

# A Little Something Extra

## Opening a World of Opportunity For Children with Down Syndrome



March/April

2008

Volume 6, Issue 2

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Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Down Syndrome Guild of Southeast Michigan. The Board has been working toward this goal for several months. You might ask why call it a Guild? From the Encyclopedia Britannica the definition of a Guild: an association of craftsmen or merchants formed for mutual aid and protection and for the furtherance of their professional interests. Guilds flourished in Europe between the 11th and 16th centuries and formed an important part of the economic and social fabric in that era.

Every day the DSG is working to improve the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome of all ages, infants, toddlers, children, adolescents and adults alike.

Throughout our organization's history, we have been a leader in promoting awareness and acceptance of Down syndrome, and we have found great success. Individuals with Down syndrome are becoming more involved in community life than ever before—they are attending neighborhood preschools, elementary and high schools, playing organized sports, going to college, working in local businesses and exploring a variety of independent living environments.

Wonderful strides have been made to improve the quality of life for people with Down syndrome. Yet there is much left to be done.

The growing interest in advocacy and awareness topics in the Down syndrome community combined with the current promising policy environment for intellectual disabilities make the timing optimal to seize opportunities to educate society about the abilities of people with Down syndrome. There is also a great need to pursue legislative protections which are necessary to ensure these individuals have access to education, medical care, and other benefits afforded to others.

I want to take a look at the "presumed competence" of individuals with disabilities and specifically those with Down syndrome. Kathie Snow from [disabilityisnatural.com](http://disabilityisnatural.com) uses this terminology a lot. She often discusses how our society continues to "presume the incompetence" of individuals with disabilities.

Over the past year, it has struck me as interesting how many times I have met a parent, caregiver or sibling of an individual with Down syndrome who said, "Getting married, living in an apartment, working in a meaningful job, taking dance or music classes at the neighborhood studio, or singing in the church choir is great but my son/daughter/brother/ couldn't do that? Why not? I want "presumed competence" to take over. I want it to take over in families, schools, churches, and businesses; I want it to take over our community, and I know it can.

In this issue you will see on page 6 a list of DSG Volunteer Opportunities. The DSG needs all of our families to share in Volunteer Opportunities in order to continue to support individuals with Down syndrome and provide critical funding to continue to advocate for the entire Down syndrome community. Please look at the Volunteer Opportunities and contact us so that we may continue to grow and support individuals with Down syndrome throughout Southeast Michigan.

Dads, listen up! Please note on page 3, we are looking for Dad's who may be interested in starting up a D.A.D.S. group. D.A.D.S. is Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome (<http://www.dadsappreciatingdownsyndrome.org>). DSG may have the opportunity to bring in one of the founders to talk with our local dads. Please contact Kirk Anderson for more information.

On Page 8 our newly developed Neighborhood Groups are ready to join you for coffee and conversation. Please contact these local groups and get connected with other local families in your area.

We're excited about offering Baby Sign's Sign Language, a Summer Music Program in July with Paula Doak & other exciting workshop and social events. Please join us as we grow! Without you this organization would not be able to do the work it does.

Have a wonderful Spring!  
Paulette

## March Parent Awareness Month

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March 8	10am	Play group *
March 8	8:30am-2:30pm	Parenting Education Fair — Walled Lake Northern High School — <a href="http://walledlake.k12.mi.us/pr/parenting_fair.html">http://walledlake.k12.mi.us/pr/parenting_fair.html</a>
March 9		Daylight Savings Time begins
March 14	7pm	Mom's Night Out — Pasquale's — 31555 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak — 248.549.4002 **
March 17	all day	St. Patrick's Day
March 18	10am-2pm	Board Meeting — Paulette's house — call to confirm or for more info 248.646.0819
March 18	7-9pm	General Membership Meeting *(see page 9) don't miss this workshop!
March 19	7-8:30 PM	Free Parent Workshop "NO" A key word in our children's future success(see website)
March 20		First Day of Spring
March 21		Good Friday Purim
March 23	all day	Easter Sunday

## April

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April 1	all day	April Fool's Day
April 11	6pm	Starry Night Royal Park Hotel - \$250/person or \$2500/table of 10 ( <a href="http://www.bandofangels.com">www.bandofangels.com</a> )
April 12	10am	Play group * & Baby Signs Sign Language
April 15	10am-2pm	Board Meeting — Paulette's house — call to confirm or for more info 248.646.0819
April 15	7-9pm	General Membership Meeting *(see page 9)
April 18	7pm	Mom's Night Out —West Side Mario's 31630 Plymouth Rd. Livonia 734-513-8803
April 20		Passover
April 23	9:00am-4:30pm	Wrightslaw Advocacy Training—Laurel Manor—Livonia (see website)
April 26	TBA	Baby Signs Sign Language—more information to follow

## May

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May 5	all day	Cinco De Mayo
May 10	10am	Play group *
May 11	all day	Mother's Day
May 16	7pm	Mom's Night Out — D'Amato's — 222 S Sherman Drive, Royal Oak — 248.584.7400 **
May 17	TBA	Baby Signs*
May 17	8:30am-4:30pm	Learn How your student can have a family consortium and supported employment.
May 20	10am-2pm	Board Meeting — Paulette's house — call to confirm or for more info 248.646.0819
May 20	7-9pm	General Membership Meeting *(see page 9)
May 24	TBA	Baby Signs Sign Language
May 26	all day	Memorial Day

## June

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June 14	10am	Play group *
June 15	all day	Father's Day
June 17	10am-2pm	Board Meeting — Paulette's house — call to confirm or for more info 248.646.0819
June 17	7-9pm	General Membership Meeting *
June 20		First Day of Summer
June 20	7pm	Mom's Night Out (TBA)
June 23-27		(bike camp is coming — <a href="http://www.bandofangels.com">www.bandofangels.com</a> )- scholarships are available. Contact <a href="mailto:president@dsgsemi.org">president@dsgsemi.org</a>

## July

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July 4		4th of July
July 10,17,24,31	10-10:45am	Summer Music with Ms. Paula at : Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
July 11-13		NDSC Conference in Boston ( <a href="http://www.ndsccenter.org">www.ndsccenter.org</a> )
July 27		Annual DSG Picnic

\* Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 1100 Lone Pine Rd. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 Contact Paulette Duggins with any questions 248.646.0819

\*\* RSVP to Nancy Nelson 248.881.3257 or [ncn2001@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ncn2001@sbcglobal.net)



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**Phone:(248) 496.0150 Fax: (248) 354.9956**  
**jstewart@optimindsct.com,**  
**www.optimindsct.com**



**When:** June 16- Aug 18 9:00am- 12:00pm.

*Note: no camp July 4.*

**Where:** Seaholm High School

**Price:** (Flex Schedule) Either \$200/week -or- \$50/day

**Happy Birthday to everyone having a Birthday in March and April:**

• Benjamin Couture	3/2
• Michael Kelly	3/2
• Jon Liike	3/5
• Ryan Wasenko	3/10
• Timothy MacLean	3/11
• Michael Tamulevich	3/12
• Mitchell Lyons	3/14
• Michelle Grigg	3/14
• Chris Mazur	3/14
• Kate Kaufman	3/15
• Molly Duggins	3/17
• Anthony Hicks	3/17
• Ezekiel Ostroski	3/26
• Ryan Tessmar	3/28
• Joseph Rex	3/29
• Molly Mitchener	3/30
• Kaitlyn Olivier	3/30
• Ryder Ciszewski	4/5
• Shannon Scram	4/6
• Bridget Nelson	4/9
• Anastasia Rockwell	4/10
• Shane Karabelski	4/17
• Kaitlyn Duffy	4/20
• Miah Bommarito	4/25
• Andrew Bogema	4/26
• Jessica Brinker	4/26
• Jamison Kohli	4/26
• Jared March	4/29

**If your child's birthday is not listed, please e-mail Madison at dugginsp@comcast.net.**



**Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome**

**Our mission:**

To assist and support, through fellowship and action, the fathers and families of individuals with Down syndrome

**Our goals:**

- To create a network of fathers willing to develop a program based on the needs of the men themselves
- To enhance a father's knowledge and resources about children and individuals with Down syndrome
- To enhance personal advocacy skills
- To heighten a family's ability in coping with the unique challenges of raising a child with Down syndrome
- To provide a safe atmosphere of support where men can openly share
- To enhance a man's inherent nurturing and care-taking skills
- To have fun; to build camaraderie and friendships among fathers and families of children with Down syndrome

**If you would like more information about this newly forming Dads group, please contact Kirk Anderson at 248-366-0870 or Kanderson@powerschapman.com** The DSG may have the opportunity to bring in one of the founders to talk with our local dads.

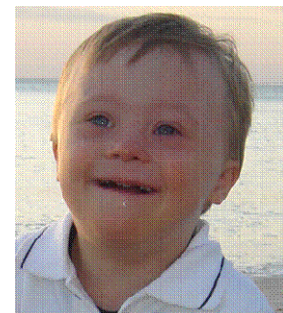
Caryn Gallagher hosts the Playgroup each month from 10-11:30 am. Below is a picture of her son Joey. Please join her on the 2nd Saturday of the month at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 1100 Lone Pine Road, (NW corner of telegraph) Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. Siblings, friends and grandparents are welcome.

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March	8
April	12
May	10
June	14

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Please contact Caryn at caryncgallagher@yahoo.com (248)865-9850 for additional information.



# Telling Your Story is Important!

If you are a person with Down syndrome or a parent, sibling, relative or friend of a person with Down syndrome, we want to hear from you.

No one knows more about your story than you do. By sharing your story, other people learn more about you and your life. People can learn a lot from you.

The DSG Newsletter is written for people with Down syndrome. You have important things to say. You can tell people what you want them to know by writing an article that will be printed in the DSG Newsletter. People all over the country will read it and find out about you!

Not sure what to write about? Think about your hopes and dreams and write about them. Write about your hobbies, your school, your job, your family or where you volunteer.

You can interview someone. Or someone can interview you and write down what you say. You decide!

The next DSG newsletter will be in May, so send your article to:

DSGSEMI  
P.O. Box 522  
Royal Oak, MI 48608

Don't forget to send your name, address, phone number and a photo of yourself to go with your article!

## Meet the Grandparents

Many Down syndrome associations encourage grandparents to gather for friendship, education and sharing. We had our first Grandparent breakfast last Spring. We hope to continue the get-togethers in the future. **So, if you are a grandparent or know of one in the area who would like to participate, please let us know.**



## Amazon To Join GoodShop!



Our online shopping mall, GoodShop.com, is turning out to be a great success with up to 37% of each purchase going to the nonprofit of your choice!



We had many requests to add Amazon to GoodShop and we're pleased to say that it will be up-and-running in a few weeks!

J.Crew also recently signed up and has joined the more than 500 other name-brand stores that are participating.

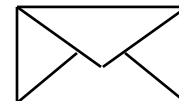
Before you do any shopping online, remember to check out GoodShop!

You can shop and earn money for The DSG of Southeast MI, just like GoodSearch allows you to search and earn money, you can do all your on-line shopping and GoodShop will donate a % to The DSG! All of your favorite stores are on GoodShop, including Best Buy, Dell, Gap, Target, GNC, Circuit City, Old Navy, Wal-Mart, PetSmart, iTunes, Kohls, Staples, Barnes & Noble, Avon, Hallmark, KB Toys, Orbitz, VistaPrint, Shutterfly, and many, many more! Remember to save "Parents of Children with Down Syndrome" as your favorite charity and then just shop as usual! Also don't forget to keep using GoodSearch for all your searching — every time you search the web, money goes to The DSG. (We will advise you as to when the name is changed to DSGSEMI on the web.)

## Add GoodSearch To Your Email Footer

Probably the easiest way to promote the nonprofit or school you care about most is to add a short message to the footer of your emails.

Here's some suggested wording...



**I GoodSearch of [your cause].**

**Raise money for your favorite charity or school just by searching the internet or shopping online with GoodSearch - [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) - powered by Yahoo!**

## One Call Away Resource and Crisis Helpline (800) 231-1127 Available 24 hours a day

The Authority's new Resource and Crisis Helpline assists people in getting connected to the help they need as quickly as possible. The Resource and Crisis Helpline provides information on community resources, crisis intervention, advocacy and support to get the community services needed, mental health screening and assessment for inpatient and outpatient care, and eligibility determination for public mental health services. Assistance is just one call away. Know someone who needs information or help? Give them the Resource and Crisis Helpline at (800) 231-1127.

# Wrightslaw Advocacy Training

## Special Education Law & Your Child's Rights

Presented By Supreme Court Winning Lawyer & U.S. Special Ed Law Expert  
**Peter Wright, Esq.**



Peter Wright is a practicing attorney and a nationally recognized expert in Special Education Law who represents children with special educational needs. In 1993 Mr. Wright successfully represented Shannon Carter before the US Supreme Court in a unanimous decision in *Florence County v. Shannon Carter*; a case widely recognized as one of the most important landmark cases in modern education and special education law history.

In addition to his law practice, Peter is also a nationally recognized expert and speaker in Special Education law who trains both lawyers and parents in how to navigate the legal system and bureaucratic red tape of the schools. His award winning legal information and advocacy website ([www.Wrightslaw.com](http://www.Wrightslaw.com)) is the leader in online special education law and his resource, law and advocacy books are the most thorough guides on the market.

**When:** April 23rd, 2008

**Registration Opens:** 7:30am

**Conference Time:** 9:00am—4:30pm

**Where:** Laurel Manor \* Livonia, MI

**Single Ticket Package:** \$63.00

*(price includes the Advocacy conference, textbooks & lunch)*

**Couples Package:** \$95.00

*( includes two Advocacy conference & lunch tickets & 1 set of textbooks)*

*A limited number of Early Bird tickets are available. Call for details. Discounted ticket packages are available for orders of 10 or more single ticket packages. Contact us for details.*

### Have You Ever Asked Yourself .....

- Can the school do that?
- What are my rights as a parent?
- How can I get more Speech, OT services for my child?
- What can I do for my child who's fallen behind in Reading / Math?
- How can I get Extended School Year services?
- Can the school say they don't have the money?
- Should the school pay for outside evaluations?
- What is the school required to do by law?
- Can the school suspend my child for "behavior problems"?
- What is "No Child Left Behind" and does it apply to my child?
- How can I be a better advocate for my child?
- How is my child really doing in school?
- What do NCLB, IDEA, IEP, IEE, AYP, LRE, AI, OHI, & MET mean (and should I care) ?
- Does my child qualify for mainstreaming or inclusion (and what's the difference)?
- Can the school say my child needs medication?

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ORDER TICKETS ON-LINE AT [WWW.MYGREATKID.COM](http://WWW.MYGREATKID.COM)

There are still a few scholarships available, contact Paulette Duggins at [president@dsgsemi.org](mailto:president@dsgsemi.org) or [dugginsp@comcast.net](mailto:dugginsp@comcast.net) for more information

## Down Syndrome Guild Volunteer Opportunities

### Grant Writer

**PR** — especially press relations.

**Copywriters** — print, broadcast, web.

**Voice talents** — voice-over recordings for PSAs, Videos, etc.

**Graphic Designer** — For overall DSG graphic requirements, conference requirements, and specific programs such as Youth & Adult, Fundraisers, etc.

**Printing** — Donation of printing services and/or supplies.

**Photographer/Videographer** — For DSG Conference and throughout the year.

We need to build our photo library.

- We need skilled and experienced photographers, especially anyone willing to shoot at the conference, but also at local events.

### Librarian

**Board Membership & Committee Involvement** — Individuals with an interest in leading and running DSG through board membership and/or membership on one of several board committees.

Recording secretary.

(Committees: Fundraising, Governmental Affairs, Outreach, Parent Groups, Youth/Adult, Awards, By-Laws, Professional Advisory, Parent to Parent Mentors, DADS, Grandparents, DSG Annual Picnic, DSG Holiday Party, Calendar, Buddy Club, Diversity, and Funeral Chairperson.)

## The 2008 Buddy Walk Needs You!

As the Buddy Walk continues to grow and impact our community, it also needs more volunteers. We are in the beginning stages of planning for our 2008 Buddy Walk. We are very excited about the walk this year. Some great ideas are coming together and we (as always) have some wonderful people who have volunteered to fill committee positions.

We are in need of one more person who can help us out on the Sponsorship committee. We would like to have someone with business experience who is comfortable writing correspondence and speaking with business contacts about sponsoring the Buddy Walk. You would be working with one other Sponsorship Committee member (or more if we get a good response to this article). We will be holding committee meetings once each month. Tricia Dewar and Lisa Anderson are the Co-chairs and will support people in all committee positions.

Please e-mail Tricia Dewar at [tdewar2@comcast.net](mailto:tdewar2@comcast.net) if you are interested.

The 2008 Corporate Sponsor package is almost ready and it is distributed to all of our current and former donors. If you know of a business or organization that might be interested in Buddy Walk sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lisa Anderson as soon as possible. We really need your help to find new sponsors who in turn will benefit from the Buddy Walk.

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### Your Child's Health

A web site with free information and downloadable forms to help you organize your child's health information.  
[www.medicalhomeinfo.org/CareNoteBook/](http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/CareNoteBook/)

Hello Wayne County Parent Action Coalition Members and Prospective Members:

The WCPAC is comprised of representatives of existing parent groups in Wayne County and individual parents and care givers in Wayne County who advocate for children. As you know, there is amazing strength in numbers! We want to grow rapidly and impact change as immediately as possible. Children and families await our powerful voice! A voice more powerful than any one group or Coalition member alone.

Each Great Start Collaborative in Michigan is mandated by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) to create a parent coalition. A coalition that is charged with, but not limited to, assisting the Collaborative in its work to create an early childhood system for all children birth through age five and their families. The ECIC supports the Coalition with limited funding and training and technical assistance.

Great Start Collaborative-Wayne is in the process of forming its' coalition.....[Wayne County Parent Action Coalition](#) (WCPAC)

Please come, join us at the ground level, help to form this coalition --- a unified, strong, powerful voice representing all of Wayne County's children and families. The WCPAC will also support the issues of Coalition members in accordance with the guidelines established by the WCPAC.

The following trainings/meetings are scheduled and will take place at the University of Michigan Dearborn, School of Education, 19000 Hubbard Drive, South Entrance, Dining Room D.

Thursday, April 10, 2008, 6-8pm, please RSVP by noon April 8.

Thursday, May 1, 2008, 6-8pm, please RSVP by noon April 29.

Dinner will be available at 5:45pm. Plans are in place to offer on-site child care for the April and May meetings. Child care will not be available on March 6; sorry. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you,  
Caryn Pack Ivey  
Parent Liaison  
Great Start Collaborative-Wayne

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***In Loving Memory  
and  
Celebration of the Life  
of  
Benjamin Scott Randall  
2006-2008***

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Benjamin Scott Randall of West Bloomfield died February 14, 2008. Beloved son of Scott and Kimberly Randall. Dear brother of Toby. Loving grandson of Jim and Pam Randall, and Doug and Jane Corliss. Great grandson of Mark and Dorothea LaLone, Annabelle and Wilfred Randall, Gerry and the late Cliff Wisner, the late Frederick and the late Marjorie Corliss. Nephew of Karen Corliss, Jody (Steve) Werner, Jill Randall and Beth Randall. Cousin of Avery and Jack Werner.

***The Dash***

I read of a man who stood to speak  
at the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone  
from the beginning....to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth  
and spoke of the following date with tears,  
but he said what mattered most of all  
was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time  
that he spent alive on earth...  
and now only those who loved him  
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own;  
the cars....the house....the cash.  
What matters is how we live and love  
and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard...  
are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left.  
That could still be arranged

If we could just slow down enough  
to consider what's true and real,  
and always try to understand  
the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,  
and show appreciation more  
and love the people in our lives  
like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,  
and more often wear a smile...  
remembering that this special dash  
might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy's being read  
with your life's actions to rehash...  
would you be proud of the things they  
say about how you spend your dash?

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"We have no words to describe the depth of our loss...Ben was so loved in life and is so missed in death. Our lives are quite empty and our house is very quiet. We do, however, find strength from the outpouring of support from so many of you. Thank you for all the cards, Emails and notes. We cannot imagine leaving the family we have found in all of you who make up DSGSEMI. You will continue to see us, because we don't know what we'd do without all the friends we have made. Thank you so much for supporting us when we worked so hard to allow Ben to live a magical, loving and above all, an incredibly normal life."

— Scott and Kym Randall

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**Thank you to those who contributed in loving memory of Benjamin Scott Randall**

Pamela and James Randall  
Kenneth Antkowiak  
Jan and Charles Lenze

Scott and Kym Randall  
Paul and Nancy Corliss  
Patricia Davies

John and Heather Roebuck  
Rick and Karen Davies  
Lauren Hendry

Matt and Kathy MacDemaïd of Aladdin Printing

# Meetings and Events

## Neighborhood Groups

### **BUDDY CLUB**

For kids with DS ages 7-12—join other children and their siblings and friends on great outings. Upcoming events will be posted on our web site at [www.dsgsemi.org](http://www.dsgsemi.org). We will have a coordinator for Buddy Club soon.

### **PLAYGROUP**

Caryn Gallagher hosts the Playgroup each month on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10-11:30 at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 1100 Lone Pine Road, (nw corner of Telegraph) Bloomfield Hills. Siblings, friends and grandparents are always welcome. Contact Caryn at [caryncgallagher@yahoo.com](mailto:caryncgallagher@yahoo.com) (248)865-9850

### **GRANDPARENT GROUP**

The DSG Grandparent group will be under way shortly. Continue to watch our website for the upcoming Grandparent Breakfast.

### **Brighton, South Lyon, Milford, Howell, Dexter**

Contact Carrie Hanshaw at 248-437-4449 or [handshawc@yahoo.com](mailto:handshawc@yahoo.com). Daughter Amanda is 2.

### **Clarkston**

Elaine Moloney would like to get together with you. Call her at 248-922-9415 or [Moloney.family@comast.net](mailto:Moloney.family@comast.net). Her son Danny is 16.

### **Dearborn**

Contact Mary Mazur at 313-680-76109 or [marygreene-mazur@comcast.net](mailto:marygreene-mazur@comcast.net). Mary would love to get together for coffee. Mary's son Chris is 9 and Mary has been very involved in Wayne Resa.

### **Detroit**

Contact Judy Ostroski at 313-642-6555 or [Judy918@peoplepc.com](mailto:Judy918@peoplepc.com). Judy's son Ezekiel will be 12

### **Ferndale**

Zena Neds-Fox would like to start a monthly group in Ferndale at her church. Contact Zena at 248-399-0838 or [nedsfoxes@gmail.com](mailto:nedsfoxes@gmail.com). Zena's daughter is Mazzy.

### **Farmington/Farmington Hills**

Contact Terri Bresso at [tnoribresso@twmi.rr.com](mailto:tnoribresso@twmi.rr.com), Terri's daughter Jaymie is 14 years old & attends Far and loves to dance.

### **Hartland, Holly, Highland**

Laurie Leonard's Danny is going to be 9. Laurie is the Early On Parent Rep at the ISD. Contact Laurie at 248-889-5349 or [laurieduck@yahoo.com](mailto:laurieduck@yahoo.com)

### **Livonia, Redford, Plymouth**

Please contact Laurie Whell 248-473-0894. Laurie's daughter Megan is 6.

### **Rochester/Rochester Hills**

Contact Laurie Bogema 248-475-4340 — Kathy Davis 248-656-4822 — Margie Wheelock 248-375-5323

### **Royal Oak**

Contact Tricia Dewar at 248-554-9191 or [tdewar2@comast.net](mailto:tdewar2@comast.net). Tricia's son Christopher is 6. Or contact Sherri Karabelski at 248-546-1936 or [sheraboo@aol.com](mailto:sheraboo@aol.com). Sherri's son Shane is going to be 14.

### **Troy**

Julie O'Donovan (248) 649-5725 or [odonovanj@comcast.net](mailto:odonovanj@comcast.net). Daughter Erin is soon to be eleven. Julie is available to get together for coffee.

### **Walled Lake, Commerce Twp**

Contact Nancy Nelson at 248-366-1560 or [ncn2001@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ncn2001@sbcglobal.net). Her daughter Bridget is 15 and will be going to High School next year.

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“A community that excludes even one of it's members is no community at all.”

— Dan Wilkins

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Please feel free to contact any of these parents they'd love to talk or get together.



# The Down Syndrome Guild of Southeast Michigan (Formerly PCDS) Is pleased to present

**March 18**



Speaker: Dr. Laurie Lundblad, PsyD, APRN, BC  
Psychologist/ Clinical Director of  
Building Bridges Therapy Center

**Addressing Language, Literacy, and Thinking Skills in Person's with Down Syndrome: The Association Method and Instrumental Enrichment**

While persons with Down Syndrome possess a wide array of abilities, they often face challenges in their motor and cognitive abilities. These challenges can result in problems with language development, literacy, and academic success. Building Bridges Therapy Center in Plymouth has pioneered two exciting interventions to address these problems.

**The Cornerstones Program**, featuring the Association Method is one such program

- The Association Method approach is a phonetic, multisensory teaching-learning strategy designed to improve expressive/receptive and articulatory language skills and promote literacy in children with language development challenges.
- The Method utilizes a multisensory teaching approach that includes the use of auditory, visual, tactile, and motor-kinesthetic cues for learning.
- The hierarchical program is implemented in a manner that is incremental and systematic. Instruction progresses from the teaching of individual sounds to syllables, words of gradually increasing length, basic sentences and questions, more advanced sentence structures, and the corresponding questions.
- Efficacy of this program is increased when it is paired with sensory integration and Occupational Therapy to address motor planning problems.
- Ultimately, when sufficient language skills have been achieved, a transition can be made to traditional textbook formats for reading instruction.

**Instrumental Enrichment** was developed by Reuven Feuerstein over 40 years ago to address the cognitive needs of different learner, particularly those with Down Syndrome.

- This learning experience helps identify and correct problems with the manner in which students reason and solve problems.
- Students complete a series of pencil and paper instruments that are novel and non-academic in the presence of a highly trained instructor who mediates their learning process.
- This program can be tailored to meet the needs of learners from age 3 years through adulthood.
- Research has shown that Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment (FIE) positively impacts general problem solving, core academic mastery, peer relations, and parent-child interaction.

Students develop critical thinking skills while they learn to recognize and self modulate impulsivity, develop systematic problem solving and precision, and learn to follow verbal directions. Students also learn to recognize emotions and develop empathic response to the emotion of others.

**April 15**

Speaker: Shelly Milstein, M.A. CCC-SLP M.A. LLP  
Milstein Pediatric Speech and Language Services Inc.  
Cindy Wilson, M.A. CCC-A  
Innovative Therapies In Hearing Services



**What Role Do We Play?**

The Speech-Language Pathologist And The Audiologist.  
From The Toddler Years Through Adulthood.

**May 17**

**Save The Date!!!!**

Back by popular demand:

Speakers: Joe and Marilyn Henn

**Everything you want to know about Supported Employment and Residential Choice Making: featuring the "Family Consortium Model"**

Joe and Marilyn Henn are the parents of Nancy Henn, a young woman with severe Autism. At age 19 Nancy had a low IQ, was nonverbal, and had severe behavioral problems. Today she works 40 hours a week in a meaningful job and lives in a family consortium with 3 other ladies. Mr. and Mrs. Henn travel the country sharing with other parents how they used federal benefits available in all 50 states to fund Nancy's successful transition from school to adult life.

May 17, 2008

8:30am Registration

9:00am — 4:30pm

Gary M. Doyle Center For Professional Development  
at Booth School 7273 Wing Lake Rd.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301  
(Between Franklin and Telegraph)

**May 20 Ann Heller**

**Special Education Students - Sexuality & Relationship Issues**

Health and Sexuality Education Expert

Grade Level: 6-12

**Audience:** Parents, professionals and others responsible for the primary sex education of children with disabilities

**Event Description:** Many parents wish to be the primary sexuality educators of their children, but don't know where to begin when their children have disabilities. This interactive workshop will help parents and relatives of persons with intellectual disabilities think about why we need to be talking to our children and how we create a team approach with schools. We will discuss some practical strategies for starting and maintaining sexuality conversations. Considerations will also be given to how to address common sexuality concerns.

**Cost:** FREE!

**Content Questions?** Paulette Duggins, 248.646.0819 or dugginsp@comcast.net.

Speakers will be at the monthly meetings held from 7-9pm at:  
Must RSVP for on-site childcare to Paulette at  
dugginsp@comcast.net or 248-646-0819.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church  
1100 Lone Pine Road (NW corner of Telegraph)  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

# The Down Syndrome Guild of Southeast MI

## Mission Statement

The mission of our 501(c)(3) is to provide support, resources and advocacy with the aim of increasing awareness and opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and caregivers.

## Vision Statement

The DSG will provide support, resources and advocacy for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and caregivers with the goal of increasing opportunities and awareness. Specifically:

- Promote the development of programs that enrich the lives of individuals with Down syndrome
- Increase public awareness and understanding about the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome
- Encourage inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome in our neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, recreational activities, and places of employment
- Provide 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
- Create a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences

## Newsletter publishing deadlines

A Little Something Extra is published every other month on the 1st of the month. The deadline for all articles is 14 days before the publishing date.

The DSG is an affiliate organization of the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) and the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC).



NDSS  
666 Broadway  
New York, NY 10012



NDSC  
130 Center Dr. Suite 102  
Atlanta, GA 30338

## Who We Are

### OFFICERS

**President - Paulette Duggins**

(248)646-0819 • president@dsgsemi.org

**Vice President - Colleen Holmes**

(248)891-6291 • cholmes7@comcast.net

**Treasurer - Bob Spaman**

(248)698-6981 • treasurer@dsgsemi.org

**Recording Secretary - (vacant)**

**Corresponding Secretary - Sherri Karabelski**

(248)546-1936 • secretary@dsgsemi.org

### EDUCATION RESOURCE TEAM

**Nancy Nelson** - (248)366-1560 • education@dsgsemi.org

**Elaine Moloney** - (248)922-9415 • education@dsgsemi.org

### VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

**Lisa Anderson** - (248)681-4258 • volunteer@dsgsemi.org

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**Buddy Walk - Lisa Anderson**

(248)681-4258 • buddywalk@dsgsemi.org

**Library - (vacant)**

**Newsletter - Madison Duggins**

(248)646-0819 • newsletter@dsgsemi.org

**Playgroup - Caryn Gallagher**

(248)865-9850 • playgroup@dsgsemi.org

**Advertising - Tricia Dewar**

(248)554-9191 • advertising@dsgsemi.org

**Webserver - Rebecca Sweeton**

webmaster@dsgsemi.org

The content of this newsletter is provided as a public service for informational purposes. The DSG 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 DSG, its directors, members or the editors of this newsletter.

Visit Our Website at  
[www.dsgsemi.org](http://www.dsgsemi.org)

## Advertising



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(248) 496 0150

## Advertising in Newsletter

To help offset some of the costs associated with the newsletter, we are allowing some advertising. If you would like to place an advertisement, please contact Tricia Dewar at (248)554-9191 for complete details. Please be aware that we will be publishing just six issues of the newsletter from here on out. The rate for advertising for 1 month is \$10, for 6 months is \$50 (3 issues), and for 1 year is \$100 (6 issues).

We're more alike  
than Different!

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The Department of Treasury says that when you pledge to give to United Way this year, you can designate your contribution to PCDS.

We encourage you to direct your gift to PCDS by writing this name and number on your pledge card:



“Parents of Children with Down Syndrome”

or “PCDS” and the number “121194”

Cut out and save this information to put in your purse or wallet for when you sign up and be sure to pass the word to your friends and family who are giving to the United Way.

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Would you like to be on our email alert list? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ and birth date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please include our information in The DSG membership directory

Yes \_ No\_

Make checks payable to:

**The Down Syndrome Guild of Southeast MI or  
The DSGSEMI** and send to:  
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Would you like to give a gift to someone else; grandparents, aunts, uncles—what about your child's teacher? A DSG gift membership would make the perfect gift...

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