



TREASURE VALLEY  
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

# TVDSA Newsletter

Newsletter Editor: [Celena Auger](#)

July 2015

## In this Issue

July is known for being a month to Celebrate.

In addition to America's Independence, TVDSA would like to celebrate the TVDSA ATV Raffle Winner and the 37 wonderful individuals that participated in the 2015 iCan Bike Camp. We are proud of each and every one of you on your accomplishments! Congratulations! Please see pictures of both!

Summer is in full swing. What are you doing this summer? Some suggestions can be found within this month's issue.

Did you know that the Buddy Walk is only 3 months away? It's not too soon to start building your team. Register before August 14<sup>th</sup> and get the best deal! See page 6 for more information.

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

## **Congratulations to the McElwain Family for winning the TVDSA 2015 Polaris 570 ATV Raffle**



**We would like to thank everyone that helped make this fundraiser a success!**

**Thank you to the numerous individuals that purchased the 2,000 tickets.**

**With your help we raised over \$10,000.00 for TVDSA!**

Special Thanks to: Paul & Celena Auger, Rick & Elaine Grossaint, Dennis & Elizabeth Davis, Reme Echevavia, Chris & Sara Brady, Andrew & Genevieve Kopping, Collin & Mariska Sloan, Danielle & Justice Williams, Elisha Jimenez, George Taylor, Lucy Olmos, Linda Wells, Bobbie & Christina McElwain, Scott & Kristin Gluch, Kristie Yerger, Nan Haner, Aaron Isaacson, & Jason Robles

Thank you to the following companies that also helped in our success:  
Carl's Cycle Shop & Heritage Auctions of Idaho



## TVDSA Calendar of Events

July 7th:

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

July 11th:

**Lil' Buddies** 10:00am at Boise  
Aquarium  
Contact: [Elisha Jimenez](#)

July 24th:

**Mom's Night Out!** 7:00pm.  
Location to be announced  
closer to date. For  
suggestions, or questions,  
Contact: [Reme Echevarria](#)



**July 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Hillcrest Country**  
**Club, Boise ID**

Don't miss any of the exciting golf action at the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft - [click to buy your tickets today!](#) Not only will you get a chance to see the Future Stars of the PGA TOUR, but this is also a fun way to contribute to TVDSA.

**BUY TICKETS  
TODAY!**

100% OF TICKET SALES  
SUPPORT CHARITIES  
& YOUTH IN OUR  
COMMUNITY!

**CLICK HERE!**



## Keep Your Child Reading All Summer by: **Connie McCarthy**

It's hard to believe, we are already one month into Summer. And while for kids that means a relaxed schedule and time to play with friends, parents might worry that too much time away from school can stall learning. By finding the right balance of fun and learning, you can make sure your kids are prepared to get back to school without missing out on the fun of summer.

One successful reading strategy I've used in 1st grade is pairing students with a 5th grade "reading buddy." We would meet with our buddies once a week. Sometimes the older student would read to the younger one. Other times, the 1st graders would read to the 5th graders. Often, there was a discussion about the book, followed by a drawing or simple project related to the story. It's always sad to lose our buddies at the end of the school year!

With summer vacation, this concept got me thinking about ideas to keep students reading all summer long.

Here are six simple suggestions:

- Pair up your young child with an older sibling or trusted neighborhood student for some summer "buddy" reading time. One way to thank that older child is a gift card to a local ice cream shop or game shop.

- Create a special "reading spot" for rainy days. This could be a bean bag chair, soft large pillow, or sheet over a table for a reading tent. Keep a small basket of books by his favorite author in the spot.

- Focus on illustrations that tell the story. Young students love wordless books that tell a great story with pictures. Get some of these from your local library. Two authors that create these types of books are Frank Asch and Mercer Mayer. Your librarian can suggest more.

- Focus on award-winning books. Ask your librarian to help you look for books that have won the Caldecott Medal or Newbery Award. Read them together with your child, and discuss what she thinks made them award-winners.

- Read some child cookbooks and together make one or two of the easy recipes.

- Have a family "read aloud" night. Take turns reading a family favorite book aloud.

When you combine reading practice with fun activities, you help create a lifelong love of reading!

Source: [School Family](#), *Your go-to guide for School Success*,  
May 29, 2014 in *Summer Reading*



# Treasure Valley iCan Bike Camp a Success Again!

The second Treasure Valley iCan Bike Camp was held June 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> at the Homecourt YMCA in Meridian. With the help of 100 volunteers from around Idaho we were able to help 36 individuals with disabilities learn how to ride a bike!

Representing ages 8-25 years old and eleven different disabilities, this year's riders had a success rate of 75%!

**Beautiful moments, beautiful comments, & beautiful smiles tell the stories of success!**

**Thank you to everyone that helped this be a success!**

**Thank you Jillian & Pete!**

**2015 Committee Members:** Without your commitment and dedication of many countless hours – this camp could not happen! Thank you!

Paul & Celena Auger, Aaron & Jorliena Isaacson, Andrew & Genevieve Kopping, Rocky & Marguerite Lerner, Kelli Brooks, Marcus Orton, Lisa Brady, Neal Kaufman

**2015 Company Sponsors:** Without your support this could not be possible! Thank you!

- |                                  |                       |                                |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Scentsy                          | Autism Society        | Towne Place Suites Marriott    |
| Treasure Valley Cycling Alliance | Micron Foundation     | The Lotus Tree                 |
| Jen Alvi Photography             | Norco                 | Elevated Dance Project         |
| Advanced Therapy Care            | Safe Routes to School | Kaleidoscope Pediatric Therapy |
| Fred Meyer Eagle Island          | Pullover Prints       | YMCA                           |



Thank you Sibyl Spjute for catching some beautiful moments. More pictures are available on our [Facebook Page!](#)



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## Social Groups Page

### Activities for Teens & Young Adults

TVDSA's Adults in Motion and Cool Club will be temporarily on hold. Check this page for other fun activities throughout the Treasure Valley.

#### Amazing Amigos

- **Dinner and a Movie** 6:00pm-9:00pm on Tuesday July 7th at Carl's Jr. and Reel Theater in Nampa.
- **Bowling** 3:00pm-5:00pm every Thursday at Nampa Bowl, \$1.00 per game and \$1.00 for shoes
- **Potluck on Fridays** 11:45am-2:45pm every Friday at Crossroads Church in Nampa. Each week is a different theme/activity. (No Group on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and July 17<sup>th</sup> we will be at the State Capitol Building for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA.)

For more information visit the Amazing Amigo's [Website](#)

*Please note that although these activities are not TVDSA sponsored, they are wonderful opportunities in the Treasure Valley.*



### Lil' Buddies (ages 0-5 years)

**Little Buddies** will be going to **Boise Aquarium** on **Tuesday, July 11th at 10:00am**. The Boise Aquarium is located at 64 N. Cole Road (Northeast corner of Cole and Franklin Rd). TVDSA will cover admission for children with Down syndrome and one adult. Additional family members are welcome to join us. Price of admission

is: Adults: \$10, Children 7-11 = \$7, Children 3-6= \$5 and Children 2 and under are free.

Need more information on **Lil' Buddies**? Please contact [Elisha Jimenez](#) at 208-871-4780



### Mom's Night Out!

My name is Reme Echevarria, Abigail (Abi) Selders Mom. I am taking over Mom's Night Out! I would love to invite all the TVDSA moms to come to Moms Night Out!

You are all amazing women, who do a lot for those around you and now it is time that you do a little something for yourself. Come be a part of a night where you can talk and laugh with other TVDSA moms and have something to eat cooked by someone else. ☺ Moms Night Out! is a time where we can put all the stresses of life aside and just enjoy the moment with other moms who are on the same journey as ourselves.

Mark your calendars for Moms night out on **Friday July 24th at 7:00 pm**. An email will be sent out closer to the date for the location.

I would love to hear from TVDSA moms as to where you would like to have Mom's Night Out! What days of the week work best for you, and what area of town might make it easier for you to be available? Please contact me at 208-866-4095 or email me at [moms@idahodownsyndrome.org](mailto:moms@idahodownsyndrome.org).

I look forward to meeting all the TVDSA moms that I don't know and seeing those that I do.

Make it a great day!

- Reme Echevarria

### The Annual Catch a Special Thrill (C.A.S.T) for Kids Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-2:00pm at Black Canyon Reservoir in Emmett

Children with disabilities are invited to come learn how to fish with B.A.S.S. professionals in their boats or pontoon boats if available. Fishing gear will be provided along with a take-home pole. **Event is FREE!**

Bring your family and plan on coming aboard and catch that special thrill.

Immediately following the fishing activities, an awards presentation will be held. A marvelous picnic style lunch will be served to hungry anglers and their families.

Reserve your spot online as soon as possible. There is **only space for the first 40 kids**. Register at: <http://www.castforkids.org/events-calendar/cast-events/black-canyon-reservoir> or call Erika Lopez at 208-383-2254.

## Conferences, Workshops, Webinars & TVDSA Scholarship Information

### Hands Around the Capitol

#### 25<sup>th</sup> ADA Celebration

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

11:00am-4:30pm

Capitol Park, 601 W. Jefferson St., Boise

Please mark your calendars!

#### 1,000 People Needed to circle the Capitol Building.

This will be a wonderful way for the disability community to be together and celebrate everything the ADA has made possible for people with disabilities!

Go to our Facebook Page for updates

<https://www.facebook.com/handsaroundthecapitol>

### 2015 TASH Conference

Portland, OR

December 2-4, 2015

[www.tash.org/conference2015](http://www.tash.org/conference2015)

This year's conference theme, "Celebrating 40 Years of Progressive Leadership," acknowledges TASH's 40 years of generating change within the disability community and anticipates a brighter, more inclusive future for people with disabilities in all aspects of life. The conference has impacted the disability field by connecting attendees to innovative information and resources, facilitating connections between stakeholders in the disability movement, and helping attendees to reignite their passion for the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life.

**Registration is Open!**

### 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.

## Successful Advocacy from a Special Ed Teacher

We often hear success stories from parents. But here's a good one from a special ed teacher that we wanted to share with you.

I am a very busy special education teacher in a private school. I attend all conferences with parents so that the district knows we are informed and won't try to pull the wool over anyone's eyes. Recently, I attended a meeting for one of my private students. The district had previously denied resource room services to this student, although he was receiving occupational therapy and counseling.

This mother, following my very specific instructions, had kept excellent record of all correspondence with the district. Request for evaluation had been made in early October. The conference took place in late February, after I had called and informed them that the district was out of compliance.

Strike 1: The day of the scheduled meeting was a very rainy and windy. A district representative called the mother and told her that she shouldn't bother to come because they weren't going to give the child services anyway. The mother called me, hysterical, and I assured her we were going to the meeting, and that the district had just gotten on my bad side. I had about an hour before the meeting, so I got out my handy IDEA handbook and did a quick read through looking for points that I might need to bring out during the conference.

Strike 2: We were kept waiting for more than an hour while the team that had been assigned to us got everything back together after believing that we weren't coming. Once we were called into the conference room, the team had to scrounge around to locate a parent member that was free, and took out their paperwork. I noted that the page of the IEP stating that no Resource Room intervention was being offered had already been filled out. Hmmm...I recall that the parent is supposed to have a say in things.....and that brings us to strike three.

Strike 3: Reports were read, and occupational therapy and resource room services were denied. The school psychologist, trying to play "good guy", turned to me and said that I should give him any reason....any reason at all....that this child should receive services...and he would try to help. Very calmly, I stated that just because the child performed at what they considered an adequate level when in a 1:1 situation didn't mean that he was performing in a classroom setting. So I asked to hear the results of the classroom observation.

Side out! Everyone looked at each other as if someone was hiding the observation in his or her back pocket. It had never been done. At that point, I gather my things together and informed the team that the parent and I would be happy to return when the evaluation was complete.

Almost six weeks later, we attended another meeting with a different team. Not only did we receive resource room services, we were also given occupational therapy and counseling services as well. Being that the district was so out of compliance, we have now requested summer make-up sessions for counseling and occupational therapy. Thank you for teaching me to have a cool head and a perceptive ear.

-SD

Source: [Wrightslaw](#), May 8, 2008



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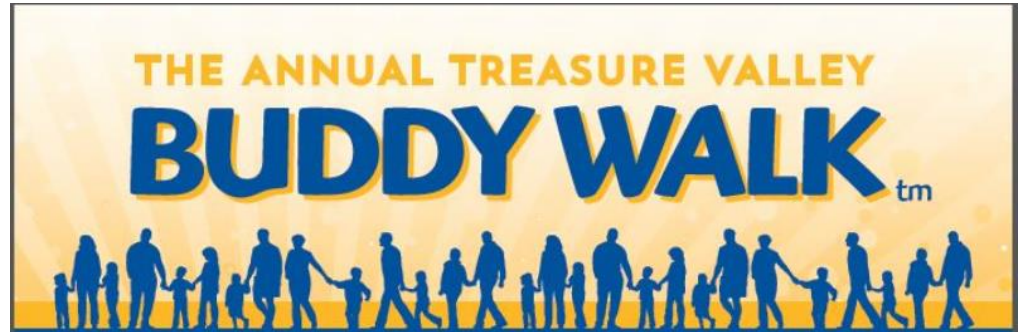
We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

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

## 2015 TVDSA Buddy Walk Registration is Now Open!



**Saturday, October 10th**

On-site Registration starts at 9:00am

Walk will start from Capitol Park at 11:00am

Festivities at Julia Davis Park will continue through 2:00pm

**Priority Online Registration will run from June 5th through August 14th:**

Adult registration (13 & up) \$10.00

Child registration (12 & under): \$7.00

**All TVDSA members with Down syndrome are FREE!**

### Registration Prizes for 2015

**We will be doing registration prizes throughout Priority Registration. Make sure your team members sign up before August 15th for a chance to win!**

*Monies must be paid to be considered.*

*Checks must be received and cashed in order to count.*



### This Month's Opportunities to win:

- \*\* Random drawing of all paid registrants from July 21st. One person will win!**
- \*\* First team with 21 registered and paid members.**

**Spread the word and [Register Today!](#)**

**Questions? Email: [buddywalk@idahodownsyndrome.org](mailto:buddywalk@idahodownsyndrome.org)**

*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](#)

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

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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](#)