

Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta 2015 Annual Report

Building the Foundation for a Strong Community



Down Syndrome
Association of Atlanta

The Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta



Here at the DSAA, we recognize and celebrate our past successes — while at the same time focusing on an even brighter future!

This is an exciting time of growth for DSAA. We are taking bold steps to revitalize our brand and strengthen our programs and services for all. We are expanding our reach and seeking to further cement our reputation as the preeminent organization in Georgia for information, networking and advocacy for and about Down syndrome.

DSAA serves individuals with Down syndrome from infancy through adulthood and represents more than 800 families throughout metro Atlanta. We support our members and our community through various programs and services.

Progress and Potential

DSAA was founded in 1979 by a group of metro-Atlanta parents who wanted to provide support and education to each other and

to other families of children with Down syndrome. At that time, there were few opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Since then, advances in medicine, education, work opportunities, community-based recreation and independent living choices have helped individuals with Down syndrome lead longer and healthier lives with a typical life span advancing into senior years.

Individuals with Down syndrome participate in secondary education, sports, hobbies and other activities, enjoying full time employment, living independently and sharing in meaningful relationships, including marriage.

Despite these achievements, individuals still strive to gain acceptance and inclusion in many schools and communities. Additionally, Down syndrome related research is grossly

underfunded despite promising findings that show both medical and therapeutic advances in positively affecting the cognitive function of individuals with Down syndrome.

The Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta (DSAA) is a 501 (c)(3) Georgia non-profit organization dedicated to support, early intervention, education, awareness and advocacy for individuals with Down Syndrome and their families.

DSAA Overview

DSAA is an organization that creates amazing, life changing connections for individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

VISION

A world where individuals with Down syndrome and their families are connected to opportunities for an **amazing life**

MISSION

Educate • Unite • Build Bridges

To educate stakeholders, unite our community and build bridges between worlds, so that individuals with Down syndrome and their families are connected to opportunities for an **amazing life**

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

Education Community Operations Development

WE VALUE

Parents' mission to give their children with Down syndrome an amazing life

Opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome to come together — but also to connect with the community in general

OUR DIFFERENCE

DSSA is the only organization in metro Atlanta that provides individuals with Down syndrome and their families' life-long community connections.

STRUCTURE

STAFF

DSAA has two part time staff members who oversee the day-to-day operations.

Vanessa Champlin
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
vanessa@dsaatl.org

Stephanie Donlan
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
stephanie@dsaatl.org

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The DSAA is governed by a Board of Directors made up of Officers and Directors. Officers are elected by the general membership at the annual meeting held in December each year. Directors are appointed by the Officers and oversee major activities (Education, Support, Advocacy, Awareness and Fundraising). The Board meets at least six times a year.

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VOLUNTEERS

More than 100 dedicated volunteers help the DSAA conduct programs, social activities and educational seminars. They also assist with fundraising events, participate in advocacy efforts, speak to local organizations, run community-based support groups, provide photography services and raise awareness through our website, newsletter and social media channels.

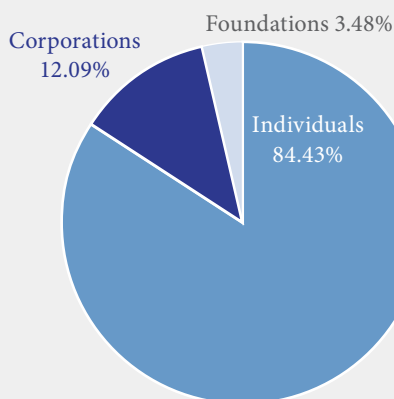
2015 Budget

DSAA is always striving to grow funding in order to provide additional programs for our members and community partners and employ additional staff. Currently, The Buddy Walk, held annually in October, serves as the primary source of funding.

MAJOR EXPENSES

Item	Cost
Adult Clinic	\$40,000
Hispanic Group	\$12,000
Spring Social	\$5,000
Buddy Walk	\$75,000
iCanBike	\$12,000
Newsletter	\$8,000
Operating Expenses	\$15,000
Staff	\$65,000
Misc Grants/ Programs/Events	\$15,000
Total	\$247,000

REVENUE SOURCES



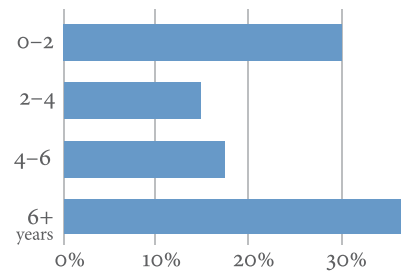
2015 By the Numbers

DSAA SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY

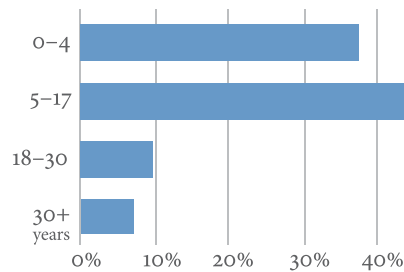
2015 Membership

DSAA serves individuals with Down syndrome from infancy through adulthood and represents more than 800 families throughout metro Atlanta. We support our members and our community through various programs and services. In 2015, we welcomed 192 new/rejoined DSAA Members.

LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP



AVERAGE AGE OF FAMILY MEMBER WITH DOWN SYNDROME



2015 Activities

Outside of those hosted by our local groups, in 2105 DSAA

- organized 11 education series workshops/new parent orientations
- hosted/sponsored 11 DSAA events
- attended 16 educational events and or community seminars where DSAA presented and/or had a presence
- mailed and/or delivered 350+ new parent packets to local hospitals, physicians offices and parent liaisons
- connected 80 local hospitals with DSAA staff and/or parent liaisons

INFORMATION

- Education conference with FOCUS
- New parent seminars
- Education seminars
- ADMH (Adult clinic)

NEW AND EXPECTANT PARENT SUPPORT

- Hospital liaisons
- New parent packages
- New parent baskets

NETWORKING

- iCan Bike
- Community play groups
- D.A.D.S
Fathers support group
- AHSDA
Hispanic support group

ADVOCACY

- Buddy Walk on Washington
- DSAIA National Convention
- NDSC National Convention
- World Down Syndrome Day
- Unlock the Waiting Lists Coalition
- ABLE Act Coalition
- Employment First Coalition

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- The Emory DS Clinic
- The Adult Down Syndrome Clinic
- Sole funder of AHSDA, DSAA's Hispanic Program
- Sponsorship of Disability Day at the Capitol
- Sponsor Bregman Conference and Dance
- Sponsor Habima Theatre
- Support to GiGi's Playhouse, Corrigan Care and Camp Dream



Best Buddy Walk to Date

7.9% increase in funds raised — thanks to YOU our Members and the more than 3500 people that joined us last October!



Inaugural Color Dash for WDS

First 5k hosted by DSAA with more than 400 runners/walkers and more than 5k raised to support DSAA services!

In 2015 DSAA had 20% more community engagement overall when compared to 2014!

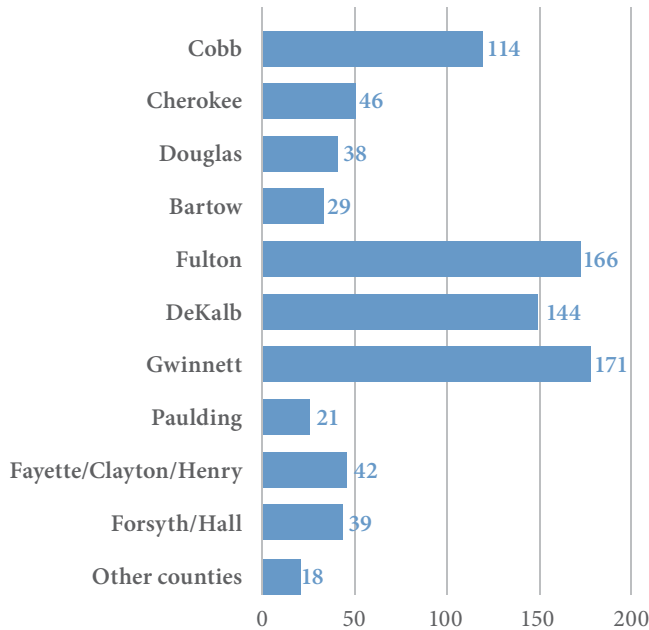
2015 Member Survey Snapshot

DSAA conducts our annual member survey, so that we continue to better serve you — our member families.

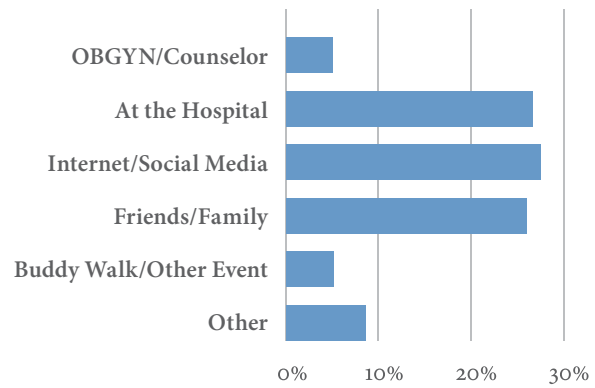
While we got lots of great feedback, we realize that we need to provide more information about where DSAA funds go and what those funds do for the Down syndrome community. Clarifying our financials will be a goal for DSAA in 2016 and beyond.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO TOOK TIME TO RESPOND.

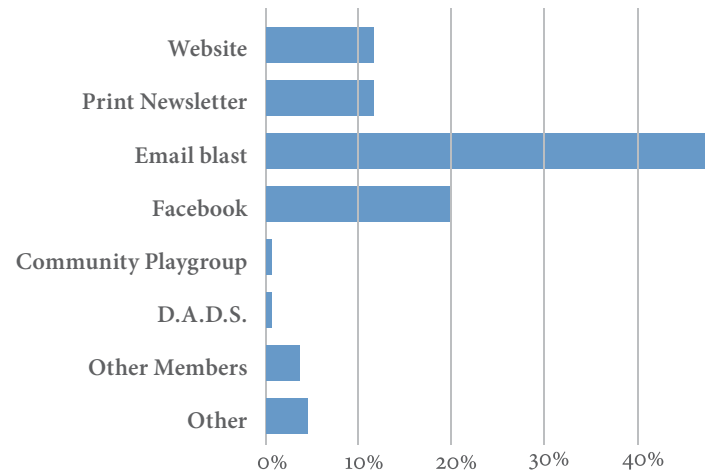
DSAA FAMILIES SERVED BY LOCATION



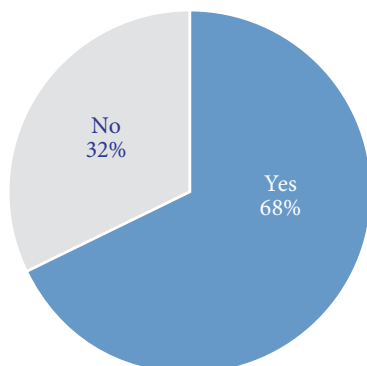
HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR ABOUT DSAA?



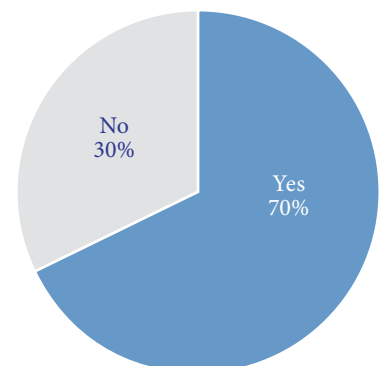
WHERE DO YOU RECEIVE MOST DSSA INFORMATION?



DID DSAA MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE IF 2015?



DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES?



DSAA provides significant funding to the Adult Disability Medical Home (ADMH), a practice doing groundbreaking work for people with a disability as they transition out of pediatric care.

MISSION

The Adult Disability Medical Home, Inc. (ADMH) is an innovative program providing health and wellness to teens and adults with developmental disabilities.

GOALS

- To increase access to adult services as individuals with developmental disabilities transition from pediatric to adult health care services.
- To support and conduct comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate patient care to adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities.
- To provide educational and informational activities to family providers and other interested parties thereby increasing public awareness.
- To provide leadership, training and support to other medical providers and primary care health providers in the field of adult developmental disability issues.

HISTORY

In order to provide a comprehensive approach to care, ADMH, formerly The Adult Down Syndrome Program, was transferred in June 2014, to Urban Family Practice Associates (UFPA). UFPA is a well-established family practice created in 1975 with a mission to provide excellence in standards of care to patients and families. In 2014, UFPA became a certified Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), meeting national standards set for quality assurance of patient care. UFPA is thus the perfect setting in which to provide top quality care to patients with developmental disabilities throughout Georgia and neighboring states. Health and wellness for individuals with developmental disabilities transitioning to adult care is often fragmented and difficult to access. ADMH tackles this trend by adopting the principles of the Patient Centered Medical Home. The PCMH model

places the needs of patients at the center of healthcare services. ADMH runs a monthly clinic serving 6-8 patients per month, providing primary care and consultation while assisting families in development of individualized medical and functional care and long term planning. As of December 2014 ADMH was approved as a 501(C)(3) in the state of Georgia and has run their interdisciplinary clinic on a monthly basis.

FORECAST FOR 2016 - 2017

- ADMH continues to strengthen our 501(c)3 non-profit status and by the end of 2017 will have established a sustainable financial reputation.
- Access to services as these individuals transition from pediatric to adult care is difficult and of paramount importance. In order to promote and reflect the best practice comprehensive care that is the hallmark of this program, we continue to market this concept as the ADULT DISABILITY MEDICAL HOME.
- Our focus remains serving adolescents and adults with Down syndrome and other complex medical issues.
- Other similar developmental disabilities will be served through additional grant funding and donations.
- During the 2016 fiscal year we plan on adding one additional clinic per quarter increasing to 16 clinics. This will increase the number of patients seen from approximately 72 to 96 by the end of 2016.
- Our physicians and clinical team continue collaborating and utilizing and increasing their expertise with other physicians in the field.
- Increased educational materials and supports will be provided to patients and their families.

Based on your feedback and our review of the competitive landscape, DSAA found three key areas of need we are working to address

- Medicaid support
- School Inclusion
- Older children/adults

Through the creation of a strategic assessment DSAA has mapped plans for the development of programs to better assist our school age families, added new resource pages on the website for inclusion and bullying and continues to work with the Adult Disability Medical Home on ways to better support older people with Down syndrome.

Of course, new programming requires additional funding, and as a result DSAA has committed to doubling the number of grant application the organization pursues.

We look forward to sharing our successes and continued growth with our membership.

About Down Syndrome

In every cell in the human body there is a nucleus, where genetic material is stored in genes. Genes carry the codes responsible for all of our inherited traits and are grouped along rod-like structures called chromosomes. Typically, the nucleus of each cell contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, half of which are inherited from each parent. Down syndrome occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21.

This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down syndrome. A few of the common physical traits of Down syndrome are low muscle tone, small stature, an upward slant to the eyes and a single deep crease across the center of the palm — although each person with Down syndrome is a unique individual and may possess these characteristics to different degrees, or not at all.

One in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, making Down syndrome the most common genetic condition. Approximately 400,000 Americans have Down syndrome and about 6,000 babies with Down syndrome are born in the United States each year.

We welcome your interest, ideas and support!

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Connect With Us

