Gracias a RunTex por todo!

Ojala que todos puedan participar el ano que entra. Se puede registrar o ir sin registrar y llevar su comida. Las bebidas de todos modos hay gratis. Vale la pena!!!!

UNA NOTA SOBRE LA TRADUCCION: En esta edicion de la noticiara, pudimos no mas traducir una chiquita parte (gracias a Franklin Solis por lo que pudo hacer) pero vamos a hacer mas con cada edicion. Si tu sabes traducir al espanol, por favor, hablame: Deborah Trejo, 586-2552 o quintosol@sbcglobal.net.

Gracias!

ANUNCIO: SE BUSCA PERSONAS BILINGUES

Se busca mas gente que puede traducir de ingles a espanol para mejor informar a la comunidad hispanohablante de toda la informacion y los recursos disponibles respecto al sindrome de Down. Si puede ayudarnos, hablame a Deborah Trejo a 586-2552 o mandeme un email a dtrejo@kempsmith.com. GRACIAS!!!!!!

InkDots

Date: January 13, 2007, 3:00 pm

Location: Gymboree at 8015 Shoal Creek Blvd. Austin, TX

Join us and support the specific developmental milestone your child is working on at his/her age--from sensory explorations for young babies to cause and effect, two-way communication, "motor planning", imaginary play, to early listening and language skills. Gymboree incorporates fundamental, engaging activities that help to build your child's cognitive, social and physical skills.

InkDots is a social playgroup for children with Down syndrome between the ages of 0 and 6, siblings and parents. Please join us! We typically meet on the first Saturday morning of each month to play and socialize. Siblings are invited. For more information, contact 2007 InkDots coordinator Serita Silvestri at serita2252@yahoo.com.

This year we have added an educational component to the playgroup. We are dedicated to bringing you information about development as well as local resources and services. Each quarter we will focus on hot topics surrounding early childhood such as speech and communication and motor skills.

A Donation for DSACT...

Hi!! I am Jennifer Bengtson and we used to see you at the gatherings for the small children with Down Syndrome. My kids are Courtney and Lauren (twins) and my husband is B. I hope all is well with your and your family.

B and I have a business now and we are trying to support causes that are close to our hearts. Obviously DSACT would be one of them. We sell a toy called the Plasma Car. Since many special needs kids take longer to develop the strength in their lower body to peddle they are really great for kiddos with special needs because you only use your arms to make it go. It's great therapy while they play.

The regular price of the Plasma Car is \$69.99. We're offering the car to families of DSACT for \$59.99 and will donate 10% of that price to DSACT. I really believe it could raise a lot of money for the organization.

Our website is www.wegotyourgift.com. Look under the Toy Section for the Plasma Cars. If you would like to see a video of the product visit <http://www.plasmacar.com/store/customer/index.php>

Let me know what you think!!

Jennifer Bengtson, Love Bugs
512-454-6697 business/fax

Editors Note : We have bought 3 of the above Plasma Cars for our girls for Christmas. They are wonderful.

If You Build It, They Will Come!!!!!!

From Tracey Brown with the Austin Miracle League:

We are so excited that we have players coming back out to play, however we can still accommodate LOTS more players for the Fall Season. I need your help getting the word out.

We have gone to AISD, RRISD, and LISD, several of the schools and associations as well as several Pediatric Therapists offices and given them our information. However, I still think Miracle League is a new concept and we need your help giving some feedback and getting information out!!!

Our Fall Season began Saturday, October 7th. We will have 7 – 8 games and end the weekend before Thanksgiving. The Fee is \$50 per player which includes jersey and cap!

You can register online at www.austinmiracleleague.org or at <http://www.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?alias=www.bluesombrero.com/tcoptimistn>

Our field is under construction as we speak and we will probably not be able to begin the season on it BUT we WILL end the season on it! If you have a chance, go take a look - it is pretty exciting stuff!

We have the Buddies! Wow, some pretty cool kids who either are coming back OR heard we had a pretty neat thing going on and wanted to come out to play with your kids. We also have the Huston-Tillotson baseball team wanting to come out and help and several adults wanting to coach.

NOW we need the players!!!

If you have any questions, please contact us!

Tracey Brown

512-335-7434

contact@austinmiracleleague.org

www.austinmiracleleague.org

The Council for Exceptional Children

(CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted. CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides continual professional development, advocates for newly and historically underserved individuals with exceptionalities, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice. The Texas Council for Exceptional Children (TCEC) is the Texas affiliate of the national organization and seeks to assist and support the mission of CEC on behalf of individuals with disabilities. TCEC publishes a quarterly newsletter, distributes a weekly policy update and holds an annual conference to promote its mission.

CEC's website is www.cec.sped.org

TCEC's website is www.tcecweb.org

Policy updates may be obtained from Lisa Cavin, Professional Relations Chair, at lcavin@esc11.net or lcavin@sbcglobal.net.

Lisa Cavin, Evaluation Specialist

Education Service Center Region XI, Fort Worth, Texas
tel 817.740.7569

DSACT Sponsored Programs - OPEN REGISTRATION UNTIL CAPACITY IS REACHED

There's a lot going on for our kids. Registration is open so you can join at any time but please contact us as soon as possible to reserve a spot for your child so we can plan accordingly.

We have an instructor from Ballet Austin who will be kicking off the **Creative Movement Dance Class** for us. The class is very well designed and our instructor, Joan Wolfe, has a wonderful way with children. In class, Joan introduces children to dance moves through the use of animals and the movements found in nature. The program is designed to have the children do dance movements that mimic animal movements or other movements in nature and are the same movements as those found in ballet and modern dance. The kids get to learn basic dance techniques while playing and having fun. We will have students from the University of Texas there to help out.

Also, does your child love to play in the water but not mastered the skills necessary to be safe while having fun in the pool? Would you like your child to learn how to swim? If so we have a program at the YMCA called **SNAP – Special Needs Aquatics Program** that you won't want to miss. The program is being taught by the aquatics director for the YMCA in their indoor heated pool. It's an excellent opportunity for your child to learn the basics like holding their breath underwater and leg and arm movements that are necessary to swim all while in a fun, safe and nurturing environment through the use of fun games children enjoy playing. If your interested it's important to call the YMCA as soon as possible to register your child and keep this class going.

The **music class** has started. We have an exceptional program with experts in the music therapy field. They work with the children singing and playing various small musical instruments in a format that is designed to help with their social skills and fine and gross motor skills. The program was a huge hit last year, so we're excited to be able to offer it again this year.

Other Programs In The Community - OPEN REGISTRATION UNTIL CAPACITY IS REACHED

This past week the South Austin Optimist Club kicked off a new Challenger League Kick-ball League. The first game was a huge success. We had about 18 kids show up despite the chance of rain and they all enjoyed themselves. Judging by all the smiles and camaraderie going on I think we're off to a great start. We also had Buddies there from the University of Texas and Texas State University as well as other school aged kids. We had enough for two teams and would love to have more for four teams. There are several kids with DS in the program from our organization.

NOTE: The age range of the program has been increased to include 4 and 5 year olds. The West Austin Youth Association has started a soccer league for children with disabilities. It's already off to a great start. The kids do soccer drills while their Buddies shadow them to help them when they need it. They must have a dozen different drill stations the kids get to do. Then they take a break and eat a snack provided by WAYA before playing a short game against each other. The kids definitely enjoy themselves in this program.

There are several kids with DS in the program from our organization. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Gerard Jimenez 496.6100

Vision Statement

The Vision of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas is a world in which all members, including those with Down syndrome, are accepted, valued for their uniqueness, respected for their abilities and contributions, and assured the opportunity and choice to create their own path to fulfillment and success.

Mission Statement

The mission of DSACT is to provide support and resources to individuals with Down syndrome, their families, professionals, and the community to achieve our vision. We achieve this by:

- ✓ Promoting the development of programs that enrich the lives of individuals with Down syndrome;
- ✓ Increasing public awareness and understanding about the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome;
- ✓ Encouraging inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome in our neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, recreational activities, and places of employment;
- ✓ Providing education, resources and support to parents and educators to ensure quality education which will prepare individuals with Down syndrome for further education, employment and/or independent living; and
- ✓ Creating a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences.

Nuestra Visión

La visión de DSACT (Asociación de Síndrome Down de la Zona Central de Texas) es un mundo en el que todos sus miembros, incluso aquellos con el Síndrome de Down, son aceptados, valorados por lo que son, respetados por sus habilidades y contribuciones, y cuya oportunidad de crear su propio camino al éxito y realización personal es asegurado.

Nuestra Misión

La misión de DSACT es proveer soporte y recursos a individuos con síndrome de Down, sus familias, profesionales, y la comunidad a obtener nuestra visión. Nosotros podemos cumplir esto de la siguiente forma:

- ✓ Promoviendo el desarrollo de programas que enriquezcan las vidas de los individuos con síndrome de Down.
- ✓ Incrementando el conocimiento y el entendimiento público acerca de las familias y los individuos con síndrome de Down.
- ✓ Estimulando la inclusión de individuos con síndrome de Down en nuestros vecindarios, escuelas, iglesias, actividades recreacionales, y lugares de empleo.
- ✓ Proveyendo educación, recursos y soporte a los padres y educadores para asegurar la calidad de educación que prepare a individuos con síndrome de Down para una mejor educación, empleo, y/o vida independiente.
- ✓ Crear un foro para el intercambio de ideas y experiencias.

Who We Are

Officers

President - Federico Collazo
512.258.9947 • fcollazo@austin.rr.com

President Elect - Gerard Jimenez
512.496.6100 • gerard@austin.rr.com

Treasurer - Bill Ebs
512.301.6875 • bebs@austin.rr.com

Secretary - Eileen Erdelt
512.260.7497 • eerdel@yahoo.com

Board Members

Communication - Danielle Worsfold
512.249.2380 • dj_worsfold@yahoo.co.uk

Fundraising - Stefanie Martinez
512.454.8142 • mikeandstef2000@aol.com

Education - Deborah Trejo
512.586.2552 • dtrejo@kempsmith.com

Education - Lori Barta
512.343.0519 • lmulllos@yahoo.com

At Large Board Member - Cynthia Ochoa
512.413.7317 • manor038@hotmail.com

Social - Serita Silvestri
512.695.9847 • serita2252@yahoo.com

Spanish/Latino - Rebecca Zarate Tobias
512.447.6974

Committee Chairs

Inkdots (0-6yrs) - Sertita Silvestri

Comite Latino - Rebecca Zarate Tobias

New Parent Contact - Lori Barta

Web Master - Cynthia Ochoa

Adult (25-up) - Carolyn Byers
512.267.3711 • carolynbyers@yahoo.com

Outreach - vacant

Kidsact - (6.12) - Gerard Jimenez

Teen/Young Adult (13 -25) - Irene Myers
512.238.1877 • clydemyers@sbcglobal.net

Calendar Project 2007 - Irene Myers & Stefanie Martinez

Main Number: 512.323.0808

Web Site: www.dsact.com

Address: DSACT

3710 Cedar Street, Box 3
Austin TX 78705

The content of this newsletter is provided as a public service for informational purposes. DSACT does not promote any particular therapy, treatment, institution or professional system, etc. The opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the DSACT, its directors, members or the editors of this newsletter.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 14th.

DSACT Education Committee - Dr Hammer (Professor (Retired), Texas Tech School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Texas Tech Health Science Center at Amarillo) will speak on **Parent-Driven Assessment for special education. PLEASE JOIN US** as he is a tremendous speaker on this important special education topic. Parents with kids in school are strongly advised to attend!!! We need to have our membership show up at these speakers so good speakers will continue to be willing to come. 7:00 p.m. at Rosedale Elementary ,2117 W 49th Street, Austin, TX Free childcare and pizza at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Family Support Coop at Palm Square - The Palm Square Parent's Support Group is open to all parents of children with developmental disabilities. 6-7.30pm, childcare for ages 3 and above (free) and light supper (free), Palm square Building, 100 N.IH 35, Corner of Ceaser Chavez and IH 35. Questions : Deborah Rosales Elkins at 854.3720 or Katy McElroy at 804.3052

COPE: A parents support group - Helping you help your child. Parents learn strategies to reduce stress and improve coping skills when dealing with a child who is experiencing serious emotional and behavioral problems.

CLASS: A children's life & social skills group - Showing appreciation for people you love. This group will emphasize the importance of sharing and expressing positive feelings in creative ways.

November 19th

Evening of Giving , 6:30—9:30 Barton Creek Square Mall. More information on page 3.

December 10th -

DSACT General Meeting at 2pm All members are most welcome for our elections. More details on page 3.

DSACT Holiday Party from 3-6pm . More details and map on backpage

January 13th, 2007.

Inkdots - More details on page 19

DSACT Education Committee, meeting at Rosedale on February 20th, March 20th and April 17th.

January 31, 2007

Mini-Workshop on Potty Training your Special Needs Child, Presented by Mindy Peterson, M.Ed., BCABA, and Cara Brown, BCABA. Central Texas Autism Center, 3006 Bee Caves Rd., Austin - Call Lindsay at 512-328-5599

February 28, 2007

Mini-Workshop on Working with your School District: How to Plan for a Successful ARD Meeting. Presented by Kelle Wood, M.Ed., BCBA, Central Texas Autism Center, 3006 Bee Caves Rd., Austin - Call Lindsay at 512-328-5599

March 2-3, 2007

Inclusion Works! Conference - The state's premier conference for teachers, administrators, and parents working to educate students with disabilities in more inclusive settings.

New this year - Inclusion Works for Parents!

Renaissance Austin Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Boulevard, Austin
See www.thearcoftexas.org for more details.

Partners Resource Network (PRN)

PRN is a non-profit agency that operates the statewide network of federally funded Parent Training and Information Centers (PTI's) in Texas. The PTI Projects are: **PATH, PEN, and TEAM.**

The programs and services of PRN are based on the concept of parents helping parents. Our mission is to empower parents of children and youth with disabilities in their roles as parents, decision makers, and advocates for their children and to promote partnerships among parents and professionals.

To find out more, go to <http://www.partnerstx.org/>

Upcoming Conferences Sponsored by PATH Project:

For more information or to RSVP for the workshops contact Stephania Williams at (254) 628-7977 or email stephaniawilliams@yahoo.com. All dates are on Tuesdays.

Nov. 28, 2006: Getting to Advocacy, One Step at a Time

Anita Karney, Central Texas Autism/PDD Group; The Georgetown Project Community Resource Center, 605 E. University, Georgetown, Texas 78626, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m

Dec. 19, 2006: Resources for Children with Disabilities

Mary Klentzman, Children's Special Needs Network; Texas Parent to Parent, AGE Building, 3710 Cedar St., Austin, TX , 6 to 8 p.m.

Jan. 16, 2007: IDEA 2004

John Fessenden, Educational Service Center 13; Texas Parent to Parent, AGE Building, 3710 Cedar St., Austin, TX 78705, 6 to 8p.m.

Jan. 23, 2007: Behavior Intervention Plans

Stephania Williams, PATH Project; The Georgetown Project Community Resource Center, 605 E. University, Georgetown, Texas 78626, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m

Feb. 20, 2007: Behavior and Special Education

Albert Felts, ESC 13; Texas Parent to Parent, AGE Building, 3710 Cedar St., Austin, TX 78705, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 27, 2007: Special Ed & the Public School System

Debra Liva, Advocate; Overview of Rights and How to Advocate for Children with Disabilities; The Georgetown Project Community Resource Center, 605 E. University, Georgetown, Texas 78626, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m

March 20, 2007: Special Ed & the Public School System

Debra Liva, Advocate; Texas Parent to Parent, AGE Building, 3710 Cedar St., Austin, TX 78705, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Round Rock Express Game

200+ tickets to Round Rock Express Game on July 30, 2006 were donated to DSACT by Reid Ryan. These tickets were offered to members and those who took up the offer were treated to a wonderful tailgate party, kindly sponsored by Cody Pools and Los Tres Amigos. The group then had a fantastic night of watching a baseball and having fun at the ball park. Look for RR Express event next summer!

Editors Notes:

Your editors would like to welcome Sandie Coco to the editorial team. Sandie has offered to step up and help out with the production of YOUR newsletter. She is responsible for much of this edition and hopefully over the next few will take over the editors role. Please welcome her and if you have an ideas, would like to help or have material that you would like to share with our members please e-mail her at cocosk@rocketmail.com, or us at dj_worsfold@yahoo.co.uk.

Your editors (for now!!)

John and Danielle

President's Letter

October 25, 2006

Dear DSACT Members,

The time has come again to select the volunteers who will be driving the efforts towards our growth during 2007. We have had many challenges, opportunities and rewarding experiences this year, but there is still a lot to accomplish. 2007 is going to be a challenging year, as DSACT is poised to grow even more. There are new programs in place, and new ones that we have not been able to develop because a lack of volunteers.

I am including a list of positions that will be open for election this upcoming December 10th during our Holiday event. I encourage you to become a member of the board of directors, as an officer or leading one of our committees, and help us create and drive new strategies to address our new opportunities. You can also nominate someone for a given position, if you know this person is willing to become part of our board. The nominations should be post dated no later than Friday, November 13th, 2006. All nominees should write a short explanation of their desire to become a member of the board, what is their area of interest, and their experience if they have had a similar position in a non-profit organization.

Here are the open positions for election and its corresponding duties and responsibilities:

Position	Roles and Responsibilities
Vice President	
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All banking activities • Recording receipts and disbursements in accounting system (Quickbooks) • Preparation of financial statements • Assisting board with budgeting and financial projections • Oversight of registration and cash functions at events • Financial reporting compliance with regulatory agencies
Fundraising Chair	
Fundraising Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist fundraising chair; Coordinate one fundraising event per year
Volunteer Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospect, recruit, train and retain volunteers • Maintain a volunteer database to provide volunteers to other committees as required, based on skills and availability
Outreach Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and coordinate a diverse set of outreach groups, increase networking among organizations serving people with DS
Newsletter Editor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay-out, solicit articles, arrange for publication and mail out and distribute bi-monthly newsletter to DSACT members (<i>editors note: position filled see page 22</i>)
Media/PR Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan & coordinate media coverage for DSACT events and for Down syndrome awareness month.

We also need volunteers in an on going basis to help us with the many different activities throughout the year.

I encourage you to nominate yourself for a position that fits your talents and time. If you cannot become a member of our board, or a specific committee, nominate someone you know.

By volunteering with DSACT you will be able to contribute at your own pace. We have people who will be making phone calls from their homes, or helping us put together packages of information for new parents, visit new parents, finding community liaisons for events and so on. With a few hours a week you can make a difference.

I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party this December 10th. Please join me in voting for your favorite candidate. Voting in our annual elections is the first step towards making a difference.

Regards,

Federico Collazo

President, Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas

Yee Haw It's Party Time!



DSACT would like to invite you and your family to our **ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**. This year we have decided to kick up our spurs and have a good ole fashion Western Hoedown. The event will include BBQ for chow. Don't forget those dancin' boots as there will plenty of music for boot scootin. We can't wait to see you there in your holiday and western wear.

Date: December 10th
 Time: Meeting @ 2:00
 Party 3:00-6:00 pm
 Location: Texas Old Town
 1205 Roland Lane
 Kyle, TX 78640

You can RSVP with how many in your party by calling the DSACT phone line: 512-323-0808 or Email serita2252@yahoo.com
 Please mention if you have any vegetarians in your party.

