

DSATnews

Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa

May, 2009

P.O. Box 54877 • Tulsa, Oklahoma 74155-0877 • www.dsat.org

President's Message

Happy Spring everyone! We hope you are enjoying the spring weather in Oklahoma... never a dull moment!

We have some fun things planned for summer! Drillers game in June! Great DSAT monthly meetings coming this summer: Special Olympics (May), Speech therapy/nutrition (June), potty training (July), and in August we plan to have a general DSAT meeting to help people get involved, talk about the Buddy Walk etc..

We had a fun **New Parent Connection** meeting this month. We want to encourage all new parents to DSAT to get involved. There is great strength in connecting. There is going to be a new Play group started soon, if you are interested contact Mindy Beasley at 698-5027. We are also looking for some coordinators or co-coordinators of this area! What a great way to get involved. I was reminded of how vital it is to connect and talk with other moms/dads about our kids. It keeps us encouraged, hopeful and involved! Reach out and get involved!

If we can be of help to you, please give us a call!
496-1873.



Calling All DSATers!

We are looking for more helpers on the **snack team**. Once, maybe twice a year you would pick up the snacks and deliver them to the DSAT meeting. You would be reimbursed for the \$\$\$ spent. A great and easy way to volunteer for DSAT and it only costs you a little time at the store (or in your kitchen :)) and some brain power! We can all do that! Please email flamingoqueen@gmail.com or call Deanna 408-5613 to sign up or if you have more questions.

May Meeting
Thursday, May 21st at 7:00 PM
New Haven United Methodist Church
56th & New Haven
(between Yale and Harvard)
Special Olympics



Save The Date

The 7th Annual DSAT Buddy Walk will be held on Sunday, October 18th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Union High School Track.

Calendar Committee

We need help with the 2010 calendar. If you would like to help out with sponsors or can be available to help with photo shoots, please contact me to volunteer. Aprilwegener@cox.net. Thank you!

Play Group

This is a reminder to let me know ASAP if you would be interested in being a part of a play group and also if you would like to coordinate one. We have several who have shown interest and I know there's more out there... so let me know by email. If you have any questions feel free to call me at 698-5027. We are excited to get these started! Not only for the moms to catch up and get to know one another but for the kids. Long lasting relationships can begin now!

Hope to hear from you soon!

Mindy Beasley



2009 Time Square Buddy Walk Video

Celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Buddy Walk® by entering the Times Square Video Contest. The video showcases children, teens and adults with Down syndrome working, playing and learning with friends and family from all over the world and will air on a jumbo screen in the heart of Times Square on September 26, 2009 at 10:30 AM.

For the past 4 years someone from DSAT has been selected. It is exciting for DSAT and the entire community. For information, or to submit a photo go to www.buddywalk.org. The deadline for submitting photos is July 15, 2009.

Thank you TARC for making this newsletter possible!

Poppin' Joe's Kettle Korn

By [Nancy Shute](#)

Posted on US News on April 2, 2009

Joe Steffy is off to Overland Park, Kansas, this week to do a PowerPoint presentation on his business, [Poppin' Joe's Kettle Korn](#). He's a 23-year-old small-business man with a goal of \$100,000 in sales by 2012. Joe also has autism and Down syndrome and is nonverbal. When he gives his talk, he will push buttons on an augmentative speech device to deliver the words. His audience will be parents who fervently hope their own special-needs children will be able to work, too.

Joe's parents, Ray and Janet, of Louisburg, Kansas, didn't agree with the assessment of the school district in which they lived previously, which had said Joe would never be able to work or live independently. "I'm one who can easily get ticked off," says Ray. "That ticked me off. We saw more in Joe than that. We set out to prove to the school that he had capabilities." They came across kettle corn while on a trip to Alaska and realized that the popping, scooping, and serving suited Joe's love of work.

The path to Joe Steffy's success was not an easy one; Ray Steffy worked closely with Dave Hammis, an advocate for self-employment for people with disabilities in Middletown, Ohio, who trains business owners, government employees, and parents on how to make use of state and federal programs. The Steffys wrote up a business plan and helped Joe secure \$25,000 in grants from programs like Social Security Administration's Plan to Achieve Self-Support program.

In 2005, Poppin' Joe's Kettle Korn was born. Sales have grown from \$16,000 in 2005 to \$50,000 in 2008, both from selling at festivals and from delivering popcorn to local outlets. Joe has five part-time employees, and his parents help out with driving and other tasks. "Pop and everyone that works with him knows whatever Joe wants to do you let him do, because he's the boss," Ray says. "If he wants to pop, he'll shove Dad out of the way and pop."

If the business stays on track, it should be grossing more than \$100,000 in three years, and the Steffys are seeking a business partner who can work with Joe to manage the business. Joe is no longer on Social Security disability payments; instead, he pays state sales tax and state and federal income tax. He rents his own house and is helped by caregivers who are paid by a state program.

"It's been hard work, from the standpoint of physical work," says Ray Steffy, who is 67. "But a parent with a child like Joe has a choice. You can either kick in and do this kind of thing, or you can sit and fret emotionally with the amount of energy, worrying about what's going to happen to them."

The payoff for that effort, as far as the Steffys are concerned, has been priceless. They see their son make a local popcorn delivery, accept payment, fold it, and put it in his pocket. When he walks out, his dad says, Joe looks 3 inches taller than when he walked in.



The Magic Eye

There is a new magical adventure book called 'The Magic Eye' that features a boy with Down's Syndrome. John Simon is the best friend of heroine Amelia Pendragon.

John is loosely based on my son Joe. There are so few books available today with heroes who have special needs that I thought it about time to create one. In fact, 'The Magic Eye' is the first book in a series of stories titled 'The Magical Adventures of Melie'. The series blends 21st century living and comforts with the richness, beauty and magic of a bygone age of wizards and fairies. Melie's adventures with John take her to mystical places where good must once again defeat the forces of evil. I am inviting you to join the young John and Melie as she first discovers her magical powers, what they mean to her and most

importantly of all, why she has been blessed with them in this modern world of logic and disbelievers. Children and parents will be whisked away to the 'world in-between' where Melie and best friend John mingle with the amazing wizards of old. Not only will fans get to share in Melie's adventures, they will be invited to help to create them. Children will be asked to submit ideas for Melie's next story. Twice a year, 20 children with the best ideas will be invited with their parents to join us at a special boot-camp. The objective will be to jointly design the next Melie adventure. This will be a weekend of fun, alternating between England and the USA, where they jointly develop the outline and first chapter for the next book. I will then write the next adventure from these jointly created ideas. Please enjoy 'The Magic Eye' Many many thanks, Robert Carter

World Down Syndrome Day



The Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles, in celebration of World Down Syndrome Day, Saturday March 21, 2009, presents 21 emails for 21 days with 21 quotes by 21 people with Trisomy 21 on what it's like to have Down syndrome.

1. "It [Down Syndrome] makes me feel special. I feel good inside." By: Christine Young (36)
2. "Having Down syndrome is cool because I can play any sport I want in Special Olympics with my best friends." By: Jared Kozak (19)
3. "It [Down syndrome] makes me an excellent photographer, I can make money as an actor, I have lots of friends and have been Susie's boy friend for 5 years on Wednesday, April 1st. I can get married like Corky and Amanda on 'Life Goes On' [television show]." By Blair "B" Williamson (29)
4. "Down syndrome is in the genes, but not these jeans." By: Shannon Dierix (24)
5. "I can be very independent and I love to cook." By: Jasmine Banayan (20)
6. "I love my living situation and love being with my apartment mates." By: Patrick Ziegler (25)
7. "I am proud to be me and I love my mom and dad and I love all my friends with Down syndrome. Thank you for being kind to us." By: Adinan Schreck (19)
8. "Down syndrome is something you are born with. You can't take it away from yourself. I'll always be a little slow and need help with my reading but I am still a person with feelings." By: Robin Trocki (52 years young)
9. "Since I have Down syndrome I can teach my big brother how to work harder and never quit." By: Eden Rapp (12)
10. "I feel like I'm enjoying myself. I feel like I could fly. I'd like to meet a girlfriend." By: Kevin Ewing (28)
11. "I do it!" By: Eliza Widdicombe (8)
12. "Mommie, sit" By: Leo Woodrum (5)
13. "I love myself! I love my life! I'm very happy! I love 'Born to Act Players,' the acting group my mom started for me. Up with Down's!" By: Casey Rings Powell (28)
14. "I love living in my apartment with my roommate." By: Andrea Hall (32)
15. "I don't think about my Down syndrome. I think about my ability. I have family and friends and things I do. I'm just like everyone else." By: Chris Burke (43) of "Life Goes On"
16. "I like meeting other friends with Down syndrome because we have a lot in common." By: Lauren Potter (18)
17. "I am fine and happy having Down syndrome. I like to learn stuff at Mrs. Brown's House like reading, writing and having fun too. I am also learning to be a teacher." By: Elizabeth Beutel (11)
18. "I go to A.R.C. I am Down syndrome. Yes, I play tennis everyday, I have been doing it all the time, a long time." By: Deborah Henrikson (44)
19. "Down syndrome makes me special among my friends and family. I love to sing and dance with my NY Friends. I will be an actor one day. I love my dog Roxy." By: Parth Bharat (19)
20. "I can get a lot of money if I sell my extra chromosome on eBay. I don't need it anymore." By: Graham Sheldon (23)
21. "Having Down syndrome means nothing to me, I'm special like everyone else. I do not let people judge me for having Down syndrome. The important thing is how I feel about myself. On the inside, I feel beautiful." By: Edward Barbanell (31)

Fun at the Hunt



Thank You!

A great big thank you to all of the following for their support of DSAT.
We could not do this without you.

Dues Paid

Darla Knight
Dave & Cathy Somer
Myra Fadely
Jason & Eliza Wilkerson
Kelli & Jason Bennett
Linda Dotson
Robert & Susan Cowart
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TJ & Patricia Shannon

Donations

Pat & Jerald Seemann
Patrick Meziere Leon Burzynski
in honor of Aaron Soderfelt

Pamela J. Milleson
in memory of Kase Evan Omstead

Myra Fadely

Buddy Walk Matching Gifts

GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
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Special Thank You's

Thank you to
Stephanie Keester and Kim Cobb
for their work with the Easter Egg Hunt!

Thank you to
Curtis Shacklett
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for sharing with us at our last meeting!

Have You Heard?

There is a new group in Tulsa for Mended Little Hearts. They have meetings and share experiences for those little ones who have had heart surgery. Look on the web at: www.tulsa.mendedlittlehearts.net



**May 21st
Special Olympics
7:00 PM at New Haven United Methodist Church
56th & New Haven**

Answer the questions you may have about this great program. Find out how to get involved. Participants will share their experiences!

**June 13th
Driller's Dinner & Game
Driller's Stadium
15th & Yale**

Free dinner and admission to the game for DSAT! Let's go out to the ball game and have some family fun!

**June 18th
Nutrition and Feeding
7:00 PM at New Haven United Methodist Church
56th & New Haven**

We will have a registered Dietitian and a Speech Therapist to give us a free seminar on nutrition therapy and oral motor skills. Great information you will not want to miss.

**June 25th
D.A.D.S. Meeting
7:00 PM at Fox & Hound Pub and Grill
71st & Garnett**

We are planning a fishing day. Details to be announced soon!

**July 16th
Potty Training
7:00 PM at New Haven United Methodist Church
56th & New Haven**

Kim Wofford will have a special seminar on Potty Training. She will be sharing the behavioral aspects as well as the basics of potty training a child with special needs. Kim is one of our own and has a special perspective with her combination of education and personal experiences.

**July 31st to August 2nd
National Down Syndrome Conference
Sacramento, CA**

sign up online at: <http://www.ndsccenter.org/news/events.php>

**August 20th
Get Involved!
7:00 PM at New Haven United Methodist Church
56th & New Haven**

Information on the Annual Buddy Walk and exciting things happening with DSAT this fall. Be a part of DSAT.

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DSAT news

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To add your name to our email reminder list
or to get more involved in DSAT
please email: ziriak@tulsacoxmail.com