



Down Syndrome Awareness

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

James Hunt, MD

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.**

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Down Syndrome Awareness

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

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Down Syndrome Awareness

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

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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.**

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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.**

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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.**

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Bobcat, watercolor
on rice paper by the
artist Raymond Hu
www.raymondhu.net





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.**

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**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.**

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Down Syndrome Awareness

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

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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





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.**

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Down Syndrome Awareness

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

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**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 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome.**

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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).**

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Down Syndrome Awareness

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

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Down Syndrome Awareness

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

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





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



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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





Down Syndrome Awareness

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

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Dunes, watercolor
by Dylan Kuehl





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



www.oly-wa.us/dkarts



Madison Tevlin, *singer, actress*, star of 2023 movie “Champions” with Woody Harrelson





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



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