



May 2018 Newsletter

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Spotlight On



Wednesday, May 9th, is Seattle Foundation's GIVEBIG 2018.

GIVEBIG Seattle is a one day online giving event to raise funds for nonprofit organizations serving the Greater Seattle area. In 2017, donors raised \$19 million for local nonprofits - bringing the seven-year combined total to just under \$100 million! The **DSC** would love your support during the GIVEBIG 2018 event, so we thought

GiveBIG - Donate Today

Today's the day! Please consider making a donation to the DSC during the Seattle area's biggest day of giving.

Click [HERE](#) to visit our GiveBIG page and make a donation.

All donations to the DSC help support our mission to provide impactful programs and resources for individuals with Down syndrome and their families while evolving perceptions in the broader community.

Thank you for your support.



Photo credit: Jenny Campbell

GIVEBIG2018

"For the past 10 years, the DSC has been a warm, welcoming community for our family. The DSC has offered us countless opportunities to meet other families who have children with Down syndrome in both social and educational settings. We are truly grateful for everything the DSC does for the Down syndrome community." ~Sara Eizen

Spring Fling and Annual Meeting Follow-up

A big THANK YOU to all those who made it to our Spring Fling and Annual Meeting this past weekend. Our Cinco de Mayo - themed event was a success! A big shout-out to our amazing volunteers who were so generous with their time and talent. We also can't forget to mention the people in the Talent Show who brought down the house - **Lucas Rhyneer, Maxford Brown, the Girl Scout "Ladybug" Group (Nora Adams, Raechel Bensen, Lillie Casselman, Maddie Crow, Faith Dunn, Hannah Geiger, Anjolie Habegger, and Sarina Johansen)**, and **Frannie Ronan**. Thank you to the MC's, **Devon Adelman** and **Brian Michael**.



We also want to welcome our newest DSC board members: **Alison Friend Burchett, Matt Koch, Bao Ng** and **Jessica Voetmann**, as well as thank our out-going board members: **Courtney Criss** and **Matt Lyman**.

In case you missed the event and want to catch up on all we have accomplished in the last year and see what we have planned for the futures, you can review the presentation [HERE](#).

Save-the-Date for Upcoming DSC Events

There are a number of events coming up over the

We'd answer a few of our Frequently Asked Questions to help you get to know our organization better!

What does 'DSC' stand for?

DSC stands for Down Syndrome Community of Puget Sound. Back in 1988, a small group of parents began meeting regularly to support each other in raising a child with Down syndrome, and hence, the Down Syndrome Community was born. We recently legally added 'of Puget Sound' to give a clearer understanding of the broad community we serve. Most people familiar with our organization now just know us as the DSC. You can read the full story of the founding of the DSC on our [website](#).

What areas does the DSC serve?

The whole Puget Sound area! From Seattle to Tacoma and all the in-between. And if we can't find the resources you need, we will try to get you in touch with an organization that can.

To continue reading the *Spotlight On* article about the DSC, check out the entire [post](#) on the DSC website.

There are a number of events coming up over the next few months. Summer calendars fill up quickly so add these dates today!

DSC Summer Picnic

We hosted our first summer picnic last July and have now made it an annual event.

When: Saturday, July 16, 11 AM - 2:00 PM

Where: Town Square Park, 31600 Pete von Reichbauer Way South, Federal Way, WA 98003

21st Annual Megarama Day

Spend a day playing cowpoke with your family - horseback rides, hayrides, and lunch on the kid-friendly, expansive M-Bar-C Ranch on beautiful Whidbey Island.

When: Saturday, August 11, 2018, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Where: [M-Bar-C Ranch](#), 5264 Shore Meadow Rd, Freeland, WA

Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.

22nd Annual Puget Sound Buddy Walk

Our biggest and most popular event brings together family, friends, professionals and community leaders from across Puget Sound for a day of celebration to promote acceptance, inclusion and respect of individuals with Down syndrome.

When: Sunday, October 14, 1:00 PM

Where: Seattle Center

Check out our [Facebook](#) page for the latest information about it!

Upcoming Events:

DSC Friends Meet-Ups

*DSC Friends Meet-Ups are hosted by the DSC at no cost to you!
Please join us and have fun!*

Babies/Toddlers (ages 0-3)

Contact: Jessieca Graff at jessiecaj@gmail.com

May

Your baby or toddler is invited to enjoy one of the largest indoor play areas in Washington! The Playatorium is a "fun-filled world where play is as unlimited as your child's imagination." We hope you can join us! Please wear socks.

When: Saturday May 19th, 10:30 AM -12:30 PM

Where: [Funtastic Playatorium](#), 4077 Factoria Square Mall SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

RSVP: [Jessieca Graff](#)

Kids (ages 4-7)

Contact: Courtney Criss at courtney@downsyndromecommunity.org and Jessica Voetmann at jessica.voetmann@gmail.com

May

Kids are invited to come play in an open gym with use of all their equipment, including arts and crafts. Fun times for everyone in an inclusive gym for "all" kids. Siblings are welcome.

When: Saturday, May 12 from 2:30-3:30 PM

Where: [We Rock the Spectrum](#), 1910 132nd Ave NE Suite #7, Bellevue, WA 98005

RSVP: [Courtney Criss](#) so we can get an accurate count

Stay Connected



Tweens (ages 8-12)

Contact: Jessica Evertt at jessicaevertt@hotmail.com

May

Bowling and Pizza Party!

Back by popular demand...bowling and pizza! at the Lynnwood Bowl and Skate on Saturday May 19th from 12-2. Must RSVP to Jessica at jessicaevertt@hotmail.com or on our Tween FB page. This is a tweens only, no siblings event.

Where: [Lynnwood Bowl and Skate](#), 6210 200th St SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036



Don't forget to use AmazonSmile while doing your online shopping and support the DSC! Click [HERE](#) to start shopping.

Please check the DSC online [Events Calendar](#) regularly!

When: Saturday, May 19th, noon - 2:00 PM

RSVP: [Jessica Evertt](#) or on the DSC Friends [Tween](#) Facebook page. This is a tweens only event, no siblings event.

Teens (ages 13-19)

Contact: Kate O'Leary at kate.oleary@outlook.com

We're still working on a potential time to meet for either this month or next. Be looking for information or an event on our [DSC Friends Teen](#) Facebook page.

Interested in organizing fun teen meet-ups? Kate would love a co-leader to help her. If so, please email Kate O'Leary.

Moms' Night Out

Contact: Erika Mervin at erika@downsyndromecommunity.org

Stay tuned...be looking at the [DSC](#) Facebook page for information on our May Moms' Night Out!

DADS' Night Out

Contact: Justin Hanney at justin@hanney.net

Let's start the summer season off right with a barbecue with the DADS! We will provide the entree and a salad. Feel free to bring a beverage to share.

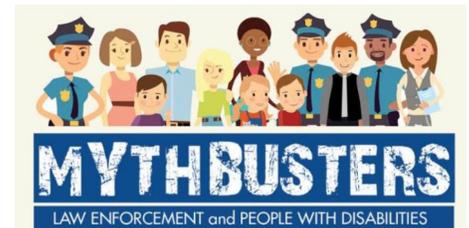
When: Saturday, May 19, 5:00 PM

Where: Justin Hanney's house in Shoreline

RSVP: justin@hanney.net or cell 425-553-7339 for address

Mythbusters - Law Enforcement and People with Disabilities

The LIFE Coalition* presents an evening of productive conversations between Law Enforcement and Disability Community in our local area. The focus is on teens and young adults with disabilities.



Do you have questions about the type of disability-related training local law enforcement officers receive? Are you curious about ways that local officers interact with parents where an officer has been called to intervene in a situation involving a son/daughter with an intellectual disability? Do you know your role in such a situation?

These are some of the topics that will be discussed with a Coalition of parents, service providers, self-advocates, police officers, and community members.

When: Wednesday, May 9, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Where: Brightwater Center, 22505 State Route 9 SE, Woodinville WA 98072

Click [HERE](#) to register.

The event is FREE but registration is required.

This event is sponsored by [My Village Northwest](#)

*LIFE Coalition = Lifetime Involvement/ Inclusion For Everyone.

Microsoft Ability Summit

Accessibility Product Expo and Disability Inclusion Job Fair



Microsoft invites the public to join them to help build external awareness around accessibility and disability inclusion as well as to provide networking opportunities. The day will kick off with David Porter, Corporate Vice President Microsoft Retail Stores, along with onstage demos that highlight how accessible technology is opening doors for everyone. Next up, join Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella and Chief Accessibility Officer Jenny Lay-Flurrie for a conversation around advancing accessible technology and the importance of inclusive design to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more.

Attendees Can Then:

- Visit the Product Expo which will showcase demos of accessibility features across our suite of products (E.g., Windows, Office, Xbox, Microsoft Research)
- Attend the Job Fair where they can connect with ~15 external companies in an informal environment where they can get their questions answered, network, and leave their resumes with employers.
- Check out an Inclusive Tech Lab which will include the latest gaming accessibility features.
- Build their own professional brand with LinkedIn. Drop by the LinkedIn booth to learn techniques on enhancing your profile and connecting with key people. Representatives will be onsite to provide 1/1 guidance on ways to optimize their profiles and even take professional head-shots!

When: Thursday, May 31, 12:30 - 4:00 PM *Doors open at 11:30 AM

Where: Microsoft Conference Center (MSCC), 16070 NE 36th Way, Building 33, Redmond, Washington 98052

This event is FREE but registration is required.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Camp Without Borders

[Camp Without Borders](#) is a free travel program for young adults (18 to 35 years old) with medical illnesses and disabilities. This inclusive program addresses issues of social, emotional and physical isolation. Participants have an opportunity to develop genuine friendships with their peers.

Camp Without Borders breaks down barriers and foster social connections by:

- Providing all programs free of charge. They recognize that cost can be a barrier to young adults with medical illnesses and disabilities accessing social programs, therefore they make our programs free for all individuals.
- Providing a platform for genuine friendships where individuals of all abilities feel safe to connect with their peers through a shared experience. Every travel program is developed and adapted to meet the social, emotional and physical needs of our groups. Participants and volunteers of the same age bracket have the opportunity to bond and leave our trips with new social networks.
- Providing an age appropriate program that is typical of any young adult. Using travel as our platform for social inclusion allows young adults with medical illnesses and disabilities to engage with their peers and explore the world. Travel is essential part of a young adults life where experiences are had and memories are made.



Next Event: Let's Get RECD at Green Lake!

When: July 14, 10 AM - 2 PM

Cost: \$0

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Down Syndrome Community of Puget Sound | 206-257-7191
www.downsyndromecommunity.org | contact@downsyndromecommunity.org