

Arkansas Down Syndrome Association NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2014

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

8th Annual Down Syndrome Conference

Whether you're a proud parent or caregiver of someone with Down syndrome, or are a dedicated provider of services to the special needs community, we invite you to register and attend two special back-to-back conferences happening in Little Rock on Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26, 2014.

Hosted by the Arkansas Down Syndrome Association, in partnership with the UAMS Department of Family and Preventative Medicine and the UAMS Division of Genetics—and with a good show of supportive sponsors—we proudly present to you: **"Behavior in Autism and Down Syndrome: Causes and Approaches"** and **"Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy."**

On Friday, April 25th, nationally-recognized speakers (Dennis McGuire, PhD., Kent McKelvey, M.D., and Melissa Richardson, BCBA) will share the podium to address issues related to behavior in Autism and Down syndrome

by exploring the subjects of genetics, behavioral causes, behavioral challenges, and management methods.

On Saturday, April 26th, Peter Wright, Esq., attorney, author, and co-founder of *Wrightslaw*, the #1 ranked online resource on education law, special education law, and special education advocacy, will offer:

- An overview of special education law, rights and responsibilities
- Tests and measurements of progress and regression
- SMART IEPs
- An introduction of tactics and strategies for effective advocacy

For more information, please contact us at 501-223-3696, by email at ardownsyntax@aol.com, or you can find the latest on our website: www.ARDownSyndrome.org. ❖



BEHAVIOR IN AUTISM & DOWN SYNDROME:

CAUSES & APPROACHES

—Friday, April 25th—

- \$75 Professionals*
(Education credit for MDs, RNs, therapists, social workers, teachers, etc.)
- * 25% Discount available for sites sending 3 or more staff members
- \$30 Parents/Caregivers
(No educational credit)

WRIGHTSLAW SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW & ADVOCACY

—Saturday, April 26th—

- \$100 Professionals
(Education credit for lawyers, PTs, OTs, teachers, etc.)
- \$50 Parents/caregivers*
(No educational credit)
- * Only \$25 with ADSA Discount Code
- \$75 Parent/caregiver couples*
(No educational credit; lives in same household; will share single set of books)
- * Only \$40 with ADSA Discount Code

ADSA Discount Code:

"ADSA"

(Must be a parent or caregiver of someone with Down syndrome.)

Find out how to register at:
www.ARDownSyndrome.org



Canaan Sandy

Ask yourself this question, “Who is the biggest sports fan?” We all know several sports enthusiasts, but one stands out in the state of Arkansas. His name is Caanan Sandy. Caanan, known as “CJ,” also happens to be part of the Down syndrome community. Having Down syndrome has little or nothing to do with being a sport enthusiast, but it sure makes us extra proud of him.

Caanan was selected following a nationwide search for the most remarkable and inspiring fans with a

ten day voting period open to the public. He was one of four selected across the nation who will be honored with their names engraved above stadium chairs on the lawn of ESPN’s Bristol, Connecticut campus at the 2014 induction ceremony.

CJ’s favorite ESPN show is *College Game Day*. He is sure they will be at Arkansas one day soon. Can you imagine his excitement? We all have that wish for him, and would be so excited to call the Hogs with him too.

To describe CJ as a Razorback fan is an understatement. We’ve read that he can get his entire church to call the Hogs. He already has the 2014 football schedule memorized, and is an avid listener of *Hog Talk* on the radio. He wears Razorback gear every day, and has a collection of memorabilia most would envy. There



Caanan Sandy, picture provided by Rusty Hubbard (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)

is little doubt that a person whose mom drives him 4 ½ hours each way to see every Razorback football, basketball, or baseball game is certainly deserving of ESPN’s Fan Hall of Fame.

Caanan Sandy may be one of the nation’s most remarkable and inspiring fans according to ESPN, but in our hearts, CJ is just a remarkable and inspiring person. ❖



World Down Syndrome Day:

March 21, 2014—All people with Down syndrome have the right to access healthcare when required on an equal basis with others without discrimination and with proper assessment of the specific health needs of the individual. They often face challenges ranging from being denied or delayed access to healthcare, incorrect diagnoses due to lack of knowledge or inadequate training, negative attitudes and assumptions that conditions are attributed to the trisomy 21 diagnosis, refusal to allow patients to participate in decisions and treatment plans, and lack of respect for an individual’s basic human right to good health and wellbeing. This *World Down Syndrome Day*, we want to highlight the following:



This Year’s WDS Day Focus: “Health and Wellbeing—Access and Equality for All”

1. Having Down syndrome does not make a person unhealthy.
2. Down syndrome is a genetic condition, not an illness.
3. People with Down syndrome may have health issues throughout their lives, just like everyone else and they should have access to healthcare on an equal basis with others.
4. There are specific known health issues which may affect people with Down syndrome, for which accurate, evidence based information is available.
5. Health professionals should be aware of these specific issues when treating a person with Down syndrome.

6. Health professionals should not discriminate against people with Down syndrome by: refusing to treat them, blaming health issues on Down syndrome in general, or; considering only specific known health issues which may affect people with Down syndrome. ❖

Lots-of-socks Campaign:

In order to bring attention to the health-care needs of those who have Down syndrome, we will all be wearing different socks on March 21. Have your own school or workplace bring attention to the need by encouraging students and coworkers to wear two or even three different socks on that day.



Special Events for WDS Day:

See *Calendar of Events on the Following Page*





ON THE CALENDAR

The ADSA is committed to remaining a healthy and active organization. Keeping an annual calendar scheduled with opportunities for you and your family to benefit from is among our cherished priorities.

We hope you take note of our list of scheduled events and consider participating in as many as may interest you:



Chili's Give Back Night

On Monday, March 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Chili's Restaurant in Jacksonville will donate 10% of its proceeds to be shared between the ADSA and Central Arkansas Buddy Talk.



* Participants must present a copy of the *Give Back Night's* promotional flyer/event voucher. You can find and print a copy of the needed form on Buddy Talk's facebook page, or the ADSA website.



World Down Syndrome Day Balloon Release

On Friday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m., Central Arkansas Buddy Talk invites you to celebrate *World Down Syndrome Day* at The Big Dam Bridge (N. Little Rock side) and release blue & yellow balloons into the sunset.



For your convenience, and as a way to raise extra funds for future Buddy Talk events, blue & yellow helium balloons will be available to purchase for \$1.

In addition to the balloon release, a special contest will be held to recognize the largest family or group dressed in DS awareness attire, and a time of remembrance will be given for those currently in the hospital or those who have passed away in the past year.



8th Annual DS Conference

Mark your calendar for our special two day conference-weekend happening April 25-26, 2014:



"Behavior in Autism and Down Syndrome: Causes & Approaches"

AND



"Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy."

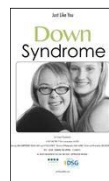
—See front page for more details—



Just Like You: Down Syndrome

On Saturday, April 5th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., the Down Syndrome Connection of Northwest Arkansas

will host a showing of the film *Just Like You—Down Syndrome* which explores the hopes, challenges, and dreams of three teenagers who have



Down syndrome. Plus, attendees will have the chance to meet Rachel Mast, one of the stars of the film.

* Cost: Free; Attendees are asked to RSVP online at www.dscnwa.com.

** The event will be held at Sunshine School and Development Center (3400 Wood Lane) in Rogers, AR.



A Day at the Zoo

On Saturday, May 17 at 10:00 a.m. Central Arkansas Buddy Talk is organizing a group to visit the Little Rock Zoo for a day of learning fun.



* Cost: \$5 per person (12 mo. and under free) plus \$2 parking fee per vehicle.

** Admission costs and signed registration forms will be collected as a group at the gate at 10 am. Attendees must RSVP by May 3 by calling Amy Kinnard at (501) 940-9691, or e-mailing cent.ark.buddytalk@gmail.com, to be included. You can find and print a copy of the needed form on Buddy Talk's facebook page, or the ADSA website.



Traveler's Baseball Game

On Friday, June 20 at 7:10 p.m., Central Arkansas Buddy Talk will catch a game at Dickey-Stephens park in North Little Rock.



* Cost: \$5 per adult; \$4 per child (ages 3-14). Price includes admission to the park and seating in the grassy berms area behind the outfield.

** Admission costs and signed registration forms must be received before June 6. You can find and print a copy of the needed form on Buddy Talk's facebook page, or the ADSA website.



Kroger Card Fundraiser

Simply register your Kroger Plus Card online at krogercommunityrewards.com using the # 80386 and ADSA will receive \$5 for every \$100 that you spend for groceries and gas. Thank you to everyone who participates!

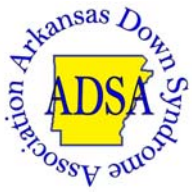



Monthly Webinar Series

Each month, the NDSS provides a free educational web-based seminar, or webinar, to anyone who is interested in learning more about Down syndrome and related topics, such as health, education, research and family life.



Visit www.ndss.org to learn more.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Please let us know if your address changes.
The Post Office does not forward the newsletter.

Special thanks to **Norton Brothers Printing** for printing our newsletter.

ADSA MAILING LIST APPLICATION
Listing is free

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Name of relative/dependent who has DS: _____ DOB: _____

I am a provider or teacher at: _____

I want to volunteer: (circle) Dance, Board of Directors, Conference, Publicity, Development

I want to support ADSA by becoming a member. Enclosed is a check for my \$25 annual membership.

ADSA has my permission to share my mailing information with the Down Syndrome Clinic: Yes No

Mail to: Arkansas Down Syndrome Association, 9800 Vinson Court, Little Rock, AR 72205

PARENT GROUP MEETINGS

Down Syndrome Connection of Northwest AR
Contact: Jennifer McWhorter (479-936-2149)
Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm
@ St. Thomas Episcopal Church
2898 S. 48th St, Springdale | dscnwa.com

Angels of Arkansas (Hot Springs/Benton)
Contact: Leslie Faulkner (501-282-08281)
or lesliefskylar@yahoo.com

River Valley Down Syndrome Network
Contact: Stephanie Young (479-295-2795)
everybreathhasareason@centurytel.net



Ark. Down Syndrome Assoc.
Contact: Suzie Hicks (501-223-3696)
Board Meets 1st Monday of each month,
at 12:30pm | ardownsyndrome.org

Down Syndrome Association of NE Arkansas
Contact: Vickie Speaks (870-273-6997)
@ Calvary Pentecostal Church;
5321 Caraway, Jonesboro | dsaofnea.org

Southern Angels
Contact: Joede Fleming (870-866-4060)
or dg_ar@yahoo.com

Central Arkansas Buddy Talk
Contact: Heather Wood (501-554-3338)
Monthly outings for all ages.
Search "Buddy Talk" on Facebook