

2018 *Annual Report*





“We are convinced this past year’s progress is just one moment in time. A moment that needs to be built upon in subsequent years to keep the momentum pressing forward.”

The Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide support and resources for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the professionals who serve them. DSG seeks to provide the entire community with information and education to broaden awareness and foster positive attitudes regarding people with Down syndrome.

Leadership Message

A little more than a year ago, we put forth the following four principles to shape our enduring success:

- **Continue to serve our community with high-quality programs.**
- **Continue to expand our philanthropic partnerships.**
- **Explore and develop new sources of revenue and optimize costs creating sustainable growth.**
- **Embrace change as constant and collaboration as vital.**

Having reflected on these principles throughout the past year, your generosity and partnership have accelerated our progress on each of those principles. Without those two important pieces, we simply would not be able to imagine a future that sometimes seems unimaginable.

This past year reminded us that we must lead with a robust, healthy balance of optimism and realism. It reminded us to challenge the current state and innovate at the core of our programming. It reminded us to question our every action to understand if it will impact lives in the manner we must to facilitate aspirational opportunities for those we are so fortunate to serve.

Leading with a commitment to these four pillars is a step toward building trust in our community. It is also a step toward setting a standard that sometimes will be hard to understand in a world of immediate return. That is the price we are willing to pay because we know that few opportunities exist to facilitate meaningful change on improving the lives of people with Down syndrome. Because our hopes and dreams are simply the hopes and dreams of those we serve. Without your engagement, these opportunities are simply not possible.

We are convinced this past year's progress is just one moment in time. A moment that needs to be built upon in subsequent years to keep the momentum pressing forward. We hope that operating within our pillars, listening carefully, taking more risk, focusing on the ambitions of those we serve will manifest itself into enduring and empowering success for people with Down syndrome.

What gives us confidence is the optimism of the many individuals that we are honored to serve on your behalf. It is an honor to join with you to do this work.

To all of you, our deepest gratitude is extended.



JD
Jason Drummond
Chief Executive Officer



R. Michael Frazier
R. Michael Frazier
Chairman of the Board

Public Awareness

New Welcomes

DSG welcomed 47 new babies and their families in 2018 through our welcome basket program. Our quarterly support breakfasts provided 152 new parents and 107 extended family members the opportunity to learn more about the diagnosis, connect with other families and learn more about helpful local resources.

World Down Syndrome Day

We recognized 21 community champions doing amazing work for our member families to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. Doctors, therapists, teachers, coaches and more were recognized for helping individuals with Down syndrome achieve their goals and be more integrated into their communities.



"DSG visited our family when our son was in the hospital for open heart surgery. We were stressed financially and our emotions were frazzled. The meal voucher check, goody bag and warm hug from DSG staff made our time in the hospital more bearable. We truly appreciate being thought of during a stressful time."

Royals KCrew Partnership

Our partnership with the Kansas City Royals allowed kids, teens and adults with Down syndrome an opportunity to be down on the field, welcoming players, and tossing out shirts and other prizes to fans. Jumbotron coverage promoted Down syndrome awareness and some of our participants were interviewed on camera. #GOROYALS





CMH Medical Resident Partnership

Thirty second year residents at Children’s Mercy Hospital spent half a day at the DSG office learning more about our programs, services and meeting with parents and self-advocates who share their experiences on how medical professionals can be most helpful to patients.

Guild Events

DSG hosts a number of social and fundraising events each year to bring our community together to celebrate life with Down syndrome. Families have an opportunity to network and share resources with each other in a safe and supportive environment.



All Guild Event Attendee Numbers

Power Play	345
Weston Red Barn Farm	407
Coco Keys Splash Night	439
Holiday Party	531
Viva Las Vegas Prom	597
Columbia Step Up Walk	636
KC Step Up Walk	5,231

App Launch

The DSG app went live in June has been downloaded by over 600 individuals. With the app, families are able to update their information, access useful tools and resources, learn about upcoming events, and receive important updates from DSG.

“My husband and I have met amazing parents who will certainly become lifelong friends through attending the DSG support breakfast. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet other families, have our questions answered and to dream big for our daughter’s future knowing DSG will be there at every age and stage.”

Public Education



Seminar Series

DSG's Seminar Series featured four topics each offered twice throughout the school year. Topics included fostering independence, modifying and adapting curriculum, technology utilization and tips for smooth transitions. Over 200 parents, educators, therapists and service providers from 18 school districts and KS/MO Catholic Archdiocese attended these highly rated seminars.

Parents and Schools in Partnership

Through our Parents and Schools in Partnership Program we work collaboratively with school districts who have named Down Syndrome Specialists. They receive training and resources from DSG to insure students succeed. Our quarterly breakfasts for specialists brought 23 school districts together to brainstorm creative solutions and address challenges educators face. DSG provides ongoing consultation, staff training, peer presentations and behavioral observations to assist educators to meet the needs of their students.



"Our daughter's para attended two of the DSG seminars and said the information she learned was so helpful and taught her new ways to provide classroom support."



Pathways™ Program

DSG developed and launched our transformational Pathways™ program serving children and youth with Down syndrome between 4-20 years of age. Families will receive evidence-based, best practice therapy provided by licensed professionals as well as a participant portal full of individualized tools to support their child's development. Interventions will focus on fostering independence, improving communication, addressing behavior and promoting pre-vocational skills.





“DSG staff came out to our school and offered a peer presentation to help our daughter’s friends better understand her similarities and differences and how they could be a good friend. Not long after the presentation our daughter received her first birthday party invitation!”

Mind Your Marriage

The Mind Your Marriage retreat welcomed 48 couples who spent a romantic weekend at a local KC hotel after reconnecting through a series of activities facilitated by a motivational speaker. The retreat is a wonderful opportunity for respite and reflection for DSG parents.



Around the Community

DSG staff provided behavioral observations and consultations, peer presentations and facilitated several staff development seminars for schools in 2018. We value our partnerships with families and schools and seek to provide resources and tools to help all students with Down syndrome achieve their full potential.

Our Individual Education Program (IEP) Binder Make and Take night was a huge success with 50 parents joining us to make binders to keep their child’s documentation all in one place.

DSG’s Just Like You Down Syndrome film was screened at over 100 schools worldwide and was translated into Icelandic in 2018.



School Age Programming



STARS

Special Teens Achieving Real Success (STARS) provides opportunities for teens to socialize, explore employment, build independence, and give back to the community, through weekly activities. In 2018, 121 teens with Down syndrome between the ages of 12-18 prepared for adulthood through a variety of activities focused on friendship, volunteerism and employment.

STARS provided 68 events with an average attendance of 35 teens per event. DSG hosted Helping Individuals Realize Employment Dreams (HIRED) classes for teens seeking employment and a Child Care Basics class for those interested in learning to babysit young children. This year 60 business partnerships were forged through the STARS program. DSG continues to see growth in our teen population in regards to independence, social and prevocational skills and looks forward to new opportunities in the coming years.

“My son’s involvement with the STARS and HIRED programs provide him a social outlet and opportunity to improve his communication and social skills with other teenagers as well as adults. He is more mature and now has self-confidence. I love that he gets to be a part of these DSG programs.”



Transition Bootcamp

Transition Bootcamp classes prepare young adults with Down syndrome and their parents for life after high school. We welcomed 39 teens and 65 parents to classes in 2018. We visited a college campus, held an employment fair, toured apartments, discussed financial planning, guardianship and housing and emphasized self-advocacy.

“STARS opened the door to friendships and social interactions helping our son become more aware of who he is and what he can become. STARS events are expertly managed and staffed while teaching and reinforcing appropriate behavior, communication, and manners, all helping him grow into a great young man. We are so thankful and fortunate to have these opportunities.”



Siblings Night Out

Siblings Night Out events offers 8-18 year old siblings of individuals with Down syndrome the opportunity to meet other siblings and enjoy fun activities. In 2018, 53 siblings joined our events providing them a unique opportunity to develop friendships with other siblings.

Peers Actively Learning Skills

Our Peers Actively Learning Skills (PALS) program was developed to meet the social and physical needs of 7-11 year olds with Down syndrome. This year 47 pals joined us as we participated in fitness, social skills and interactive educational programs.

Volunteers

Volunteer Recap

DSG is blessed to have the support of many volunteers. Whether providing support at one of DSG's programs, helping out at a fundraiser, or providing administrative support our, volunteers remain the cornerstone of DSG's success.

In 2018, DSG, received over 4,000 service hours donated by over 700 volunteers. Volunteers include numerous corporate and school groups, as well as individuals looking to make a difference in the lives of those with Down syndrome. DSG enjoys partnering with high school and college students who are required to do service hours for credit.



“Volunteers maintain the cornerstone of DSG’s success.”

“Volunteering at the DSG is a fun and rewarding experience. I enjoy assisting the participants and I have developed great relationships with families and staff. I always know my time is well spent volunteering for the DSG!”





Govanni Garcia was recognized as the DSG's 2018 individual volunteer of the year. He provided support at dozens of DSG events over the course of 2018. He was instrumental in programs serving people with Down syndrome of all ages and also worked tirelessly on our social and fundraising events. Govanni says he loves volunteering at the DSG and finds it very fulfilling.

Our Corporate Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Sassafras Marketing. Owned by Kansas City Metro residents Geoff and Jenny Holton, Sassafras Marketing has supported DSG with marketing and design materials for over 8 years. Sassafras is responsible for the design of the marketing materials for the Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk and the Private Cellar Wine Auction and Tasting.



Thank you!

Thank you to our amazing volunteers for supporting DSG's mission and work!

Club 3-21

In 2018, our Club 3-21 program provided 22 opportunities for continued growth for 124 adults with Down syndrome, who range in age from 18-71 years old. We had an average of 34 attendees at each of our Club 3-21 events throughout the year. DSG looks forward to growing the Club 3-21 program to reach more self-advocates and keep them active and engaged in their communities throughout their lives.

Fundraising

Tee Up Golf Tournament

The Tee Up for Down Syndrome Golf Tournament was held at Shadow Glen Golf Club in Olathe, Kansas on September 10, 2018. Golfers enjoyed playing on beautiful greens, shopping in the gift salon, food on the course, drinks, hole contests with fabulous prizes! Golfers met and played against self-advocate golfers Chris Ringot, Jonathan Berry and Blake Docking. Self Advocates also cheered on our golfers, served lunch and presented the trophy to the top golf team at the awards ceremony. The Tournament raised a record breaking amount, \$275,000, to support DSG's vital programs and services.



“Tee Up raised a record breaking amount, \$275,000, to support DSG’s vital programs and services.”

Private Cellar Wine Tasting and Auction

The 15th Annual Private Cellar Wine Tasting and Auction welcomed over 450 guests and raised over \$178,000. The event was held at the fabulous Gallery Space in the Kansas City Power and Light District. Guests enjoyed sipping wonderful wines from around the world and bidding on unique wines from Kansas City's foremost collectors. Auction items included private wine gourmet dinners, wine art and unique one of a kind bottles of wine.

KBP Foods and KC KFC Stores

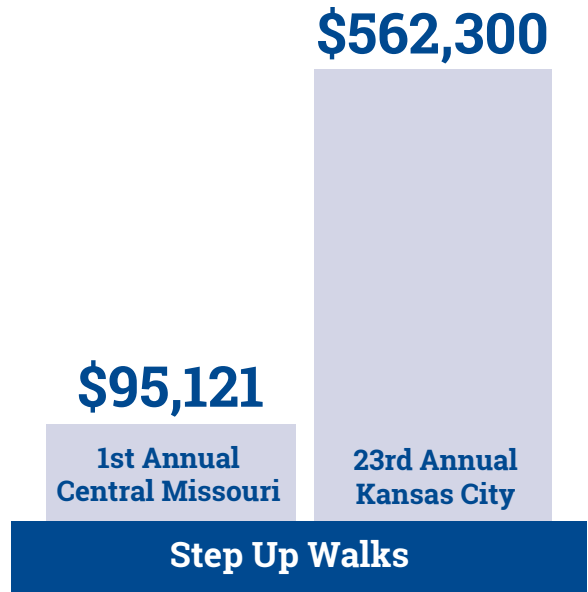
Over 40 KFC stores hosted coupon book sales drive in May and October raising \$63,488 to support DSG families.



We stepped up in a big way!

Step Up Walk & Festival

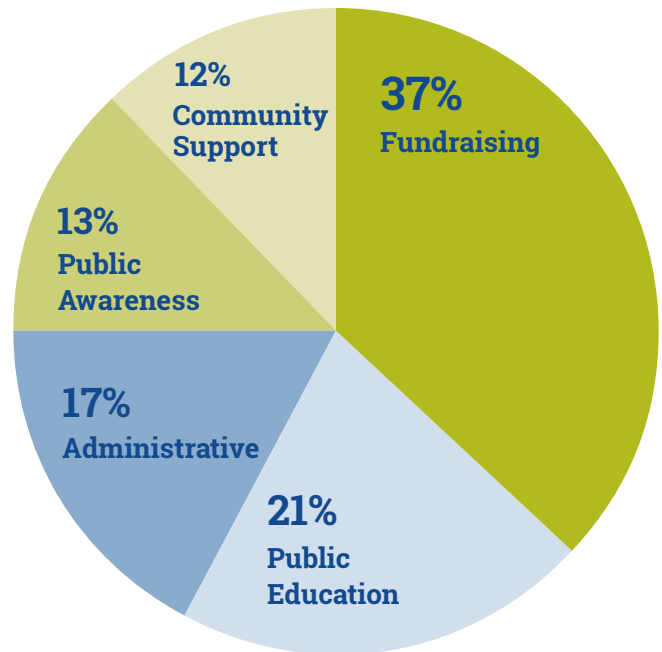
DSG hosted two walks in 2018. The 23rd Annual Kansas City Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk was held on Saturday, October 20th AND the 1st Annual Central Missouri Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk was held on Sunday, October 7th. All walkers enjoyed KFC lunch courtesy of KBP Foods, dancing, face painting, inflatables, games, fellowship and festivities for every age group. The Central Missouri Walk raised an amazing \$95,121 for the first year! The Kansas City Step Up Walk raised \$562,300 and is proud to be recognized as the largest walk in the Nation.



Financials

Financial Breakdown

In 2018, DSG total revenues, gains and other support was \$2,027,119 which represents a 47% increase from 2017. Expenditures in 2018 were \$1,750,335. Total net assets of the organization increased 15% to \$2,114,623. The DSG's operating reserve and endowment remained relatively flat with an ending market value of \$588,310.



We are humbled by the continued generosity of our families and financial partners as they continue to invest in our growing mission. Without this amazing generosity, we would not be able to imagine new programs that can have significant impact on people's lives.





Board of Directors

Michael Frazier, President
Reece & Nichols Real Estate

John Melvin
U.S. Bank- Private Client Reserve

Joe Roos
BKD LLP

Bob Fagan
CBRE

Joann Butaud
Evans & Mullinix, P.A.

Chris Sorensen
JE Dunn Construction

Tom Wagstaff Jr.
Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLC



5960 DEARBORN STREET
SUITE 100
MISSION, KANSAS 66202

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OLATHE, KS
PERMIT NO. 932

