



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

**Do you know somebody with  
Down Syndrome?**

**James Hunt, MD**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Down syndrome is named after a British doctor, Dr. John Langdon Down, who fully described the syndrome in 1866.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Down syndrome occurs when a person has an extra copy (3 copies) of the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Approximately one in every 700 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**





Photograph by  
artist Rachel  
Handlin







Artist Rachel Handlin, a photographer with Down syndrome; the *first ever* to attend the California Institute of Art . . .



© Paul Moffatt/Heart and Sold



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal disorder in the United States.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Down syndrome has nothing to do with race, nationality, religion, socioeconomic status or anything the mother or father did during pregnancy—it happens randomly at conception.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**





# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades—from 25 years in 1983 to 60+ years today.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



***Bobcat***, watercolor on  
rice paper by the  
artist Raymond Hu

[www.raymondhu.net](http://www.raymondhu.net)





Chronicle / Sam Deaner

Raymond Hu, Chinese-American artist with Down syndrome





# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Low muscle tone is common in individuals with Down syndrome, and can affect posture, breathing, eating and speech.**

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# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **People with Down syndrome have increased risk for heart conditions at birth, hearing and vision loss, respiratory problems, childhood leukemia, thyroid conditions and Alzheimer's.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



Sujeet Desai is an artist  
with Down syndrome.  
Sujeet plays *seven* instruments:  
Bb and Bass clarinet,  
Alto Saxophone,  
Violin, Trumpet, Piano & Drums.





**Sujeet Desai with Elaine Kwon at Carnegie Hall 2015**





# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Instead of saying, “A Down’s child” say, “A child with Down syndrome.” This is called person first language. Speak about the person before the diagnosis.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **People with Down syndrome are not all the same. We are all individuals, regardless of how many chromosomes we have.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



John Lee Cronin, entrepreneur  
and founder of the multi-million dollar  
*John's Crazy Socks*







John Cronin in, and on,  
Times Square!

[www.johnscrazysocks.com](http://www.johnscrazysocks.com)





# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **People with Down syndrome have creative thoughts, ideas, and jobs; they enjoy and need meaningful conversations and relationships—just like people without Down syndrome.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**





# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **The 21<sup>st</sup> of March was officially declared World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) by the United Nations General Assembly in 2011.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



**Zack Gottsagen,  
American actor  
with Down  
syndrome**





**Zack and Shia  
Labeouf  
in “The Peanut  
Butter Falcon”**







# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **March 21 (3/21) was selected to signify the uniqueness of triplication (3) of the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome that causes Down syndrome.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **President Ronald Reagan signed a resolution in 1984 declaring October National Down Syndrome Month (Arkansas Senator Dale Bumpers was a co-sponsor on the resolution).**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **80% of babies with Down syndrome are born to women younger than 35 years of age.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **There's no such thing as “mild” or “severe” Down syndrome; you either have Down syndrome or you don't.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**





*Johnny Depp,*  
Acrylic and water color  
on canvas  
by artist John Kelting







John Kelting, an  
American artist  
with Down syndrome  
<http://jpkelting.com>



© Paul Moffatt/Heart and Sold



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Occupational, Physical and Speech therapies are used to promote the greatest possible development of independence and productivity in individuals with Down syndrome.**

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# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Some common physical traits of Down syndrome include: smaller bridge of the nose, an upward slant to the eyes, and a single deep crease across the center of the palm.**

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**Chelsea Werner, *four-time*  
US Special Olympics  
National Gymnastics Champion**

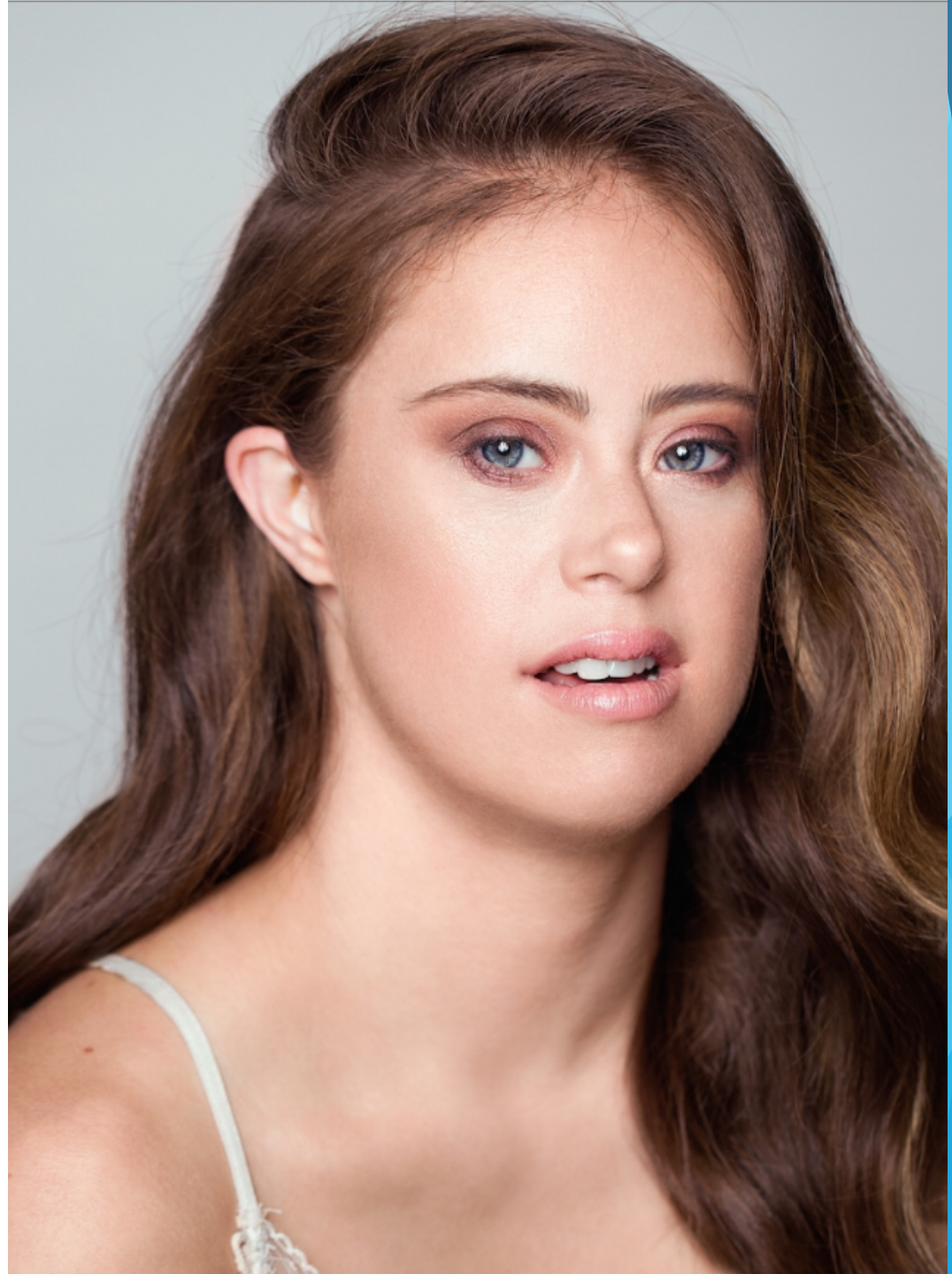






**Chelsea Werner, gymnast  
and model with  
Down syndrome**

**[www.chelseaworldchampion.com](http://www.chelseaworldchampion.com)**





# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Individuals with Down syndrome are not ‘always happy’; they have a full range of emotions.**

**[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**



*Dunes*, watercolor  
by Dylan Kuehl







**Dylan Kuehl,  
artist who  
happens to have  
Down syndrome  
(with his Mom,  
Terri Rose)**



[www.oly-wa.us/dkarts](http://www.oly-wa.us/dkarts)



# **Down Syndrome Awareness**

- ▶ **Now you know! Take time to listen and be a friend to someone with Down syndrome!**

**Learn more at our website:  
[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)**





[www.ardownsyndrome.org](http://www.ardownsyndrome.org)