The Down Syndrome Foundation
2017 Medical Conference

The Down Syndrome Foundation of SE NM hosted its first medical conference on June 3rd at the Roswell Convention Center. The idea behind this conference was to have our medical community come out to learn more about Down syndrome, meet families, hear stories about strengths and weaknesses, and gifts that we know from individuals with Down syndrome. What we ended up with was a room full of families from near and far to learn more about Down syndrome, question the speakers about what they can do to better help their children, and have an opportunity to meet other families to network.

Dr. Dennis McGuire and Dr. Peter Bulova shared so much information and research that can be taken back to medical providers so families can better advocate for themselves. Topics such as medical problems presenting themselves as behavioral problems, grooves, self-talk, unique medical issues for individuals with Down syndrome were discussed. This information helped to empower families to work with doctors to address these issues and recognize their gifts.

We are so thankful to our speakers for taking time to come to Roswell and speak to us. This conference was not possible without the sponsors who funded this project, and we are appreciative of the support from our board and volunteers who put time into helping make this project special. We are most thankful to those families that came to the conference, for taking time out of their day to spend with us to learn more about how to help their sons or daughters be the best that they can be. We hope to hold another conference in the future. As always, if you are interested in donating, volunteering, or attending any of our events, or programs please visit our website at dsfsenm.org or call the office at 575-622-1099 to let us know! We are here for you and your family. Our mission is to provide support and assistance to individuals with Down syndrome and their family while continually working to advocate for individuals with Down syndrome to be fully included as valued members of society, so they can each reach their personal dreams.

Thank you sponsors for funding this project
**Upcoming Events**

**June 3**  
DSF 1st Annual Medical Conference

**June 5-8**  
Handwriting Without Tears® Workshop

**June 10**  
Summer Kick Off

**June 27-28**  
FirstTee Golf Camp  
- Roswell

**June 30**  
FirstTee Golf Camp  
- Hobbs

**July 3-14**  
Swim Camp

**July 20-23**  
NDSC Convention  
Sacramento, CA

**July 21**  
DSF 5th Annual Educational Workshop

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**Summer Kickoff**

We kicked off summer with friends, food, and fun! Thank you to everyone who came out to the various locations to meet other families and just relax.

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**Handwriting Without Tears®**

Handwriting without tears® was a success. Participants had a great time learning fine and gross motor skills to better their handwriting techniques all while having fun! Special thank you to Laurie Burrow for teaching this workshop!

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**The First Tee® Golf Camps**

In partnership with FirstTee ®  
Great for all ages!

- **Roswell**  
  June 27-28 from 9-12pm  
  First Tee  
  201 W 19th St Roswell, NM 88201

- **Hobbs**  
  June 30 from 9-12pm  
  Rockwind Community Links  
  5001 Jack Gomez Blvd, Hobbs, NM 88240

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**Swim Camp**

Swim camp will be held **July 3-14 at the Elk’s Lodge Pool.** Each group will have 30min sessions that will be determined after registration closes. To register for swim camp visit our website.

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Thank you to Sam’s Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles and the community for your continued support! Without your support we would not be able to continue to change the lives of those with Down syndrome and their families!

Thank you!!

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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are moving to electronic newsletters by the end of 2017! Please call or email the office to make sure we have your updated email address so that you can continue to receive up to date information as to what is going on with the Down Syndrome Foundation!!
“Buddy Walk® on Washington”
The Romero’s story

“Self-advocate Elena Romero of Santa Fe, her mother Gay, and her aunt Hope Young (from New Orleans) recently went on the National Down Syndrome Society’s Buddy Walk on Washington. Elena attends DSF-SENM’s Buddy Walk nearly every year and is an annual performer at the Family Night talent show.

As participants of the Buddy Walk on Washington, Elena, her mom, and her aunt learned how to advocate with New Mexico’s congressional delegation for important issues coming before our lawmakers. They met with Senator Tom Udall, Senator Martin Heinrich, and Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, as well as with staff members of each of them and with staff members of Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham and Congressman Steve Pearce. At these meetings, they discussed the ABLE Act improvement bills and adequate Medicaid funding for people with disabilities. The highlight of Elena’s trip to Capitol Hill was meeting Congressman Lujan. They really hit it off, with Elena sharing her love of singing and beat-boxing with a demonstration. She was able to share with him her ambition to “live in a house by myself, without my mom because she is too overprotective and worries too much about me”. Congressman Lujan replied that was what he wanted when he was 16 years old too. Elena, who is taking a government class, was able to experience first-hand how the federal government works.

The group was also able to stay in Washington before and after the event and took in many of the sights of the area, including Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, two Smithsonian museums, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (where money is made!), the National Archives, the Library of Congress and many monuments and memorials. For Elena, the highlights included the actual Star-Spangled Banner, the Declaration of Independence and the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.”

-Gay Romero

We are so happy that we were able to provide a scholarship for Elena, Gay, and Hope to have this experience thanks to the Buddy Walk® this past year! If you are interested in this opportunity, we offer scholarship every year for Down syndrome conferences that happen around the nation. This is a great time to network, learn new skills on advocating, and be apart of history on capitol hill. This scholarship is open to individuals with Down syndrome and their family. More information for next year’s scholarship opportunities to come. Keep a lookout, or call the office for more information.

The Down Syndrome Foundation 5th Annual Educational Workshop

When: Friday July 21
Where: Roswell Convention Center
Time: 8-4pm
Registration: FREE

If you work with children in any way this workshop is for you!

You will hear form Stacy Taylor, MA, B.C.B.A who is the President of the Advance Behavior & Learning and Advance Learning Academy. You will also hear from Jill Tatz, MA who is a retired director of the congregation B’nai Israel Preschool.

Come out to learn new strategies, network, and share the passion of changing lives with others in your community!

Visit our website to register at dsfsenm.org or call the office at 575-622-1099

Stacy Taylor, MA, B.C.B.A
Jill Tatz, MA
The Down Syndrome Foundation of Southeastern New Mexico is a 501(c)3, not for profit organization. It was started by a grassroots parent group in 2007. Its goals are to encourage and advocate on behalf of individuals with Down syndrome and their families. It does this by providing support for families, educators, and medical professionals as they support those with Down syndrome in southeastern New Mexico. Find out how you can help, call 575-622-1099 or visit our website at http://www.dsfsenm.org/

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