

SHINING STARS

DSAF member Maddie attends Lincoln Southeast High School. Maddie loves to cheer, dance, watch movies, sing and listen to music. She loves to hang out with her LSE cheer friends and Cheer Express friends. Computer/keyboarding is her favorite class at school. She also loves zombies and vampires. Maddie hopes to work at a restaurant or a movie theater, so she can see all of the movies!

Maddie has been with Cheer Express for 4 years, has also been a part of step chain, performed at DSAF Walks (which is her favorite DSAF event), and Maddie is also a Southeast cheerleader. Maddie went to Orlando to compete at World Cheer Express. She has won countless competitions for the Cheer Express Sunshine Team.

She also helps recycle at school and works in the food pantry where food is distributed to students who are needing some help with extra meals. From her community involvement, she has learned to work as a team and that it is important to help the community and people less fortunate.



RECENT EVENTS



The DSAF Annual Trip to Roca Pumpkin Patch was held in October. Pictured here are some of the 40 DSAF families who enjoyed the day!

RECENT EVENTS



DSAF is one of 11 organizations across the United States to receive a Global Down Syndrome Foundation Educational Grant for innovative programs impacting the lives of thousands of people with Down syndrome across the nation. The 2016 DSAF Educational Conference, held November 5th, provided accurate and up-to-date information on best practices to parents, educators, medical professionals, and direct-service professionals across the state, with a focus on education and behavior in children with Down syndrome. Global's Educational Grant eligibility is one of the key benefits to DSAF's GDS membership. DSAF is grateful for the opportunity to better serve its membership and greater Down syndrome community.

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NEAT REPEATZ CONSIGNMENT SALES continued its tradition of helping charities serving Lincoln families - by matching shoppers' donations during their Fall sale in September, Neat Repeatz gave DSAF of Nebraska over \$1,500! DSAF Program Director, Jodi White, accepts a donation check to DSAF from Heather Brundieck, Neat Repeatz Consignment Sales. Thank you, Heather and Neat Repeatz!



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DSAF partnered with DHHS (Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services) on exciting projects in November. On November 12, DSAF members joined a presentation by DHHS regarding services available through DHHS and how to register with DHHS. Thank you Liz Echternkamp for helping to make this important meeting happen. Throughout November, DSAF President DEan Fuelberth has been working with DHHS to update their website to provide informative materials regarding Down syndrome for expectant parents, parents, educators, medical providers, and others.

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UNL's chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) has become great friends of DSAF Medical Outreach and its Parents First Call program. NSSLHA members held a fundraiser for DSAF at Yorgurtini in Lincoln in September. For each patron who mentioned DSAF and/or NSSLHA when making a purchase, Yorgurtini donated 15% of the sale to DSAF of Nebraska, which added up to more than \$500. Thank you, NSSLHA!

RECENT EVENTS



DSAF went to the Henry Doorly Zoo. More than 65 attended on a perfect Sunday in September. Look forward to more of these outings being offered in 2017!



Ho-ho-ho! Santa made a special appearance at the Annual Holiday Party in December.



CAPITAL CITY STEP UP FOR DOWN SYNDROME WALK



UPCOMING EVENTS

DSAF Night at the Lincoln Children's Museum - Saturday, February 4, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

National Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action Leadership Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio - February 23 - 26. Contact DSAF if you would like more information. Scholarships may be available.

DSAF Mom's Night Out - Friday, February 24th, 6:30 pm, location to be announced

DSAF 'Lil Stars Swim Party - Saturday, February 25th, 10 am - noon, LifeSTROKES, 1601 Normandy Ct., Lincoln. Capacity is set at 40 swimmers, so registration is required.

World Down Syndrome Day Celebration and Annual Membership Meeting - Tuesday, March 21, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Armory, 1776 N. 10th St., Lincoln

DSAF Goes to the Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, Omaha - Date TBD, June. Free admission to DSAF members with Down syndrome and immediate family.

National Down Syndrome Congress Convention, in Sacramento, California - July 20 - 23. Contact DSAF if you would like more information. Scholarships may be available!

16th Annual Capital City Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk - Saturday, October 7

Registering for DSAF events is encouraged. Go to <http://www.dsafnebraska.org> to learn more about these and other upcoming events.

Did you celebrate Inclusive Schools Week in December? Tell us about it! Send your stories and/or photos for future publication to director@dsafnebraska.org.

CONTACTS

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**Down Syndrome Association
for Families (DSAF)**

P.O. Box 57362
Lincoln, NE 68505

Return Service Requested

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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HOT, HOT, HOT

Can you believe the weather? The 2016 Capital City Step Up for Down Syndrome (SUDS) Walk brought sunshine, a warm breeze, and a ton of smiles. Check out some of these statistics and see inside for more photos from the Walk on October 1. The SUDS Walk is DSAF's biggest annual event and it couldn't get any better!



- * **79 teams**
- * **1,779 registered walkers**
- * **More than \$88,000 raised. Day-of-event funds raised:**
 - ♦ **\$2,350 raised from the Silent Auction**
 - ♦ **\$774 from the Raffle**
 - ♦ **\$655 from the VIP Raffle**
 - ♦ **\$195 from t-shirts**
 - ♦ **\$315 from calendars**
 - ♦ **\$89 from other merchandise**
- * **The rest of the money was from donations and registration fees.**
- * **More than 100 volunteers**