



TREASURE VALLEY
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

TVDSA Newsletter

Newsletter Editor: [Celena Auger](#)

November 2013

In this Issue

The November issue is bilingual. TVDSA supports all families in the Treasure Valley with a loved one with Down syndrome.

This issue includes a Buddy Walk wrap up, an article about Transition Services from an IFSP to the IEP and a dedication to a recently lost TVDSA family member. TVDSA also has information about the new CafePress store. The 2014 Calendars are now available for purchase for the holidays.

Please check out the social page for information about the TVDSA Family Meeting on the 12th and about participating in the Boise Holiday Parade during Thanksgiving week!

Madison Strong, a senior at Vallivue High School has requested help on her senior project. She has two survey questions for which she needs feedback. Please take a moment to answer the anonymous survey at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P5XWRJL>

Monthly and archived TVDSA newsletters are available on our website at: www.idahodownsyndrome.org for viewing and sharing.



TVDSA 2013 Buddy Walk Update



TVDSA would like to thank all **1,783** people that registered and walked with us on the beautiful Saturday morning of October 12th. It was a great day of celebration and awareness for individuals with Down syndrome. There were many familiar faces as well as many new ones. TVDSA would like to thank all of the volunteers that made the Buddy Walk possible! There are so many activities going on, many didn't have time to do them all. We had three bounce houses, face painting, five games for kids, eight information tables from local organizations, the stage entertainment, our fabulous self-advocate, Jeff Wilson, and a raffle! TVDSA raised close to \$25,000.00. **Most importantly, TVDSA hopes everyone was able to meet a new Buddy!**

TVDSA would like to express some of the reasons why the prices of registration were increased this year. Early registration fees were the same as the 2012 prices to promote early and online registration. TVDSA will continue to push for early and online registration for everyone in hopes we can eventually eliminate the day of registration to focus on the celebration rather than the sign up at the event. Taking care of this early also makes the event planning much easier, more cost effective, and less stressful for all involved. As an example: prediction of t-shirt sizes is difficult and a large expense. TVDSA attempts to get many generous corporate sponsorships to help cover the growing cost of the Buddy Walk: permits, t-shirt printing costs, marketing, etc. Unfortunately, many of the expenses are not variable based on the community we live in and sponsorships are not guaranteed.

TVDSA does use the Buddy Walk as the primary fundraiser for the association to fund the many FREE events and services that TVDSA provides, such as: holiday parties for the different age groups, the Annual Picnic, a World Down Syndrome Day Celebration, and monthly social group activities. TVDSA uses funds from the Buddy Walk to print materials for the local hospitals and pediatricians for new and expecting parents of children born with Down syndrome and to purchase materials for the TVDSA library available to all TVDSA members. TVDSA offers scholarships and stipends to self-advocates and family members to attend college and local/national conferences. TVDSA is also planning to bring a nationally recognized bike riding program to the Treasure Valley during 2014. Some organizations chose to hold multiple fundraisers each year. TVDSA focuses on the Buddy Walk as the big supporter of all the upcoming, entire year's activities.

The Buddy Walk takes hundreds of volunteer hours by the committee to plan and organize, plus the time given by the volunteers on the day, to execute the event. This is accomplished on a 100% volunteer basis with no paid staff. Zero dollars of sponsorship, registration, or donated funds are spent in compensation for this work. We are always open to new, interested individuals to help the 2014 Buddy Walk be even better. If you would like to share your thoughts about the 2013 Buddy Walk or if you are interested in joining the 2014 committee, please contact George Taylor at buddywalk@idahodownsyndrome.org.

Again, THANK YOU for a great 2013 Buddy Walk!

TVDSA is opening its very own store on Café Press

You will now be able to get all your TVDSA merchandise online. We have over 200 awesome items such as; shirts, hats, coffee mugs, plates, baby items, Christmas stockings and ornaments. Be sure to check out our site for all you needs. As an added bonus for your holiday shopping, part of the money goes back to TVDSA. Please visit: www.cafepress.com/tvdsa

Calendar of Events

November 5th:

TVDSA Board Meeting
7:00-9:30pm at A New Leaf
Contact: [Kristie Yerger](#)

November 9th:

Cool Club 12:00pm-2:00pm at Dart Zone in Meridian. Contact: [Andrew Kopping](#)

November 11th:

Lil' Buddies from 10:00am-12:00pm at Just Kid'n Around in Meridian. Contact: [Jennifer Rice](#)

November 12th:

TVDSA Family Meeting 7:00pm-9:00pm at A New Leaf in Meridian. Topic: Is Your Child a Target of Bullying? Contact: [Erin Rosenkoetter](#)

November 13th:

Best Buds 5:00pm at Piggy Pigs Pottery in Meridian. Contact: [Malu Mulholland](#)

November 23rd:

Boise Holiday Parade
Come be part of the holiday parade with TVDSA starting at 8:30am
Contact: [Erin Rosenkoetter](#)

**Jason Crabb
Raises Awareness
for Down
syndrome with
new Music Video.**

Grammy and Dove award-winning contemporary Christian artist Jason Crabb used his new video for his upcoming single "Love is Stronger" to spotlight 30-year-old Alabama woman, Ashley DeRamus, who has Down syndrome.

Watch this tear jerking [music video](#) debut.

Transition from Early Intervention Services (IFSP) to Preschool Services (IEP)

From the age of birth up until 3 years, special education services are provided by an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), which is governed under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Once your child turns 3, special education services are provided by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and governed under Part B of IDEA. For more information on both Part C and Part B of IDEA, please visit the [US Department of Education's website](#).

What are the differences between an IFSP and an IEP?

<u>IFSP</u>	<u>IEP</u>
Birth through age 3	Age 3-21
Is inclusive of the family's needs	Focuses on the child's needs
Services provided in natural environments	Services provided at school
Families are assigned a service coordinator	No service coordinator
Generally reviewed every 6 months	Generally reviewed 1x per year
IFSP Team makes decisions	IEP Team makes decisions
Governed under Part C of IDEA	Governed under Part B of IDEA



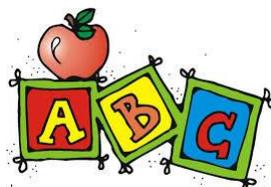
Despite these differences, there is an important similarity. IDEA states that parents are equal members of the IFSP team and the IEP team. This is because parents know their child best and will always be a part of their child's life, unlike professionals who generally interact with a child for a year or two. IDEA recognizes that children are most successful when parents and professionals form partnerships to identify the strengths, needs, and developmental and educational goals for children with disabilities.

When does the transition process begin?

As early as age 2, your service coordinator and IFSP team will start to discuss the transition process with you. With your input, transition steps will be written on the transition plan page of your child's IFSP. With your consent, the school district Child Find staff will be notified that your child is approaching age 3, and Child Find will evaluate your child to see if he/she qualifies for pre-school special education services. If your child does not qualify, your service coordinator will help connect you to other services in your community. If your child does qualify, you will develop an IEP that will meet your child's needs.

The components of the transition plan:

1. The family's involvement in the transition process
2. How the child will be prepared for the transition
3. Evaluation/assessment information to be shared
4. Discussion and documentation of options that are discussed with the family
5. Part B eligibility status



Continued on Page 5

Tribute to My Brother - Randall "Randy" James Dawson by Diana Brown



Little did we know when Randy was born how he would change our lives forever.

Born to Catherine and Darrell Dawson on February 7, 1954 in Indianapolis, Indiana, Randy traveled with his army dad, mom and two sisters, to Neosho, Mo., and later to Mtn. View, California. Randy moved to Idaho in 1989 to be near his mom and sister, Dianna. Randy left us on September 20, 2013.

Randy never met a person he did not like and put smiles on faces everywhere he went. Though he thought it was hilarious to throw my new shoes into the fireplace, though he laughed until he fell on the floor after pretending to drink the shampoo, though he hid our mom's last twenty dollar bill, and though he faked a heart attack in a restaurant, he brought us love, laughter and joy. Highly spiritual as an adult, he loved Jesus, church, the

old hymns, 60's and country music, as well as Disney and Loony-Toons. In church he sometimes sang too long, clapped too loud, and shook hands too hard. But Randy loved life and lived it without ever hurting anyone's feelings, ever lying, ever gossiping, ever complaining; therefore he lived never having to say he was sorry.

Randy lived to be 59 years old, which in the life of someone with Down syndrome is very old. Back in the 1950s, doctors told our mom that Randy would die before he was seven. And if he lived to be seven, he might live to be fourteen. They said he would not have teeth and be bald. Yet, he had baby teeth as well as permanent and he still had a dark thick head of hair. They said he could not learn to read but in his forties learned to read all our family names in about 20 minutes. How sad he did not reach his full potential because of preconceived ideas and a lack of opportunity. But Randy was happy. In some ways Randy paid the price of his disability, but he also enjoyed the blessings that accompanied his innocence. Although he moved into an institution at age 14 and lived there for 20 long hard years, he never lost his smile. He looked at the world's goodness and loved unconditionally, forgave freely, and gave us an example of how we all should live.

Though I did not realize as a child the many ways Randy changed my life, he truly influenced the decisions I would make, the friends I would choose, and the husband I would marry. He taught us all acceptance of differences. He inspired us to value the truly important things in life, the things that last for eternity like humility, honesty, simplicity and justice. It was because of him that forty years ago our foster daughter, Christy, who also has Down syndrome, came to live with us. And then, if it had not been for Randy, we may not have adopted Melissa, Matt and Mike. Like a ripple effect our daughter Elaine chose to be a doctor of psychology and serve the disability community.

I will always be grateful for this year and a half I had with Randy though it was not easy. It broke my heart to watch his health decline but it was a great privilege to walk with him as he approached heaven's door. Randy will be missed more than words can say.

"Randy, you are my hero, and always will be. You are the wind beneath my wings."

New Spanish-Language Resources for Families on LD.org

Today one in five schoolchildren are Hispanic. And Spanish-speaking families need access to information about learning disabilities (LD) and other resources to help their children receive the services and supports they need to succeed in school and beyond.

The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) is pleased to launch an extensive toolkit in Spanish to help families recognize potential signs of LD, work with their children to develop and enhance skills, and be an advocate for their children who are getting ready for school as well as those who are enrolled in K-12 education settings. This comprehensive toolkit includes:

- 30+ articles that provide information on
 - Learning disabilities, such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia
 - How parents can stand up for their child's rights

- Behavior challenges and LD
- Supporting a child's success in school
- Helping a child to develop "success" skills such as pro-activity, self-awareness, and perseverance handy worksheets
- An interactive LD Checklist

"Early detection of barriers to learning can be life-changing for young students, and every Spanish-speaking parent and caregiver should know about these free resources," said James H. Wendorf, executive director of NCLD. "Now Hispanic families can access online tools and information in English and Spanish that will help them to be effective advocates for their children."

Additional Spanish-language resources will be published in the coming months – stay tuned!

[Visit LD Spanish Resources today!](#)



TREASURE VALLEY
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Social Groups Page

TVDSA Family Meeting

**November 12th 7:00pm-9:00pm
at A New Leaf
2456 N. Stokesberry, Meridian**

Join us as we welcome Kathie Benjamin from Idaho Parents Unlimited (IPUL). She will be presenting the following from the 2013 IPUL curriculum:

Is Your Child the Target of Bullying? Intervention Strategies for Parents of Children with Disabilities - This workshop is designed to introduce parents and professionals to a range of intervention strategies for the child who is the target of bullying. Things that can be used by the parent, child, family and school.

Free childcare is available.

For more information, contact [Erin Rosenkoetter](#).

Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome (D.A.D.S.) Meeting:

There will be **no** D.A.D.S. meeting in November.

We hope to see you at the Boise Holiday Parade Saturday, November 23rd!

For more information about **D.A.D.S.** please contact [Gus Olmos](#)

Lil' Buddies (age birth-5 years) Update:

November Gathering:

Lil' Buddies will be going to Just Kid'n Around on **Monday, November 11th** from 10:00am-12:00pm. TVDSA will pay for every child with Down syndrome. The cost for additional kids ages 1-3 years are \$6.59 and ages 4-12 are \$7.55. Make sure to bring your socks!



Need more information on **Lil' Buddies**? Please contact [Jennifer Rice](#)

Best Buds (Elementary) Update:

November Gathering:

Best Buds will be going creative at the Piggy Pigs Pottery located at 46 E. Fairview Ave. in Meridian on **Wednesday, November 13th** at 5:00pm.

TVDSA will cover the studio fee for those with Down syndrome. Ceramic pieces



are available at 15% off. Ornaments run \$4:00-\$5.00, and many options under \$10.00.

Need more information on **Best Buds**? Please contact [Malu Mulholland](#)

Cool Club (Jr./Sr. High)

November Gathering:

Cool Club will be going to the Dart Zone on **Saturday, November 9th** from 12:00pm-2:00pm. Dart Zone is located at 501 E. Scenery Ln. Suite 100 in Meridian. An [online waiver](#) needs to be filled out



prior to playing and socks are required. You can bring your own Nerf dart gun but leave your ammo at home.

Need more information on Cool Club? Please contact: [Andrew Kopping](#)

Adults in Motion (AIM)

There will be **no November Gathering** due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

We hope you can come out and participate in the Boise Holiday Parade with us!!

For more information about **AIM** contact: [Freddie Gallas](#) or [Niculina \(Nina\) Bistriceanu](#)

Boise Holiday Parade 2013 – “The Joy of Giving”

TVDSA will be participating in our 2nd parade this year on **Saturday, November 23rd**! The parade begins at 9:45 am. We will be meeting at 8:30am (location TBA). Come join the fun in supporting TVDSA and creating Down Syndrome awareness in the Treasure Valley.

Watch your email for all the details. Questions or ideas? Contact [Erin Rosenkoetter](#)



Conferences, Workshops, Webinars & TVDSA Scholarship Information

Inclusive Higher Education: Moving from Good Ideas to Great Outcomes

November 16th & 17th
Washington, DC
[Information](#) and
Registration

PEAK Conference on Inclusive Education February 13-14th Denver, Colorado

[Registration](#) is now open!

[Wrightslaw Conferences](#) Special Education Law and Advocacy

Various dates and locations
across the U.S. including
April 3, 2014 in Boise, ID.

[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 everyone is eligible.

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

LIVE Webinar series sponsored by the Center on Disabilities and Human Development in collaboration with the Idaho State Department of Education

- **The Common Core State Standards with moderate/severe Disabilities** – Dec. 9th: 4:00-6:00pm
- **Comprehensive Planning for Students with Autism** – Feb. 13th: 4:00-6:00pm
- **Universal Design for Learning: Curriculum for ALL Learners** – April 9th, 16th, 23rd 4:00-6:00pm

<http://www.idahotc.com/forcredit.aspx>

Transition to Preschool Services (IEP) (Continued from Page 2)

The transition meeting:

A transition meeting is a required meeting that must take place no later than 90 days before your child's 3rd birthday. If your child is eligible for special education services, someone from the school district will be invited to attend the meeting along with your service coordinator, your child's current service providers, and a representative of the program that your child is going to transition into. Parents are welcome to invite family members, friends, or anyone else they would like to attend the meeting, and the meeting cannot take place without a parent or legal guardian present. Once your child turns 3, he/she will transition out of the Early Intervention Colorado program.

Examples of Part B transition programs:

- Head Start
- Private or Public Pre-School
- Other School-Age Programs

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. - What if someone cannot attend the transition meeting?

A. - If a required person cannot attend the meeting, that person may participate via phone, have a representative attend the meeting for them, or provide a written report to be reviewed at the meeting. You also have the right to request that the meeting be rescheduled to a time when everyone can participate.

Q. - Can I refuse Preschool services paid for by Part B?

A. - Yes. Your IFSP team will discuss with you what they see as the potential impact on your child's development of refusing Part B services.

Q. - Will my child continue to receive the same services?

A. - The way your child's services will be delivered will be different. They will be provided by different people and in different settings. However, the services should still be designed to meet your child's unique and individual needs, and there should not be an interruption of services.

Q. - What should I focus on at the meeting?

A. - Focus on your child (not your child's disability) and where you think your child will best learn. A guiding question is, "Where would my child be if he/she did not have a disability?" Have high expectations for your child.



Source: PEAK Parent Speakout Newsletter - Posted in Back to School Special 2011



TREASURE VALLEY
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.idahodownsyndrome.org

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

Thank you again to the 2013 Buddy Walk Sponsors!



If you are interested in being a 2014 Buddy Walk Corporate Sponsor
please contact [George Taylor](#)

TVDSA 2014 Calendars are HERE!

2014 TVDSA calendars are now available for purchase.

Please contact [Erin Rosenkoetter](#) or complete an [order form online](#) to order. Calendars will also be available at the November TVDSA meeting.

Reminder: TVDSA Notecards are also still available. You can purchase a set of 11, with one of each of the prints, or a set of 10, of a single print/month. **Cost: \$7.00** per set.



From the TVDSA Lending Library:

Babies with Down Syndrome

By: Susan J. Skallerup

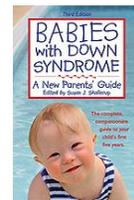
Babies with Down Syndrome covers the best practices for raising and caring for children with Down syndrome through age five, this book is invaluable to new parents who have welcomed a baby with Down syndrome into their lives.

This new edition incorporates the latest scientific, medical, educational research, and practical information available, as well as parents suggestions and feedback. Existing chapters have been revised, some completely rewritten by new authors, and in keeping with its parent-friendly reputation, most of the book's contributors are parents of children with Down syndrome. Chapters cover:

What Is Down Syndrome?; Adjusting to Your Baby; Medical Concerns & Treatments; Daily Care; Family Life; Development & Learning; Early Intervention; Legal Rights & Financial Issues.

Babies with Down Syndrome is available in the TVDSA library. Members may reserve it by contacting the librarian at library@idahodownsyndrome.org.

For a complete list of the books/DVDs available through TVDSA, please check out our [Lending Library](#).



The mission of 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](#)

Advisor: [Lynda Wells](#)

Treasurer & Spanish Contact: [Lucy Olmos](#)

Community Outreach Chair: [Erin Rosenkoetter](#)

Marketing Chair: [Paul Auger](#)

Vice President and Programs Chair: [Malu Mulholland](#)

Secretary and Membership Chair: [Audrey Byrum](#)

Board Member: [Melody Witte](#)

Buddy Walk Chair: [George Taylor](#)

Self Advocate: [Seth Paetel](#)

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](#)