



TREASURE VALLEY  
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

# TVDSA Newsletter

## In This Issue

Happy Holidays from TVDSA!

We hope to see you at one of our two Christmas parties this year. There is something for everyone.

Please help TVDSA thank Lynda Wells for her dedication to the TVDSA board and to our families (story page 2).

Two families hit the media over the past couple months. If you missed them, please click the links to see and/or read the articles/videos. TVDSA is proud of their positive spread of awareness in our community.

The 2016 Disneyland Raffle winner shares her appreciation with pictures and recap of her vacation won at the Annual Family Picnic.

TVDSA hopes you and your family have a safe and fun holiday season! We will see you in 2017!

Monthly and archived TVDSA newsletters are available on our website at: [www.idahodownsyndrome.org](http://www.idahodownsyndrome.org) for viewing and sharing.

Newsletter Editor: [Celena Auger](#)

December 2016



## Snackin' with Santa

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

1:00pm - 4:00pm

1 Love Church

5405 S. Five Mile Boise, ID 83709.



**Lil' Buddies** and **Best Buds** are hosting **Snackin' with Santa**.

In addition to telling Santa what you want for Christmas, we will be taking pictures, doing craft projects, decorating Christmas cookies, reading Christmas stories and playing fun Christmas games. We encourage everyone to write a letter to Santa or Rudolph – there will be a special mailbox that goes straight to the North Pole!

**Gift Exchange:** We will be doing a gift exchange again this year. All children including siblings are welcome to participate, but only children that bring a gift will receive one in return. Please bring a new, wrapped gift, between \$5 and \$10 for each child that you would like to include in this exchange. We will have two different circles – one for the younger kids and one for older kids, for more appropriate gifts.

There will also be a **Christmas Raffle** for the adults (massages, gift certificates, etc.). Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or \$6 for 10. Money raised will go towards future events.

**Please text your RSVP to Danielle at 208-794-8995 by December 9<sup>th</sup>** with the number of people coming in your party to ensure that we will have enough cookies and snacks for everybody.



## Holiday Party for Cool Club & Adults in Motion



Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

1:30pm - 3:30pm

426 S Silver Bow Ave in Eagle, ID



The holiday party will include crafts, decorating Christmas cookies and a gift exchange. Families are welcome. TVDSA will provide snacks and drinks. For the **gift exchange**, please bring a new, wrapped gift around \$5 for each person that would like to participate in the exchange.

Please text [Brenda Taylor](#) at 208-724-5226 by December 15<sup>th</sup> to let her know the number in your party so we can plan enough snacks and crafts for everybody.

## TVDSA Calendar of Events

### December 6<sup>th</sup>:

**TVDSA Board Meeting**  
7:00pm at A New Leaf.  
Contact: [Kristie Yerger](#)

### December 10<sup>th</sup>:

**Best Buds & Lil' Buddies:**  
Snackin' with Santa 1:00pm-  
4:00pm at 1 Love Church, Boise  
Contact: [Danielle Williams](#)

### December 17<sup>th</sup>:

**Adults in Motion and Cool Club**  
Holiday Party & Gift Exchange  
1:30pm-3:30pm at Taylor's House  
in Eagle  
Contact: [Brenda Taylor](#)

### February 6<sup>th</sup>:

**TVDSA Family Meeting**  
6:30pm-8:30pm at North End  
Collective Church Topic: What  
Every Parent Needs to Know  
about Assistive Technology  
Contact: [Charmaine Thoner](#)



## Holidays are a time for giving Thanks... TVDSA would like to Thank Lynda Wells!

The Treasure Valley Down Syndrome Association was formed in 1982, as a vision of Billie Paetel and other parents of children with Down syndrome to help build a bridge over the chasm of fear, despair, prejudice and the unknown that parents face as they begin on their path with their new baby.

Lynda Wells was recruited in 1988 to be part of the new parent support organization for families with loved ones with Down syndrome. Lynda helped TVDSA become incorporated in 1992 and received its advanced ruling as a 501 (c) (3) organization in 1993. With her help, the Treasure Valley Down Syndrome Association is the longest running parent organization in Idaho.

Lynda served TVDSA from 1988-2016, initially as the board Treasurer and then as Board Advisor. During her 28 years on the board, TVDSA has grown, but the purpose to provide support and share information with other families has continued the same. Lynda has been an integral part of organizing the Annual Family Picnic for the past 30+ years. For everyone that has attended the annual picnic, you know that it is a time of celebration, great conversation, and fun for all ages of kids.

Lynda and LaVar Wells are proud parents of 8 children, their youngest, Colleen is the reason for their passion for TVDSA. Lynda's daughter was born in 1983 with Down syndrome. Colleen loves to dance and lights up a room with her smile! Lynda has shared, "Colleen has contributed to her personal growth more than any other person in her life."

Recently, Lynda chose to step away from the TVDSA board, but she will always be an inspiration to many. She has set some high standards for board members to carry on. Lynda juggled many responsibilities for a long time, and we are privileged by her dedication for so many years. We know and understand her need to refocus on her immediate family, but hope she knows her TVDSA family will always be here when she needs help.



- TVDSA Current and Past Board Members





## 2016 Disneyland Raffle Winner Gives Thanks

TVDSA,

I wanted to write a brief summary of our Disneyland Trip! I have also attached two pictures of our trip.

Thank-you so much Treasure Valley Down Syndrome Association for the wonderful trip to Disneyland! This was a much needed trip and a blessing to my husband and I as he is recovering from cancer and treatment he received earlier this year. My husband and I also celebrated our 27th Wedding Anniversary our last day there.

We invited close friends whom we had not seen in five years for this Disneyland Package that included a party of four people. Our friends flew to Boise from Arkansas and we all flew together to the John Wayne Airport in Orange County. The Disneyland Express Bus arrived shortly after we did and drove us to the Disneyland Hotel Resort for our seven day stay. The room was nice and we loved the special effect headboard that played music and lit up like fireworks over Disneyland. It served as a nightlight! The housekeepers were wonderful and accommodating.

We had three day Hopper Passes to Disneyland and California Adventure. We enjoyed taking our time walking throughout the parks and we all especially enjoyed the Soarin' Over California in California Adventure Park. Our friends rented a car and we were able to visit Laguna Beach, Newport Beach, and Huntington Beach. We enjoyed getting in the ocean and sand at Laguna Beach and it was spectacular to see the Air Force Thunderbirds flying over Huntington Beach. We also enjoyed some other sites in the area. We went to the Aquarium of the Pacific and the Los Angeles Zoo.

The Treasure Valley Down Syndrome Association is awesome! Thanks again!

Kind Regards,  
Karla Gerleve



### Treasure Valley father believes in 'Include-ability' for son with Down syndrome

Did you catch the October Idaho Statesman's story about Trace & Anthony Dandrea and the magic that happens when kids of abilities do sports together?

[View and read more here.](#)



### Bishop Kelly football team embraces boy with special needs

Did you catch the KTVB Channel 7 story about Moses Briley and the Bishop Kelly Football team?

[Click here](#) for the video and story.





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## Social Groups Page

### Lil' Buddies & Santa Pictures!

Attention Lil' Buddies (ages 0-6): you are invited to a special, professional photo session with Santa and Mrs. Clause at Charisse Mack's home where professional photographers will capture your special moment meeting Santa and transfer it onto a digital file that will be paid for by TVDSA.

Please arrive at 3:30pm to see the grand entrance at 4:00pm on Saturday, **December 10<sup>th</sup>** at 335 East Shafer View Dr. in Meridian.

Please RSVP to Charisse Mack at 208-867-0482 or contact Danielle Williams at 208-794-8995 for questions.



### Christmas Holiday Art Camp for Kids

December 29-30<sup>th</sup> and  
January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
10:00am-1:00pm

For School-age kids of all abilities!

A \$20 one-time non-refundable fee for supplies is required, Scholarships are available via [heather@ipulidaho.org](mailto:heather@ipulidaho.org)

### Best Buds & Lil' Buddies

**Best Buds** and **Lil' Buddies** will be having **Snackin' with Santa** on Saturday, **December 10<sup>th</sup>** from **1:00pm-4:00pm** at 1 Love Church located at 5405 S. Five Mile Boise, ID 83709.

We will be decorating sugar cookies, playing marshmallow toss, doing some crafts projects, there will be a puzzle table and an area to read Christmas books. You can tell Santa what you want for Christmas.

We encourage everybody to bring a **letter for Santa** that will be returned to you with a reply from Santa (or if you prefer Rudolph). Please make sure you put your return address on the envelope so he can get it back to you quickly. There will be a special mailbox going straight to the North Pole.

Bring cameras - you can take a **picture with Santa**, and I hear he has a little something for all the kids.

We will be having a **gift exchange** open to all the children. Each child



participating will need to bring a new, wrapped present, valued between \$5 and \$10, for each child participating. We'll have 2 different circles this year one for younger kids and one for older kids. For more age appropriate gifts.

And don't forget about our **Christmas Raffle**, there are lots of prizes to win this year. Tickets will be sold for \$2 each or 6 for \$10. We are selling tickets now so feel free to contact Danielle Williams to get your tickets early. We have some great prizes!

RSVPs are encouraged to ensure enough food for everybody. Last year, we started a "nice list" for Santa Claus. If you would like your child's name on the list, and weren't at our last event, please make sure to send me their name, so they are included.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact [Danielle Williams](#) or call: 208-794-8995.



### Cool Club & Adults in Motion

**Cool Club** and **Adults in Motion** will have a **Holiday Party** on Saturday, **December 17<sup>th</sup>** from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. This will be held at George and Brenda Taylor's house at 426 S Silver Bow Ave in Eagle, ID. The holiday party will include crafts, decorating Christmas cookies and a gift exchange. Families or a guest are welcome. TVDSA will provide snacks and drinks.

For the **gift exchange**, please bring a new, wrapped gift around \$5 for each person that would like to participate in the exchange.

Please text Brenda by December 15<sup>th</sup> to let her know the number in your party so we can plan enough snacks and crafts for everybody.

For more information about Cool Club or AIM, please contact [Brenda Taylor](#) by email or text/phone: 208-724-5226.

## Conferences, Workshops, Webinars & TVDSA Scholarship Information

### IPUL Workshop

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
from 6:00pm-9:00pm  
at Idaho Parents Unlimited  
4619 W. Emerald, Ste. E, Boise

#### Topic: Stop Spinning Your Wheels- Advocacy and Coordination Skills for Your Child's Special Health Care Needs

You will learn about the patient-centered, comprehensive, coordinated approach to health care for children and youth with special health care needs. Participants will be given tools to identify their particular needs and how to talk with their child's providers to ensure a system of coordinated care. Parents will also be given information and training on what "advocacy" means, learn the skills necessary to be an effective advocate, and what additional resources they may need and where to go for more information.

Please RSVP with Jennifer.

To contact IPUL: 208-342-5884 or  
[parents@ipulidaho.org](mailto:parents@ipulidaho.org)

### 2017 Idaho Miss Amazing, February 10-11<sup>th</sup>

#### NEW EXCITING FORMAT COMING IN 2017 Two days. Three shows. One celebration.

Miss Amazing offers exciting opportunities for girls and women 5 and older to explore their potential and enhance their strengths.

Now accepting applications for 2017 Half Day Volunteers, Buddy Volunteers, Participants and Right Hand Men (limited to 15).

**Application deadline Dec. 31, 2016**

<http://www.idmissamazing.com/>

### TVDSA Scholarships

Did you know that TVDSA supports members in gathering information at local and national conferences and/or workshops?

The TVDSA Scholarship program is NOT income based, so all TVDSA members are eligible.

Please see our [Scholarship application](#) for the guidelines and how to apply today.

### JRD Kids' Fit for Life Day Camp

January 14, 2017  
9:00am-12:15pm  
Cost: \$20.00

Individuals with Down syndrome, ages 8-15yrs. are invited to join us for a day of team building, fitness classes, sports skills, nutrition fun and friendship building. Please pre-register by Wednesday January 11, 2016 to guarantee your child a spot.

Camp will be held at the Jerome Recreation District  
For more info on this camp call Amy at  
208-324-3389.



## Interested in Helping TVDSA? Here are some current openings to volunteer:



- **TVDSA Board Members:** Seeking two individuals willing to serve on the board, meet once a month, and help advance TVDSA's mission. For more information, please contact [Kristie Yerger](#).
- **Lil' Buddies Coordinator:** Interested in organizing 6-8 activities / gatherings during the year for children ages 0-5 and their families? Please contact [Andrew Kopping](#).
- **Adults in Motion Coordinator:** Interested in helping organize 6-8 activities / gatherings throughout the year for adults with Down syndrome? Please contact [Andrew Kopping](#).
- **Fundraising Committee:** TVDSA needs volunteers to help brainstorm new fundraising ideas and implement them in 2017. Interested? Please contact: [Reme Echevarria](#).
- **Technology Committee:** TVDSA needs volunteers to participate in a Technology committee. If you are a professional technology expert or just a self-made techie, we can use your input. If you are interested please contact [George Taylor](#).
- **Golf Tournament Committee:** TVDSA will be hosting another Golf Tournament in 2017 and needs volunteers to help organize the event. If you are interested please contact [George Taylor](#).



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PO Box 1404  
Meridian, Idaho 83680  
(208) 954-7448

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.idahodownsyndrome.org](http://www.idahodownsyndrome.org)

Check us out on  
[Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

## Just in time for the Holidays! 2017 TVDSA Calendar

The 2017 TVDSA Down Syndrome Awareness Calendars are available for \$15.00 each.

They are perfect holiday gifts for friends, family, your child's doctors, school personnel or church members, for awareness all year long.

Please contact Kris Goodwin at:  
[fundraising@idahodownsyndrome.org](mailto:fundraising@idahodownsyndrome.org) to get yours in time for the holidays!



## Shop this Christmas with AmazonSmile and support TVDSA:

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support TVDSA every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to TVDSA.

Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select Treasure Valley Down Syndrome Support Group as your favorite charity "BEFORE" you start shopping and TVDSA will receive 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

## You can help TVDSA earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!



### Here is how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card to TVDSA at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) searching by name or by Non-profit (NPO) number **93128**.
- Every time you shop and use your Rewards Card you are helping TVDSA earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points and Rebates just as you do today.

*The mission of the Treasure Valley Down Syndrome Association is to enhance the quality of life for persons with Down syndrome by promoting inclusive environments, providing accurate information to parents, families, and the community, and by advocating respect, dignity, and appropriate supports for people with Down syndrome.*

### Board of Directors:

President: [Kristie Yerger](#)  
Vice President: [George Taylor](#)  
Co-Fundraising: [Kristine Goodwin](#)  
Co-Fundraising: [Reme Echevarria](#)  
Self-Advocate Chair: [Dylan Thaner](#)

Treasurer & Spanish Contact: [Lucy Olmos](#)  
Secretary & Membership: [Paul Auger](#)  
Community Outreach Chair: [Erin Rosenkoetter](#)  
Programs Chair: [Andrew Kopping](#)  
Marketing Chair: [Alix Hilton](#)

For more information, articles, past newsletters and more, please visit our website: <http://idahodownsyndrome.org>  
Mailing: PO Box 1404 Meridian, ID 83680; Check us out on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)