Annual Report 2017

Moving Forward
One Step at a Time…
Board of Directors

Carol Cunningham, President
Cindy Blanco, Vice President
Jerolyn Wagner, Treasurer
Joelle Johnston, Secretary
Mike Romero, Member at Large
Allen Ayers, 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 raise awareness, provide support, and advocate on behalf of all people with Down syndrome and their families. We do this by providing family services, community awareness and providing educational programs to families, professionals, and the community at large. Our goal is to help individuals with Down syndrome and their families reach any goal they dream.

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 (Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Dona Ana, Eddy, Lincoln, Lea, Otero, and Roosevelt) in southeastern New Mexico. However, individuals from all over the state and even into west Texas often participate in our events.

The total population for this area is approximately 563,945 meaning there are approximately 816 individuals with Down syndrome who need support in southeastern New Mexico.

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.
From the President

Dear DSF Members,

This year has blown by so quickly! Cooking classes in both Roswell and Artesia, swim lessons, bike camp, Educational Workshops, our very first Medical Conference, movie dates, Santa Breakfast in both Roswell and Artesia, Golfing with First Tee, and finally the 13th Annual Buddy Walk®. It was a beautiful day at the Zoo, good food, fun things to do and lots of great people to celebrate our Advocates. And how about that dance party at the Family Dinner the night before the walk! It was a great theme this year....ready to start planning next year!

A huge thanks to Bethany and Norrissa for their hard work and for best Volunteer ever, Miss Iris who keeps the office organized and makes sure that Bethany and Norrissa stay on task. ☺ A lot goes on behind the scenes for any activity that the foundation sponsors. A great big thanks to Kathy Latimer and the Assisteens for their help in almost every activity we have during the year. All of our financial sponsors, most notably Toyota and Sam’s Club, please let them know as advocates or family or friend of advocates, that you appreciate their help. The Board of Directors: Cindy Blanco (Vice President), Mike Romero, Jerolyn Wagner (Treasurer), Joelle Johnston (Secretary and BW Chairman), Nick Nanz, Allen Ayers, and Andrew Lewis (Self Advocate)

Please feel comfortable coming to the office. There is a lending library and room for therapies. The ladies have access to experts and associations that DSFSENM belong to that should be able answer questions that you may have.

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 newsletters which is now being sent out electronically, and other information through the mail. We send out numerous emails to those who have shared their email address, and we are on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. 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 expectant families and new to the foundation with resources quickly is at the heart of our mission. We either provide a new baby gift basket or backpack for older children complete with resource materials about raising 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 2017 we were so happy to be able to host the 5th Annual Educational Workshop. This was only possible with the grant provided by the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, United Way of Chaves County, and the Armstrong Clark Foundation. We hosted the one-day event at the Roswell Civic Center. We had 240 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 Stacy Taylor, Jill Tatz, and Dakota Johns (self-advocate motivational speaker). The 6th 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 if that is something that the family wants. Other opportunities like the Buddy Walk® on Washington, 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, are funded through scholarships for families to go.
Projects, Programs & Events

SENM Buddy Walk®
The 13th annual Buddy Walk has come and gone and planning for the 14th annual Buddy Walk is well underway! We have been so blessed and were able to reap the many years of hard work as we watched the 13th year of celebrating unfold. We had 1000+ 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 $5,056 with our 2nd place team, Cason’s Tribe, raising $4,116. Gabriel’s Road Warriors took 1st place with most walkers at 173 and coming in 2nd was Cason’s Tribe with 97 walkers. Mark your calendar now for the 2018 SENM Buddy Walk® Oct 20th.

Health & Wellness including Summer Therapy
In 2017 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 collaborated with First Tee of Southeastern NM to have golf camp and hosted cooking classes in both Roswell and Artesia for our teen/adult self-advocates. Handwriting without Tears was provided for school age self-advocates during the summer. Providing new services and growing existing programs is at the heart of our mission.

Special Events
With a variety of special events, 2017 was no disappointment. We had many who helped make these events special. Thanks to the Roswell Eagles as they again hosted our 2017 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. 2017 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: decorating for and hosting the Buddy Walk® family dinner along with helping with cooking classes.
Projects, Programs & Events

Website & Social Media

Social media is a great 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 1151. 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. Continuing with Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest, we have added mass text messaging as an option for our families to stay in touch and be easily reminded of events and updates from the DSFSENM. This has made our connection even greater with our families, supporters, and friends.

Medical Out-Reach

This year we hosted a medical conference that brought families together to hear and learn up to date information regarding medical practices and options for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. This idea brought Dr. Dennis McGuire Ph.D. and Dr. Peter Bulova M.D. to Roswell to share research, information, and knowledge that they have between them for our families to advocate for themselves to their medical providers. 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. We plan to host another medical conference in 2019. This was only made possible from funding provided by Con Alma Health Foundation, United Way of Chaves County, The Armstrong Clark Foundation and Global Down Syndrome Foundation.
2017 Finances

**INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buddy Walk</td>
<td>$53,047.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$17,079.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$51.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL INCOME** $104,178.28

**EXPENSE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$28,074.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards &amp; Support</td>
<td>$4,467.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing</td>
<td>$53,583.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>$9,917.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$8,803.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>$930.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>$3,950.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$15,112.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSE** $124,839.05

2017 NET ORDINARY INCOME $-20,660.77
Statistics

Membership
In 2017 our membership has grown once again. At the start of 2017, thanks to volunteer Iris Watson who took the time to work on our database, we cleaned up our database once again and have 146 self-advocates in our membership. This does not include the numerous grandparents and extended families that have joined our membership. Currently we have a mailing list of over 1000.

Contributors
Each year the DSF is blessed to be supported by so many generous people. 2017 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, 2017 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 at the BW, we are also seeing more participation from self-advocates in the programs we provide. Also, cooking classes have been a huge hit and each session that we hold has maxed out! We are excited to continue providing programs for self-advocates and can’t wait to see what 2018 brings.

Volunteers
None of this is possible without the countless volunteers that have helped make everything we do possible. In 2017 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.

PO Box 4365, Roswell, NM 88202
PH: 575.622.1099
www.dsfsenm.org
info@dsfsenm.org