

The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati 2005 Annual Report

Dear Friends of the DSAGC:

I hope you enjoy reading the DSAGC's 2005 Annual Report. This was a milestone year kicking off the twenty fifth anniversary of our organization. A lot has changed in those years, including an increase in our budget from \$1,200 to \$406,000, from zero to eight paid staff, and from twenty to one thousand families.

But some things have not changed. Parents today still want the same things for their children as the founders did 25 years ago, as evidenced by the very first annual report typed on Mary Wergowske's typewriter in 1981: "give support at birth of a child with DS, compare notes with other parents, advocate, maintain an updated library, change attitudes, share medical resources, create a good resource list, and provide social activities" to name a few.

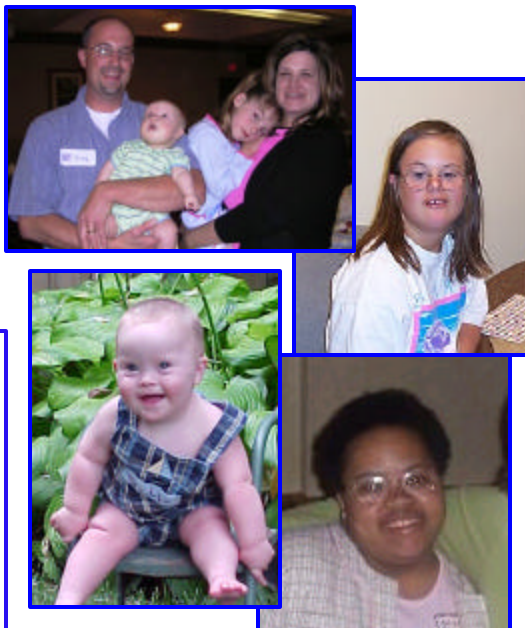
The growth and passion of this organization and how many lives it has touched continues to amaze and impress me. There is an average of 40 babies with Down syndrome born in our nine county area each year. Over the past 25 years, one thousand people with Down syndrome and their families have had the opportunity to knock on our door requesting information, referral and support. And thanks to families, our board, foundations, local corporations and staff, we have been here to help.

So this year especially, we applaud everyone's efforts and celebrate the strength and passion of our Down syndrome community, for the past 25 years and for all the years to come!

Sincerely,



Janet Gora
Executive Director



Our Mission
To provide information, resources and support to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and their communities.

Who We Serve
The DSAGC serves Southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Southeast Indiana.



Breaking news...2006 brings many changes to the DSAGC.

- ◆ Connie Hutzel was elected Board President as Lana Makin ended her term.
- ◆ Janet Gora was hired as our new Executive Director after Jane Page-Steiner left the DSAGC to become Vice-President of Affiliate Relations for the National Down Syndrome Society.
- ◆ The DSAGC offices were moved from the 4th to the 11th floor in our building at 644 Linn.

Throughout this time of change, the board, staff and volunteers continued with our current programs and activities. There were also many additions to our programs, including:

- ◆ The DSAGC Lending Library was made available on our website.
- ◆ Several new Neighborhood Groups were added: Buddy Teen Club for children ages 13-16; Parent and Me Prewalkers; a Northern Kentucky Grandparents Group; Warren County Playgroup and Northern Kentucky Playgroup.
- ◆ A Sibling Packet for children ages 8-12 was created and includes a coloring book, activity sheets and other age appropriate information.
- ◆ Adult Matters trained self-advocates who joined our Speakers Bureau; held Dinner & Dialogues; held computer/email training classes; started a Friendship Network on the internet.

DSAGC

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2005 Highlights - Helpline, Outreach, Development

- ◆ Hospital Program distributed 200 packets to 38 area hospitals, special care nurseries, perinatal programs and geneticists.
- ◆ The DSAGC website had more than 6,000 requests for pages per week, including visits to our Spanish *D.S.Press* page.
- ◆ Adoption Awareness Program assisted children and families across the country and abroad with over 120 calls and emails per month.
- ◆ Early Matters Program hosted 11 meetings for new families.



- ◆ Responded to over 2,000 requests for information, referral and support.
- ◆ Parent-to-Parent Program connected 38 new families with mentors. All were invited to attend the New Parent Dinner.
- ◆ Family Matters Program hosted 6 meetings, with topics such as "Creating a Partnership with your Child's School" and "Medical Info for Adults."
- ◆ Speakers Bureau made presentations to nearly 1,000 university students, genetic counseling students, community organizations, hospital staffs, and area schools.
- ◆ Distributed 3 issues of Teacher newsletter "Strategies for Success." Workshops held were "Supporting Communication Skill Development" and "Understanding and Modifying Classroom Behavior." 48 teachers are on an email network designed to

connect teachers from area schools.

- ◆ Family Events included a Valentine Party, Kids First Nights, Annual Summer Picnic and Holiday Party.
- ◆ 6 issues of *D.S.Press* newsletter were mailed to over 3,500 parents, professionals and self-advocates across the country.
- ◆ F.A.C.E.S. support group was started to serve families whose children have exceptional challenges. Families met quarterly.
- ◆ Adult Matters Program expanded with the hiring of an Adult/Advocacy Coordinator. Started the Boosters, support groups, POSSE (Plentiful Opportunities for Social and Support Events), Speaker's Bureau, the DSAGC/Alzheimer's support group. Held the first annual day-long conference for adults with Down syndrome, "Life Long Wellbeing."
- ◆ Advocacy was increased with our involvement in the creation of 2 community groups: ODAN (Ohio Down syndrome Advocacy Network) focusing on IDEA and employment opportunities for adults, and TRAN (Transportation Regional Action Network) which focuses on safe, affordable and accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities.
- ◆ Neighborhood Groups including KIDS, Grandparents Group, East Side and Butler County Playgroups flourished and the Buddy Club for 7-12 year-olds began.
- ◆ Scholarships totaling over \$3,000 were awarded to self-advocates, children and parents through our Adult, Child Activity and Education scholarship programs.
- ◆ Community Events including Ashwood Dash, Balloontown, a Halloween Carnival and Divots for Downs raised over \$11,600.
- ◆ Grants were received from donors including: Charles H. Dater Foundation, Mitzvah Challenge, Ohio Dept. of MRDD, Spaulding Foundation, and The Pfau Foundation.
- ◆ Corporate Sponsors included AK Steel, Jake Sweeney Automotive, Champion Window, Hills Communities, American Financial, Federated Foundation, and First American Equity Loan Services.
- ◆ Theatre Party, Buddy Walk and Gus Bell Memorial Tournament were all very successful, raising a total of \$322,198.



2005 Financial Statement

Income

Annual Giving	34,725
Buddy Walk	225,640
Community Donations	11,609
Golf Tournament	57,240
Grants	80,773
Major Gifts	15,037
Theatre Party	39,318
Miscellaneous	14,322
Unsolicited Donations	24,887
Total Income	\$503,551

Expenses

Total Expenses	\$429,409
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Audited by Clark, Schaeffer, Hackett & Co.

Celebrating 25 Years

DSAGC Board 2005

Lana Makin, *President*
 Connie Hutzel, *Vice-President*
 Karen Matuszek, *Secretary*
 Elaina Stuard, *Treasurer*

Rod Baehner
 Linda Dempsey
 Charles H. Gerhardt, III
 Sally Hayes
 Chrissy Heubi
 Scott MacEachen
 Katie Maly
 Peter Ney
 Sally Shott, M.D.

Advisory Board

Melinda Chalfonte-Evans, Ph.D.
 Fran Hickey, M.D.
 Bonnie Patterson, M.D.
 Clarissa Rentz, MSN, APRN
 Sally Shott, M.D.
 Brad Tinkle, M.D.
 Thomas Webb, M.D.

Staff 2006

Janet Gora, *Executive Director*
 Debbie Baker, *Event Coordinator*
 Patrice McHale, *Self-Advocate Representative*
 Martha Ostendarp, *Family Support Coordinator*
 Lisa Steele, *Business Manager/D.S.Press Editor*
 Abby Sanders, *Adult/Advocacy Coordinator*
 Sally K. Tilow, *Outreach Coordinator*
 Collette Maddy, *Administrative Assistant*