Each year the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) hosts a convention for people from across the globe to attend to hear the latest information from world-renowned experts in Down syndrome and for a great vacation with like minded and relatable families. It has become a “giant family reunion” for some. With so much to learn and do, this event has become a favorite for our families in Southeastern New Mexico.

There are so many different opportunities for each member in the family. Parents will learn from the best experts on their knowledge, across all ages, of individuals with Down syndrome. Self-advocates join together with over 300 friends from across the world to learn, share, and become empowered. Siblings join other peers and learn from each other as well as from professionals. There are camps for the littles (ages birth to 14), workshops for young adults, dances, advocacy training, co-occurring DS and autism spectrum disorders workshops, adult siblings workshops, and so much more!

This 4 day convention is packed with fun, friends, and information that we at the Down Syndrome Foundation of Southeastern New Mexico truly believe helps. We are very blessed to be able to provide scholarships for 12 families to attend this convention. We are able to do this thanks to our Buddy Walk® sponsors and a grant funded by the Armstrong–Clark Foundation. This scholarship is open to all families in our service area that stretches across 9 counties in Southeastern New Mexico.

If you are interested in attending next year’s convention and would like to apply for a scholarship from the DSF-SENM, please keep a lookout at the beginning of 2019 for scholarship information and deadline. We are very passionate about sending families to this convention so that our community can have as much knowledge and information to be able to advocate for themselves and for their family members with Down syndrome.
World Down Syndrome Day 2018

What is World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD)?
WDSD is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012 on March 21 (3/21). 3/21 symbolizes the 3rd copy of the 21st chromosome.

WDSD History
On December 19 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 21st as WDSD to be observed every year and invites all Member States relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe WDSD in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of Down Syndrome.
(www.worlddownsyndromeday.org)

What the DSF is doing on this day!
Roswell- Join us on this day to celebrate and raise awareness for Down syndrome. Stop by Classics from 1-5pm as we answer an questions about WDSD and the Down Syndrome Foundation of SENM.
Bethany and Norrissa would love for our families to join us at the following locations in honor of WDSD to enjoy dessert with us! There are many families that we have not seen in a while and families that we have yet to meet. Please come and hang out with us!

*All locations will be from 6-7:30pm*
Ruidoso– 3/19 @ TCBY
Artesia– 3/22 @ Henry’s BBQ
Clovis– 3/26 @ Bahama Buck’s
Hobbs– 3/29 @ Cherry Berry

First Tee Golf Camp Roswell
We’ve partnered with First tee to bring back golf camp! Registration will open soon to participate. Golf camp will run June 5th thru 7th. Times are TBD.

First Tee has established 9 core value that represent some of the many inherently positive values connected with the game of golf. These core values are:

- Confidence
- Responsibility
- Perseverance
- Courtesy
- Judgment
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Sportsmanship
- Respect

DSF Classifieds
The DSF is looking for new and friendly faces to serve on our Board of Directors! We are looking for board members with fundraising skills, networking skills, fresh ideas, and commitment to the DSF.

If you are interested please contact Bethany Johnston (Executive Director) at 575-622-1099.

The DSF is looking for a qualified swim instructor to teach our group swim camp during the month of July. Camp consists of groups of like aged children who want to learn basics in water safety and skills. Ages are from 6 weeks to adults. If you are interested in this position please contact the office at 575-622-1099. Thank you in advance.
Global Down Syndrome Foundation
Medical Care Guidelines for Adults with Down syndrome

The Global Down Syndrome Foundation is an organization that dedicates their work to improving the lives of individuals with Down syndrome through research, medical care, education, and advocacy. Most of their focus is to support the Linda Crnic Institute for Down syndrome, the first academic home in the U.S. committed to research and medical care for individuals with Down syndrome. Since Down syndrome is the least funded genetic condition, fundraising and advocacy to correct this disparity of national funding for people with Down syndrome is high on the priority list for The Global Down Syndrome Foundation.

The Global Down Syndrome Foundation will produce and publish Medical Care Guidelines for Adults with Down syndrome. The guidelines will be a community resource with help from Down syndrome organizations around the country and vetted by the national clearing house for healthcare guidelines. Many Down syndrome organizations, including the Down Syndrome Foundation of SENG, have donated, and supported this amazing work. The donations help offset the costs associated with publishing guidelines. With the help of Down syndrome medical experts and professionals the guidelines will be written over an 18 month period. Once competed the guidelines will be offered at no costs to self-advocates, physicians, caretakers, family members, and any Down syndrome organizations locally, regionally, and nationally.

2001 was when the most recent guidelines were publish and the 15 years since have shown major advancements in individuals with Down syndrome. For example, the life expectancy of individuals with Down syndrome has more than doubled since 1983 from 25 years to 60 years today. With this advancement the Down syndrome community faces new challenges such as dementia and Alzheimer’s which are estimated to affect over 50% of the Down syndrome population at a younger age than the typical population. “These guidelines are something that has been needed for a long time. There are current guidelines for children with Down syndrome but not for adults. The older our guys get the more we have to learn about their health. We want their life expectancy to keep growing and this cannot happen without this research and without correct care being given to not only children with Down syndrome but also adults with Down syndrome.” -Bethany Johnston Executive Director of the DSFSENM.

The DSFSENM Advances Local Down Syndrome Community with New Knowledge and Resources from National

Members of the DSFSENM attended the Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action’s (DSAIA) Annual Leadership Conference in Denver Feb. 22-25, 2018. The Conference brings together hundreds of Down syndrome support leaders and professionals for education and networking to help local nonprofit organizations better support individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

The DSFSENM is one of more than 60 organizations that sent representatives to the event, which was sponsored by Global Down Syndrome Foundation, ds-connex, and Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association. DSAIA is a national trade association composed of 83 Down syndrome support organizations form across the country. The Down syndrome community has unique and specialized needs. Being in the company of other Down syndrome leaders and their knowledge and experiences allows us to provide more relevant and meaningful programs and resources to the local communities that we serve.

Deanna Tharpe, DSAIA Executive Director, states “it’s a priority to grow the capabilities of local and regional Down syndrome organizations and create a unified effort to increase the acceptance of and opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome. She adds that DSAIA “supports Down syndrome affiliates through a growing library of programs and materials, regular training webinars throughout the year, and using DSAIA’s economies of scale to broker benefits for local groups.”

This is the 12th year for the conference, in which national nonprofits experts and affiliate leaders shared research, successful programs and operational and development tools. More information about DSAIA can be found by visiting www.dsaia.org.

About DSAIA
DSAIA is a national trade association and membership organization that serves local and regional Down syndrome affiliates and their leaders. It’s mission is to help its members develop their organizational capacity which through collaboration, resource sharing, resource sharing, and networking. DSAIA’s winter leadership conference is the hallmark annual event attended by the Down syndrome community’s top leaders and influencers form around the world.
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/

Eric Michael Lopez

Eric Michael Lopez is 2 years old. He has 6 older sisters and a baby brother. Eric loves to play outside and travel. His favorite things to do are to play with his toys, play with his sisters and brother, watch Elmo’s world, and Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. His favorite food is spaghetti. Some of Eric’s accomplishments was being potty trained by 7 months and walking before he was 2. Eric is such a blessing to all his family and friends, there isn’t a time that he goes out and doesn’t put a smile on people’s faces. He has such a personality and is full of so much love.