This report has been prepared for evaluating overall performance, development, and scope in pursuit of this foundation’s mission.

**Down Syndrome Foundation of SENM**

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**Annual Report 2016**

Moving Forward
One Step at a Time…
Board of Directors

Carol Cunningham, President
Libbie Sills, Vice President
Jerolyn Wagner, Treasurer
Joelle Johnston, Secretary
Mike Romero, Member at Large
Cindy Blanco, Member at Large
Nick Nanz, Member at Large
Andrew Lewis, Member at Large

Mission Statement

The mission of the Down Syndrome Foundation of Southeastern New Mexico (DSF), is to provide support and education to all individuals with Down syndrome and their families. We do this by promoting community awareness, and providing educational information to families, educators, and medical professionals and the community about Down syndrome. Our goal is to help

Vision Statement

Our vision is that individuals with Down syndrome in Southeastern New Mexico be included in the community as valued citizens and that these individuals reach the goals to which they aspire.

Service Area

The DSF of SENM services 9 counties in southeastern New Mexico. However, individuals from all over the state and even into west Texas often contact us or participate in our events.

The total population for these 9 counties is approximately 560,997. This means there are approximately 810 individuals with Down syndrome who need support in southeastern New Mexico. We currently have 138 families in our membership.

We look forward to servicing those in: Roswell, Lake Arthur, Dexter, Hagerman, Artesia, Carlsbad, Hobbs, Lovington, Clovis, Portales, Ruidoso, Hondo, Capitan, Carrizozo, Alamogordo, & Las Cruces.

There is much work to be done.
From the President

Dear DSF Members,

Another year has come and gone. It has been a year of growth...a new full time Executive Director, Bethany Johnston and a great Programs Director, Norrissa Bullard. We so appreciate the former ED, Missy Holman for laying the ground work. In short order the Board of Directors will be deciding on our goals for the coming year. We will express our intentions to our Executive Director and together we will set out a plan of action. Please feel free to share your ideas, concerns, or knowledge with our Executive Director. We are here to better our consumers lives in any way, when possible.

Our Buddy Walk was a great success again! What a great day to celebrate together with our families, friends, and the community. We had approximately 1000 people sharing that day with us at the Zoo and Park. Thank you to all of you who made that day possible! So many hours went into bringing it all to fruition and the Buddy Walk committee is so appreciated. And a great big "thanks" to you for your participation in our desire to commune with our Self Advocates and raise them up in activities with their peers and the community at large.

I would like to take this time to say “Thank You” to the people who have made my tenure as President a joy. Bethany Johnston Executive Director, Norrissa Bullard Programs Director, Miss Iris Greatest Volunteer EVER, and Missy Holman Former Executive Director. The Board of Directors: Cindy Blanco, Mike Romero, Jerelyn Wagner (Treasurer), Joelle Johnston (Secretary and BW Chairman), Nick Nanz, Andrew Lewis (Self Advocate) and especially Libbie Sills (Vice President) who has gone above and beyond for the Foundation. A special thanks to Kathy Latimer and the Assistees for their constant help with almost every function that we have. A great group of young people and so sincerely great with our Self Advocates.

Please make sure that you keep your contact information current with the office, we have great events happening almost every month and we would hate for you to miss out. You should be receiving the quarterly bulletin and other information through the mail, we send out numerous emails to those who have shared their email address, and we are on FACEBOOK. We have a great web page which the office keeps up to date and is really easy to use. You actually have to try to avoid us! If you are not getting something from us, in the form you want to receive it...call the office 575-622-1099.

So looking forward to this coming year!

Carol Cunningham, President
Projects, Programs & Events

Parent Outreach

Providing new and expectant families with resources quickly is at the heart of our mission. We either provide a new baby gift basket complete with resource materials about raising a baby with Down syndrome or meet with an expectant mom to answer questions about parenting a child with Down syndrome. Continuing to provide support to families is important and we continue to look for ways to meet and spend time together as we travel this journey together.

Educational Outreach

In 2016 we were so happy to be able to host the 4th Annual Educational Workshop. This was only possible with the grant provided by the Global Down Syndrome Foundation and the Clark Armstrong Foundation. We hosted the one-day event at the Roswell Civic Center. We had 130 registered attendees representing 12 school districts including teachers from Rio Rancho. This was a significant increase from the prior year. We continued to establish, build and foster relationships with school districts, as well as, help parents help their children. Our keynote speakers included Dr. Lina Patel and Christina & Peggy Hinkle (self-advocates). The 5th annual Educational Workshop is already in the works so keep a lookout for more information.

Government Affairs

Policies and change are always in the works for individuals with disabilities and we have to continue to stay up to date on changes so that we can continue to advocate and fight for rights of what we are so passionate about. The Able act the was signed into law in December of 2014 is steadily moving across the country and we hope that soon in New Mexico there will be a program set up. The New Mexico treasurer’s office will however help individuals get set up with a program in other states of that is something that the family wants. Other opportunities like the Buddy Walk® on Washington that is an advocacy conference that brings the Down syndrome community together to advocate for legislative priorities that impact the lives of people with Down syndrome and their families.
Projects, Programs & Events

SENM Buddy Walk®
Can you believe we celebrated 12 years of Buddy Walking?! We have been so blessed and were able to reap the many years of hard work as we watched the 12th year of celebrating unfold. We had 100+ individuals registered to walk and raised over $50,000. That’s only possible thanks to all the hard work of the planning team and our fundraising family teams. Gabriel’s Road Warriors raised the most money totaling $4558 with our 2nd place team, Addie’s Angels, raising $3688. Zoey’s Army took 1st place with most walkers at 106 and coming in a close 2nd was Gabriel’s Road Warriors with 105. Mark your calendar now for the 2017 SENM Buddy Walk® Oct 21st.

Health & Wellness including Summer Therapy
In 2016 we hosted summer therapies, as well as, continuing to provide year-round speech therapy in Roswell. Swimming lessons were a huge hit with 21 participants. The Elks were very generous in allowing us to use their pool to host these lessons. We also had our second Strider™ bike camp, collaborated with First Tee of Southeastern NM to have teen/adult golf camp and hosted cooking classes in both Roswell and Artesia. Providing new services and growing existing programs is at the heart of our mission.

Special Events
With a variety of special events, 2016 was no disappointment. We had many who helped make these events special. Thanks to the Roswell Eagles as they again hosted our 2016 Santa Breakfast. Central Valley Electric in Artesia graciously provided their kitchen for us to hold cooking classes in Artesia and their banquet room to host our Santa Breakfast in Artesia. 2016 was a huge year to see our programs extending to areas outside of Roswell. The Assisteens of Chaves County volunteered at many of our events, including: decorated for and helped host the Buddy Walk® family dinner along with helping with cooking classes. We also held our 2nd Color Dash that raised over $10,000.
Projects, Programs & Events

Website & Social Media

Social media is the new way to get connected, to share, to support, to educate and join the movement. It is also a way to get information out quickly and to see information quickly. This too is true as it has allowed us to reach many. Each year the DSFSENM Facebook page reaches 1500+ on a regular basis and has a current following of 1150. We have a large number of online Buddy Walk® registrants as well as other events. We are so grateful to the Web Partner Group for hosting and maintaining our site. Now that we have Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest our connection is even greater with our families, supporters, and friends.

Medical Out-Reach

This year we had the thought and idea to host a medical conference that would bring in medical professionals to Roswell to educated and provide resources not only for our families but for the medical professionals here. This idea has come into fruition as we set to pursue this idea. There is a high need for our community of medical professionals to benefit from this, so that our families do not need to travel out of town or out of state for medical care. Keep a lookout for more information regarding dates and location for this great opportunity.
2016 Finances

**INCOME**

- Buddy Walk 58,731
- Color Dash 16,918
- Grants 35,891
- Donations 9,479
- Interest 88

**TOTAL INCOME** $121,107

**EXPENSE**

- Programs 29,835
- Awards & Support 856
- Staffing 40,700
- Facilities 10,081
- Operations 12,754
- Website 1,007
- Training 5,819
- Fundraising 17,688

**TOTAL EXPENSE** $118,740

2016 NET ORDINARY INCOME $2,367
Statistics

Membership
In 2016 our membership has grown once again. At the start of 2016, thanks to volunteer Iris Watson who took the time to work on our database, we cleaned up our database once again and have 138 self-advocates in our membership. This does not include the numerous grandparents and extended families that have joined our membership. Our educator database has also grown and is now at 338. Currently we have a mailing list of over 1000.

Contributors
Each year the DSF is blessed to be supported by so many generous people. 2016 was no exception. It was a great year for grant contributions. We also saw growing amounts of general donations, not to mention many in-kind donations. Thanks to all our board, volunteers, and contributors for putting motion to our mission. We look forward to growing in in future years.

Attendance
As noted in the Buddy Walk® review, 2016 was a great year with support and participation from everyone. With awesome attendance at the BW Family Dinner and the Santa Breakfasts in both Artesia and Roswell, we are confident that the efforts we focused on spreading the word about who we are and all we do is working. Not only have we seen great attendance to the BW, we are also seeing more participation from self-advocates in the programs we provide. Such as swimming lessons which brought out 21 participants and bike camp had 8 participants! Also, cooking classes have been a huge hit and each session that we hold is maxed out! We are excited to continue providing programs for self-advocates and can’t wait to see what 2017 brings.

Volunteers
None of this is possible without the countless volunteers that have helped make everything we do possible. In 2016 we also saw record numbers of volunteer hours rack up. Once again, the Assisteens and Eagles came out in full force. Iris Watson, who comes in every week to help with office work, and the Haynes Family have been pivotal forces that we just couldn’t do without. The staff and the board can’t thank each of these people enough. You are our Angels in disguises! Thank you each for your dedication and generosity as you help move us forward one step at a time.

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