

Welcome to the 20th annual East Tennessee Buddy Walk!

October 23, 2016

Hi! Though I know many of you, I wanted to share a little about myself as the new DSAG director. My husband Chris and I have been married for 19 years and have five children, 1 son and 4 daughters. Our oldest child is 15 and our youngest is 7 years old. Our middle child Morgan has Down syndrome – she celebrated her 12th birthday in March, and she is in sixth grade this school year. Our family has been involved with DSAG since Morgan's birth. I love DSAG and celebrating the abilities of all individuals with Down syndrome.

Today celebrates the 20th annual Buddy Walk Knoxville! Buddy Walk is an important part of helping DSAG members build long-lasting friendships with those who become like extended family. The support of volunteers and sponsors goes far beyond the day of Buddy Walk -- without them, the ongoing education and awareness to enrich the lives of our loved ones with Down syndrome living in East Tennessee would not be possible.

Special thanks to Kelly Johnson for her years of service. Her vision of what our group could be is what has inspired DSAG to become the fantastic organization that it is today. We love you, Kelly!

Thank you for sharing your day here at Buddy Walk and supporting all individuals with Down syndrome. Happy Down Syndrome Awareness Month and happiest of Buddy Walks to you and your family!

Angie Holbert
Executive Director

2016 DSAG Buddy Walk Committee	
Kristin Alm	Kim Longmire
Andie Breeden	Karah Loveland
Kristine Ellerd	Susan Martin
Jennifer Franklin	Becca Stone
Jim Garratt	Doreen Patrick
Angie Holbert	Greg Patrick
Marianne Jennings	Amy Stiles



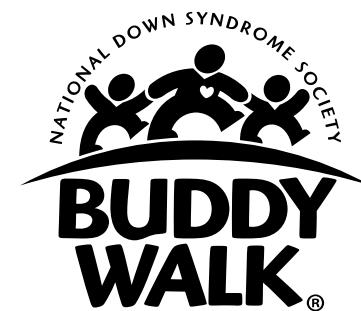
The Down Syndrome Awareness Group of East Tennessee (DSAG) is a volunteer-led/parent-initiated organization developed to provide information and support to families of individuals with Down syndrome (Ds) and to raise awareness within the community about the abilities of individuals with Ds and the benefits of their inclusion into society.

DSAG works to educate and link individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and professionals by:

- ★ Educating individuals and families about available resources and programs
- ★ Hosting conferences on information pertinent to Down syndrome
- ★ Organizing socials in order for individuals and families to network
- ★ Providing Down Comfort Gifts to new parents
- ★ Publishing regular newsletters and providing support
- ★ Encouraging individuals with Down syndrome by awarding scholarships for recreation activities and technology assistance

DSAG serves the following counties in East Tennessee:

Anderson	Hamblen	McMinn
Blount	Hancock	Morgan
Campbell	Hawkins	Roane
Claiborne	Jefferson	Scott
Cocke	Knox	Sevier
Grainger	Loudon	Union



About Buddy Walk®

The **Buddy Walk®** was developed by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. The Buddy Walk has grown from 17 walks in 1995 to nearly 250 walks planned this year worldwide. Each year, almost \$13 million is raised nationwide to benefit local programs and services, as well as the national advocacy and public awareness initiatives of NDSS that benefit all individuals with Down syndrome.

How to contact DSAG

Phone
865-202-8867



Website
dsagtn.org



Email
info@dsagtn.org



Mailing Address
PO Box 53575
Knoxville, TN 37950-3575

What does the DSAG Buddy Walk fund?

Funds will provide critically needed family support and services through DSAG East Tennessee including:

Advocacy

Buddy Walk
Community Involvement
Medical Outreach



Education

Conferences
E-newsletter
Parent Education
Spanish information

Support

Recreational Scholarships
HOSPITALity Packages
New/Expectant Parent Support

Community

Mom's Night Out
D.A.D.S. Group
Baby & Toddler Playgroups
Social programming

2016 Highlights

- Parent workshop with Ds geneticist, Dr. Brian Skotko
- Medical professional workshop with Dr. Skotko at Children's Hospital
- Zoo Day with 50 families attending
- Hoops for Hope event with the UT Men's and Women's basketball teams with 48 individuals participating

2017 What's Happening

- Baby & Toddler playgroups
- Social opportunities for all ages
- HOSPITALity packages to families in the hospital
- New Parent Packets for families new to the area
- Additional opportunities for family and individual networking

\$30 will pay for "Backpacks for Buddies" Packet for new Buddy Walkers.
\$40 will pay for a HOSPITALity package for a family in the hospital.
\$50 will pay for New Parent Packets for families new to the area.
\$100 will pay for a Down Comfort Gift for newborn babies.
\$200 will pay for an individual recreational scholarship.
\$300 will pay for a parent workshop on topics such as medicines/education.



A portion of Buddy Walk funds raised go to the National Down Syndrome Society which advocates for the value, acceptance, and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

Thank You!

The 2016 Buddy Walk Committee would like to thank:

Coca-Cola

Elm Hill

Karla Pamanes

Katy Jett

Kimz Entertainment

Knoxville Parks and Recreation Bureau

Knoxville Police Department

The Back Porch Mercantile

The Confectionista's Kitchen

Scripps Networks Interactive

Silent Auction Donors

and all our generous goody bag sponsors, including:



A special thank you to ALL of our sponsors and volunteers!

Today's Schedule

1:00pm Registration and Medal Ceremony Sign In

(Note: no registrations will be processed until 1pm)

1:10 - 1:25pm Powell Pep Squad

1:45pm Sunshine Ambassadors Dance Group Performance

Welcome to the 20th Annual Buddy Walk

1:45pm Opening Ceremony

Flag ceremony and National Anthem by Emma Bennett

Declaration of National Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Introduction of Special Guests

Introduction of 2015 Buddy Walk winners:

Molly Radar, Kaci Herron, Harper Alm, Makenna Hurd and Andrew Fugate

2016 Buddy Walk begins

3:00pm Medal Ceremony (immediately after walk)

Main Stage

Silent Auction closes

4:00pm Buddy Walk activities officially conclude

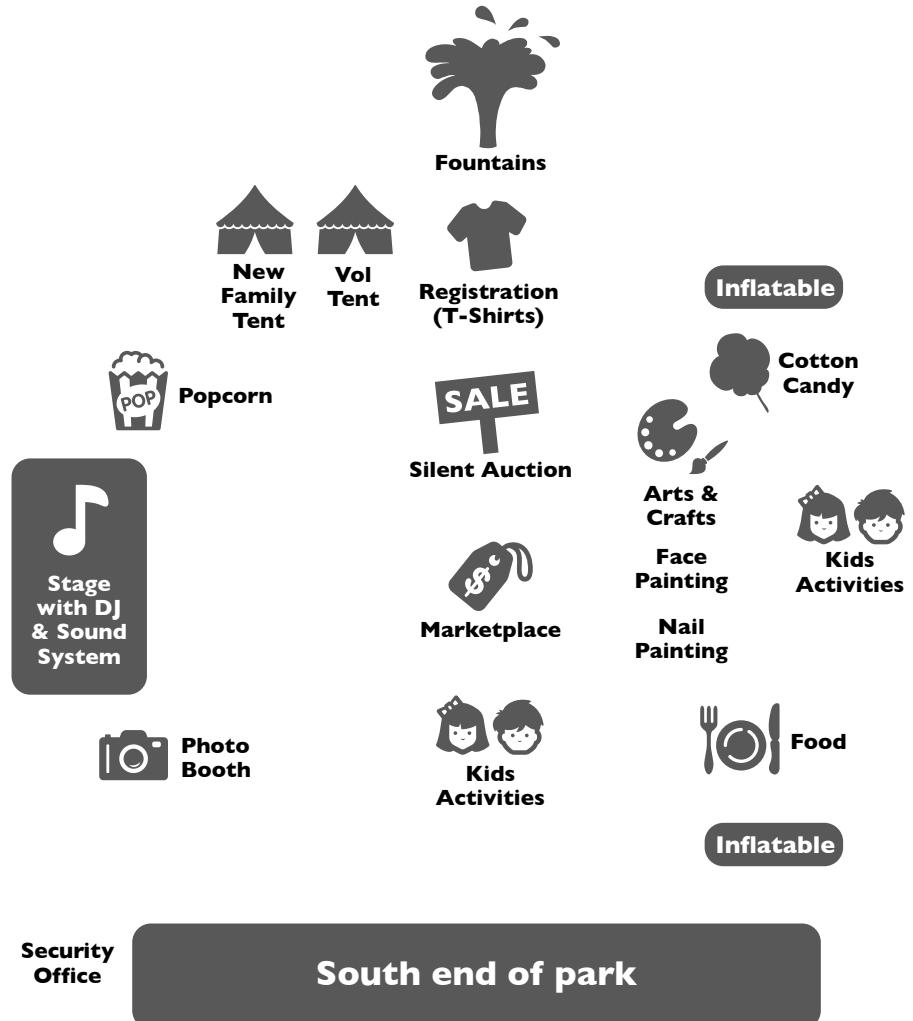
Activities in the Park:

Concessions • Games • Kids' crafts & activities

Inflatables • Silent Auction • Marketplace

World's Fair Park Map

Buddy Walk



Knoxville Pediatric Cardiology



2100 Clinch Avenue - Koppel Plaza Suite 420
Knoxville, TN 37916 ph: (865) 522-0420



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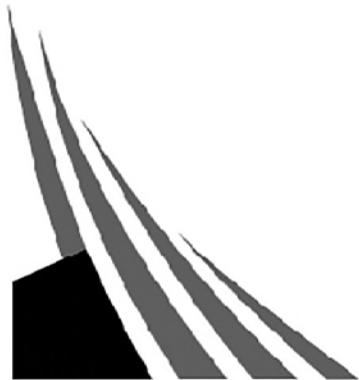
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Cami Berkley	Maddox Shields

and all individuals that
rock the extra chromosome!

*The Stiles &
Denson Families*

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DAVID SUZUKI



We love our spunky Liam!
Nay & Papa, Gigi & Pops



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HARPER BELLE

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Harper, Harper, Mamaw
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I can hardly wait to see
you grow.
Harper, Harper,
everybody knows
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loves you so.
Harper, Harper,
Mamaw knows for sure
That your heart
is warm and pure.



East Tennessee Pediatric Cardiology, PC

Yvonne A. Bremer, MD, FAAP, FACC

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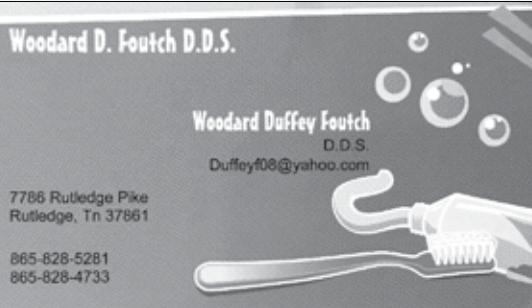
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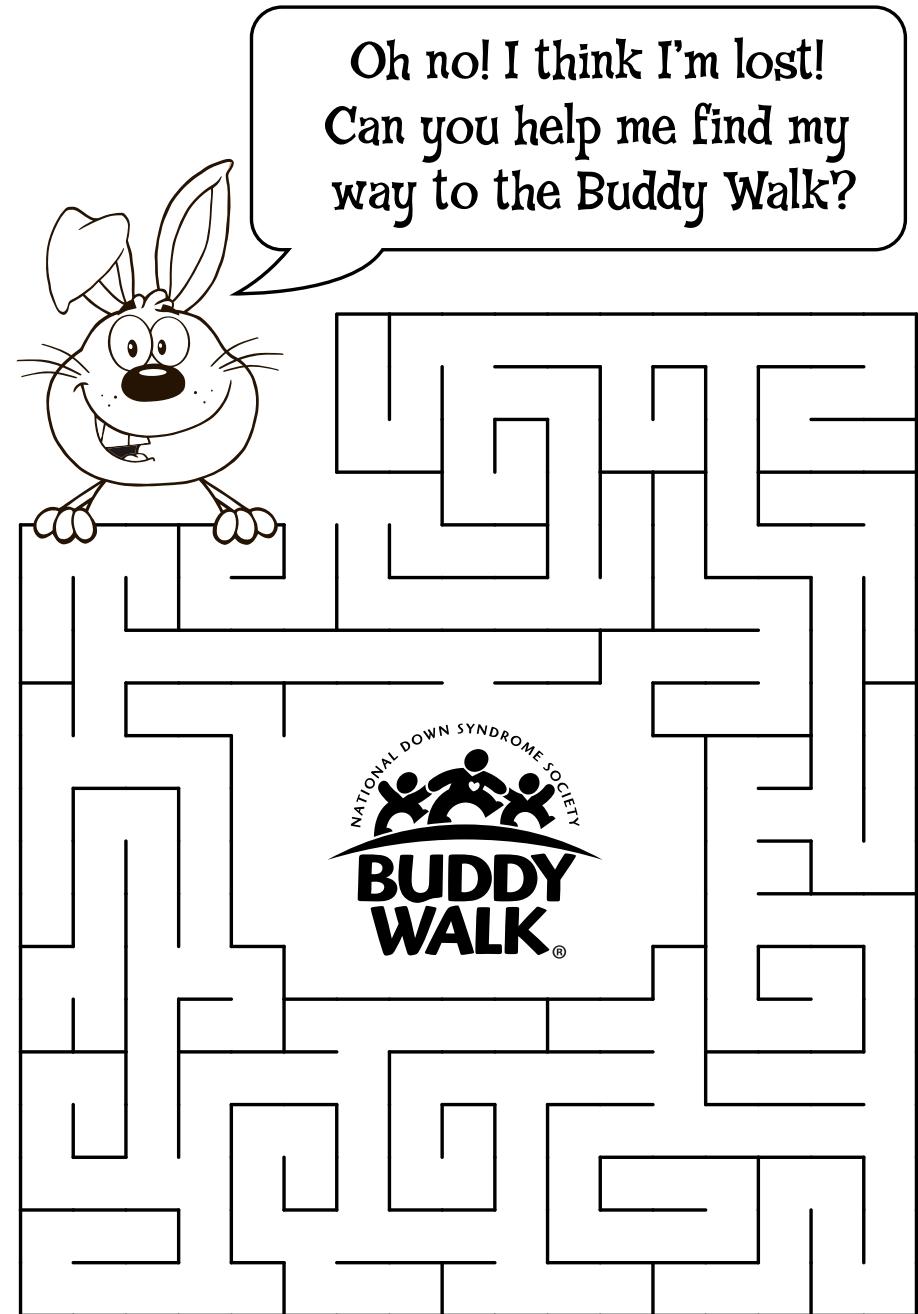
**Local DSAG Members Featured in the
2015 National Down Syndrome Society
Times Square Video**

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**Thank you for
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all our buddies.**



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