

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY, 3/21

The World Down Syndrome Day event on March 21, 2015, was a huge success. We had over 188 people attend and celebrate people with Down syndrome. We had a number of new families that attended that said they haven't attended any previous activities. Many of the people who attended said that they and their children had so much fun. With the budget provided by DSAF, a donation from Premier O & P, and other members donating their time and help, we were able to have food and drinks, a balloon/magician, bounce house/obstacle course, face painting, dancing, and a photo booth. It truly was a fun family event for all. The WDSD celebrations continued with an evening i2Choir concert at the Lied Center that was fantastic.



MEET THE BOARD

DEan Fuelberth was voted to Board President in March 2015. He previously served several years on the Board, most recently serving as Vice President. DEan is involved in several DSAF programs. You can find DEan on the stage with the mic each year at the annual Capital City Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk. DEan has two children, one of whom has Down syndrome.

Lori Prange has served as the Board Secretary since 2012. Lori also co-chairs the Education Conference Committee. Lori has a technology and project management background that she uses to organize DSAF programs. She has a teenage daughter with Down syndrome who is involved in several school activities.

Janelle Ekeler has served as the Board Treasurer since 2013. She works in the health insurance industry and stays busy keeping up with her grandkids. She has volunteered at numerous DSAF events .

Chris Marvin, PhD., is a professor of special education at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and coordinates all training in early childhood special education. Many DSAF members know Chris from their partnerships with her in training graduate students learning to do home visits with infants with developmental delays. Chris joined the DSAF Board in 2014 and spent the year helping to develop the DSAF Smart Start series. Chris has 40 years of professional experience as a teacher, speech-language pathologist and college professor.

Sonya Reynolds, M.D., has been involved on the DSAF board for three years and joined shortly after moving back to Lincoln with her family. She was born and raised in Lincoln, completed medical school at UNMC and then moved to Rochester, MN, and completed residency training in pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic. She practices general pediatrics in Lincoln and has been married for ten years and has two boys, age 7 and 3. Her husband is the coaching director for the local youth hockey organization. No immediate members of her family have Down syndrome, but she cares for children of all ages, including those with Down syndrome, in her practice (her extended family). She is an active member on the Medical Outreach committee as well, making face-to-face connections with local medical professionals to further the goals of DSAF. She is also a member of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for LPS. In her free time you can find her chasing her youngest son around the hockey rink while trying to watch the older one play on the ice.

Alicia Bruning has served on the Board since 2013. She also co-chairs Medical Outreach. She has three sons, one of whom has Down syndrome. She works in the healthcare industry and enjoys acting as a liaison between DSAF and the medical community.

Kelly Ekeler has served on the Board since 2012. She has three sons, one of whom has Down syndrome. Kelly is an attorney whose practice involves advising management, including management for nonprofit organizations. Kelly is currently co-editor of the DSAF newsletter.

Ryan Bruns has served on the Board since 2012. He is a partner in an accounting firm and works as a certified public accountant in Lincoln. He has two children who keep him busy with their sport schedules, and his daughter happens to have Down syndrome.

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



Rachel Smith has been involved in DSAF since 2007, when her sister, Felice, was born with Down syndrome. She has always enjoyed her involvement, and during her senior year in college became acquainted with the board when she organized the volunteers for the Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk. Rachel was invited to join the board in 2014, and nominated for vice president in 2015. Originally from York, NE, Rachel completed her studies in Optometry at Indiana University School of Optometry followed by a residency in binocular vision and pediatric care at Heartland Eye Consultants in Omaha, NE.

She is a doctor on staff at EyeCare Specialties of Lincoln and Beatrice. In addition to providing primary eye care, Rachel specializes in pediatrics and learning related vision disorders. Rachel and her husband, Lucas, enjoy being a part of Lincoln, and spend their free time running, enjoying the outdoors, and spending time with family.



Rick Bohaty joined the DSAF board in January 2015. Currently he is the Director of Information Technology for CHI Health St. Elizabeth and St. Mary's hospitals. Rick brings with him over 25 years of information technology knowledge and experience implementing solutions to solve information technology issues, increase productivity & efficiencies within processes and creating information sharing via social media. Rick has volunteered with Lincoln Clinic With a Heart for over two years providing support for clinical staff offering free medical services to the city of Lincoln and surrounding communities. Also a member of the Lincoln East Rotary, Rick has assisted with several

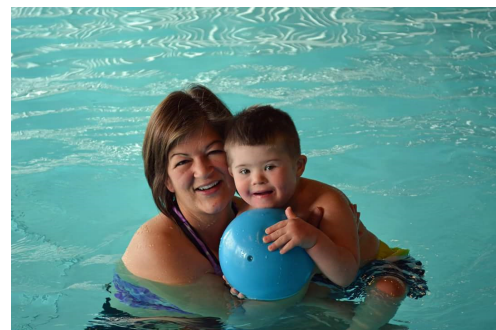
technology implementations including building and implementing a social media presence for the organization and volunteering for community assistance programs sponsored by the Lincoln East Rotary. Rick is a native of Nebraska, graduated from the Phoenix Institute of Technology in Phoenix Arizona with a degree in architectural design and drafting. Rick is married to Renee Bohaty and has one daughter, Hailey. In his spare time Rick enjoys working on home improvement projects, riding motorcycles, and enjoying the outdoors.

RECENT EVENTS

World Down Syndrome Day Proclamation Signing with Gov. Pete Ricketts



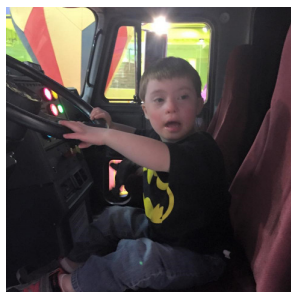
'Lil Stars Swim Party



Dinosaur Train Live!



2nd Annual Trip to the Children's Museum



SUMMER ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES SUPPORT (S.E.A.S.) AVAILABLE

DSAF reimburses parents for the cost of paying a paraprofessional acquainted with their child who go to support their child in a week-long, usually half-day, summer program (such as Bright Lights). Parents make arrangements with the paraprofessional. Refer to the Guidelines document for details. There are two documents, "Guidelines" and "Application," available from the DSAF website (click on Resources), which may be downloaded and mailed in. The application form must be signed by the parent and paraprofessional prior to the program and be approved by the board. Reimbursement takes place after the person has completed the program.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO ATTEND NDSC

The National Down Syndrome Congress annual convention, <http://convention.ndsccenter.org/>, will be held June 25 - 28, 2015, in Phoenix, Arizona. We are excited to announce that Angie Willey will be presenting at this conference. Scholarship applications for financial assistance to attend are available from the DSAF website by clicking on the Resources tab.

CONTACTS

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Return Service Requested

Down Syndrome Association
for Families

Mission Statement: The Down Syndrome Association for Families is a Lincoln based non-profit organization that provides support for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, friends, educators and professionals who share in their lives.

Every person with Down syndrome is an individual who has a unique purpose and abilities. DSAF provides networking and a positive vision for the future.

Website: www.dsafnebraska.org

Telephone: 402-421-1338

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE FAIR



6th graders at Scott Middle School held a Make a Difference Fair at their school on March 5th. This Fair gives students the ability to help other organizations and think beyond themselves at an early age.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lil' Stars (ages 0-5) - **April 18** (9:30 am, ages 0-3, and 10:30 am, ages 3 and up) at the home of Deb Safarik (register to receive address). This free Sign and Play class is for both parents and children, beginners and experienced signers. We will talk about the benefits of signing with hearing children, learn/practice our signs, sing songs, play, and more!

Super Stars (ages 5 - 21) - **April 19**, 2 - 3:30 pm, at Art Planet. Deerwood and 65th St. Cir. Do you love patterns, textures, and colors? Using painter's tape, we will divide a canvas into sections and use different painting techniques to achieve a myriad of colorful results!

Register online for these events at www.dsafnebraska.org.