



What's Up!

Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana

Volume 13, Issue 2

February 2010

Our Mission

The Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana is a non-profit organization of families and interested persons working to improve the quality of life for those individuals having Down syndrome.

Our Vision

Our vision is to foster understanding, acceptance and inclusion of persons with Down syndrome which will give them the greatest opportunities to realize their aspirations and enjoy independent and productive lives.

DSA of NWI Educational Meeting with Speaker: Karen Prisby, M.A., CCC-SLP

Addressing Speech Disorders in Infants, Children and Young Adults with Down Syndrome

Thursday, March 11

7:00 PM

**Indiana Wesleyan University
8415 Georgia, Merrillville**

RSVP - 838-3656 by March 9th

This free educational meeting is offered to parents/caregivers of loved-ones with Down syndrome of all ages as well as any interested professionals. It should last approximately 1 hour, which includes lecture time, question and answer period and ends with socialization and refreshments. If you have requests for specific topics or speakers, please call the DSA office or email dsa@dsaofnwi.org.

Karen received her Masters of Speech and Language Pathology from Northwestern University. Her experience includes working with preschool and school-aged children as well as young adults who exhibit specific language difficulties, apraxia and spectrum disorders. Infant and preschool feeding disorders is an area of special interest and her experience includes providing diagnostic and treatment services for infants with feeding difficulties.

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DSA of NWI

Talent and Fashion Show

Friday, March 26th

6:00—9:30 PM

**St. James Parish Hall
9640 Kennedy, Highland**

Doors open at 5:30 PM, Show starts Promptly at 6:00 PM

Only 30 Fashion Show and 15 Talent Show slots available—sign up today!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE, MARCH 5TH

Please call us at 838-3656 and we can mail, fax or email you another copy of the sign-up form if you need one.

To proudly showcase the abilities of our loved ones with disabilities during Disabilities Awareness Month, the Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana will host a combination Talent and Fashion Show. This awareness event is open to individuals with any disability.

Interested in Modeling? Do you do Magic or a Puppet Show. Can you Twirl or Tumble? Can you Sing, Juggle, Play an Instrument, Dance or Tell a Joke? Then sign up today!

Individuals participating in the Fashion Show will model their own favorite clothing. Magic Cuts salon in East Chicago has offered to do hair and makeup for free at their salon on Friday before the event for interested participants. Call (219)397-7437 for info and appointment.

Those who need specific music for the Talent Show will need to bring their CD to the DSA office at least one week before the event.

March Birthdays



Name	Date	Name	Date
Kristina P.	2	Jamerson B.	21
Trey W.	2	Amanda G.	21
Dennis T.	3	Jake K.	21
Christopher D.	4	Timothy K.	21
Chase F.	9	Jacob P.	21
Bernardo L.	9	Cameron H.	24
Deborah E.	10	Nicholas B.	28
Riley E.	13	Daniel B.	29
Jessica B.	17	Nathan M.	29
Xavier R.	17	Maile H.	30
Colleen C.	19	Thomas K.	31

Waiver Funding Dries Up!

IMPORTANT WAIVER INFORMATION

Because funding is no longer available for Support Services Waivers, you may be interested in attending the IPMG's Merrillville Chapter of Powerful Parents and Consumers Network meetings below. If you can't commit to attending all 3, paperwork from those you miss will be made available through the Chapter.

February 25, 2010, Learning About Waivers, Part 1 of 3: What is a waiver? How did they start? Come learn the story that started it all.

March 25, 2010, Learning About Waivers, Part 2 of 3: Services and what they mean. Learn about services seldom utilized.

April 22, 2010, Learning About Waivers, Part 3 of 3: Understand your budgets, learn to read a Notice of Action.

Merrillville Chapter meets from 6:15PM to 7:30PM the fourth Thursday of every month at Indiana Wesleyan University, 8415 Georgia Street, Merrillville, IN. For further information about this chapter please call Rich Wherry at (866) 672-IPMG (4764) x257 or contact at: r.wherry@gotoipmg.com

January Donations

We would like to thank the following individuals, organizations and businesses for their generous donations. All gifts are greatly appreciated and assist the DSA of NWI with fulfilling its mission.

General Donations

Knights of Columbus, Hammond
Psi Iota Xi, Zeta Pi Chapter



Family Banquet and Awards Night

Save the Date!

May 16, 2010

1:00 PM

The Croatian Center

8550 Broadway, Merrillville, IN

Details and Nomination Form will be mailed to you in March.



Want to be a Board Member?

Are you interested in becoming a DSA of NWI Board Member? There has been some misinformation spread regarding the duties of our Board Members. Please call the DSA office at (219) 838-3656 today to find out what's really involved.

Positions will be filled at the next General Meeting—our Awards Banquet—on Sunday, May 16th, 2010.

Duties include:

- Attending at least 75% of Board meetings.
- Being available for telephone consultation and regularly checking and responding to emails.
- Co-chairing at least one event, fundraiser or activity.

Westlake Coop Workshop

Siblings are Special Too! March 6, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Dyer/Schererville Library, Kelly Gomez & Lucy DiMichele, School Social Workers. Free WestLake Workshops are open to the public & do not require registration.

For more info, see Westlake's website at: www.westlake.lcsc.us.



Gary Southshore RailCats

vs

Kansas City T-Bones

Friday, July 9th

Gates Open 6 PM—Game Begins at 7 PM

Fireworks Night!

We are pleased to announce that we have reserved a block of 75 seats for the July 9th Railcats Game.

Tickets for individuals with Down syndrome who are currently on our mailing list will be paid for by the DSA of NWI. Additional tickets for family and friends may be reserved with your advanced payment of \$9.00 each.

Seats will be assigned on a first come/first served basis. If you wish to attend, please complete the attached reservation and return to us along with a check for the full amount of your order. You will receive your tickets in the mail after June 28th.

RailCats Ticket Reservation Form

Tickets will be distributed and seats assigned on a first come/first served basis. If you would like to attend, complete this form and mail with a check for the full amount of your order made payable to DSA of NWI to:

DSA of NWI—RailCats

2927 Jewett Avenue

Highland, IN 46322

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number (____) _____

Total # children/adults with Down syndrome: _____ \$FREE

Total number of additional tickets: _____ x \$9.00= \$_____

**Open Enrollment for Private, State Licensed
Preschool/Daycare Program Designed for Children
with Developmental Disabilities including Physical,
Occupational and Speech Therapies**

Center for Possibilities is accepting applications for enrollment in their Preschool & Daycare Program for children age 2-5 with moderate to severe disabilities. The mission of Center for Possibilities is to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Preschool Program seeks to assist each student with functioning to the best of their ability in the areas of gross motor, fine motor and communication skills while also preparing each student for their elementary education. Each Preschool Student enrolled in the program receives aggressive, developmental focused individual Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy. The program operates year round, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 1:45 pm. Full Time and Part Time spots are now available. The building and classrooms are wheelchair accessible and adaptive equipment is available on site. A hot nutritious lunch and snacks are provided. Cost is \$5.00 a day, which includes 5 ½ hours of preschool and daycare, services, snacks and hot lunch, and individual physical, speech and occupational therapy. A scholarship program is available for families that qualify. Limited spots are available and are filled on a first come, first served basis. Center for Possibilities is a not-for-profit center that is licensed by the State of Indiana, a Paths to Quality Provider and has been operating for 50 years. **Contact Michelle Higel at (219) 962-5751 to schedule a tour.** Center for Possibilities is located at 22 Tyler Ave, Hobart, Indiana and is a recipient agency of Lake Area United Way.

**Free
Developmental
Screenings**

**Friday, February 26,
2010 10:30 am- 12:30 pm
Opportunity Enterprises' All About Kids
Offices 3101 Evans Avenue,
Valparaiso**

The developmental specialists of All About kids, the Early Intervention program of Opportunity Enterprises, are offering free developmental screenings for children birth to 3 years of age. If further evaluation is needed, children will be referred to Northwest Indiana First Steps. To schedule an appointment, call (219) 462-0786.

**Down Syndrome
Association of Northwest
Indiana**



2927 Jewett Avenue
Highland, IN 46322

Phone: 219-838-3656
Fax: 219-838-6959

E-mail: dsa@dsaofnwi.org

Office Hours:

Monday 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Wednesday 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Thursday 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Sometimes our work takes us out of the office—please call before coming. Other hours available by appointment.

We're on the web!

www.dsaofnwi.org

It's easy to make a donation at www.dsaofnwi.org



Mark Your Calendars

February 25—IPMG's Learning about Waivers Part 1 of 3, 6:15 PM. See Page 2.

March 11 —DSA of NWI Educational Meeting, Addressing Speech Disorders in Infants, Children and Young Adults. Speaker: Karen Prisby, See Page 1.

March 15—Family and Friends Together's Respite and Supported Living: Joshua Bougie and Jennifer Fraley.6:30 p.m, at Opportunity Enterprises: 2801 Evans Ave, Valparaiso. Contact: Marie Kubina at (219) 464-9621, ext. 305.

March 25—IPMG's Learning about Waivers Part 2 of 3, 6:15 PM. See Page 2.

March 26 —DSA of NWI Talent and Fashion Show. See Page 1.

March 27—CSRI Easter Egg Hunt 10 am at Community Park in Munster. \$3 in advance at Munster Town Hall or \$5 on-site starting at 9:30am. Call (219) 836-7275

March—DSA of NWI Bowling Event. Details to be determined.

April 22—IPMG's Learning about Waivers Part 1 of 3, 6:15 PM. See Page 2.

May 16—DSA of NWI Awards Banquet at The Croatian Center, 8550 Taft Street, Merrillville, IN 46410.

July 9—DSA of NWI's Railcats Night. Ticket Order Form and Details on Page 3.

July 16-18—38th Annual NDSC Convention, Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Walt Disney World, Florida. For more information or reservations, go to www.ndsccenter.org or call toll free—1-800-232-NDSC.

Sunday, August 1st—DSA of NWI Picnic. Details to be announced.

Sunday, October 10—DSA of NWI Buddy Walk. Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN.

About Photos

On occasion, we may take photos or video of participants in programs and events or of people attending them. Please be aware that these may be used in future publications, in the DSA of NWI website at www.dsaofnwi.org, be submitted to local newspapers, or for local public access. We also welcome the local press to cover our activities and grant them permission for the same.

