



TREASURE VALLEY  
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

# TVDSA Newsletter

## In This Issue

TVDSA has some exciting activities coming up in March. Please mark your calendars for both the World Down Syndrome Day Celebration and our first ever Paint Nite Fundraiser. Both events should be a lot of fun!

We have also included dates for some summer activities TVDSA has planned, please mark your calendars!

This month's article focuses on the Role of the Paraprofessional in the classroom. There is a lot of information available on this subject, and each family (and IEP Team) needs to decide the appropriate amount of time for each INDIVIDUAL student. It is not a one size fits all service available in schools.

TVDSA will be hosting Family Meetings in both March and April. Please visit page 5 for topic information.

In April we will be hosting our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual All Ability Easter Egg Hunt. Details are on page 4 along with our social group activities for March.

If you have a little extra spare time, TVDSA needs your help! Please check our wish list on page 6 for areas of help needed.

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](#)

March 2017

## World Down Syndrome Day Celebration 2017

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Boise State University Football Stadium

Come dance, socialize, and play catch on the BSU Blue again this year as we celebrate World Down Syndrome Day with friends and family!

Light refreshments will be served.

Don't forget to wear your **CRAZZY SOCKS** all day to support our loved ones with Down syndrome!



*Parking instructions will be provided via email the week before the event.*

Contact [Erin Rosenkoetter](#) if interested in helping with this event, or if you have any questions.

## TVDSA Paint Nite



**LIMITED SPACE remains, Register today!**  
**Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm – 5:00pm**

Raise your glass to a NEW kind of night out! Paint Nite® invites you to create art over cocktails at Big Al's in Meridian. Grab your friends and spend two hours drinking, laughing, and flexing your creative muscles, all while giving back to TVDSA. There's no experience necessary and we'll provide all the supplies, so you don't have to worry about a thing (except having a great time!). Must be of legal drinking age (21+). Food and drink may be purchased at the event.

The event begins promptly at 3:00 pm. Attendees must be checked in by 2:45pm. Please allow extra time to find parking and get settled. If you're coming with a group make sure you arrive early to get seats together.

Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Tickets are \$45 each and \$15 of each ticket goes back to TVDSA!

We hope you'll join TVDSA for an afternoon of painting, laughing, and socializing all while giving back to TVDSA. You'll also be increasing awareness of Down syndrome so the whole community will recognize and accept the greatness we see in our loved ones, not just the differences.

## TVDSA Calendar of Events

### March 4<sup>th</sup>:

**Adults in Motion and Cool Club**  
Idaho Pizza Company at 12:30pm  
and movie at Northgate Reel  
Theatre to follow.  
Contact: [Brenda Taylor](#)  
or [Kathy Briltz](#)

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

**TVDSA Family Meeting**  
6:30pm-8:30pm at North End  
Collective Church Topic: Buddy  
Cruise and Becoming An  
Entrepreneur.  
Contact: [Charmaine Thaner](#)

### March 7<sup>th</sup>:

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

### March 15<sup>th</sup>:

**Mom's Night Out!**  
Wingers Restaurant and Alehouse  
in Nampa at 7:00pm  
Contact: [Reme Echevarria](#)

### March 21<sup>st</sup>:

**TVDSA World Down Syndrome  
Day Celebration** at the BSU  
Football Stadium 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Contact: [Erin Rosenkoetter](#)

### March 26<sup>th</sup>:

**TVDSA Paint Nite**, 3:00pm-5:00pm  
at Big Al's in Meridian  
Contact: [Reme Echevarria](#)

### March 27<sup>th</sup>:

**Best Buds and Lil' Buddies**  
Discovery Center "Sue, The T-Rex"  
In Boise at 11:00am  
Contact: [Danielle Williams](#)

### April 3<sup>rd</sup>:

**TVDSA Family Meeting**  
6:30pm-8:30pm at North End  
Collective Church  
Topic: Neurofeedback and  
Self-Regulation  
Contact: [Charmaine Thaner](#)

### April 15<sup>th</sup>:

**All Ability Easter Egg Hunt**  
Winstead Park in Boise from  
1:00pm-3:00pm  
Contact: [Danielle Williams](#)

# ~ Save the Dates! ~

## TVDSA 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Picnic



**Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**  
from 6:00pm-8:30pm  
at Kleiner Park, Shelter A-1  
1900 N. Records Ave. Meridian  
*Join us at the gazebo near the playground.*



**Bring the entire family for an evening of friendship, food and fun!  
There will be dancing, music, face painting and more!**

For more information, please contact: [Lynda Wells](#)

## 2017 TVDSA Trisomy 21 Open



**Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**  
at Eagle Hills Golf Course.

The 2017 TVDSA Trisomy 21 Open will be an AM shotgun start with several fun activities throughout 18 holes. If you participated last year, you will be contacted when registration is open.

Please contact George Taylor at: [golf@idahodownsyndrome.org](mailto:golf@idahodownsyndrome.org) for more information about sponsorship or registration.



## Interested in some outdoor activities the rest of this winter or this upcoming summer?

AWeSOMe empowers people of all abilities through high quality outdoor experiences. They work with people with a variety of disabilities including visual impairments, developmental and cognitive disabilities and mobility impairments.

AWeSOMe is currently offering alpine ski and snowboarding lessons. This summer, AWeSOMe will be offering adaptive kayak lessons!

Visit their [website](#) for additional information.



## **Paraprofessionals Role Clarification** by Mary Beth Doyle, Ph.D.

When paraprofessionals work in general education classrooms, it is not uncommon for classroom teachers to be unclear about the specific responsibilities of the paraprofessional who is working in their own classroom. In many cases, the responsibilities of the paraprofessional are not understood by any member of the educational team. This is often because no one has taken the time to discuss what he is supposed to do. Often there is a general sense that the paraprofessional is simply supposed to "know" what to do and how to do it. In order to maximize the instructional benefits associated with having a paraprofessional in the classroom, parents must address the issue of role clarification with classroom teams. Every member of the team will benefit from these discussions.

The first step is to suggest that your child's core team — general education teacher, paraprofessional, special educator, and parent — come together to clarify the role and responsibilities of the paraprofessional and how it will work best for YOUR CHILD. This can be done at any time during the school year. In fact, this conversation would be helpful to have two or three times during the year as dynamics within every classroom change throughout the school year. Keep in mind that as the team begins to clarify the role and responsibilities of the paraprofessional, an interesting, and exciting phenomena will occur: other members of the team will begin to understand their respective roles and responsibilities more clearly. Why? Because classroom personnel are interdependent. As one person's roles and responsibilities shift there is a ripple effect on others.

Begin the examination of the role and responsibilities of the paraprofessional by reviewing a widely accepted definition of paraprofessionals. Paraprofessionals are those: (1) whose positions are either instructive in nature or who deliver other direct services to students and/or their parents; and (2) who work under the supervision of teachers or other professional staff who have the ultimate responsibility of the design, implementation, and evaluation of instructional programs and students' progress.

Using this definition, paraprofessionals generally provide assistance to individual students and small or large groups of students under the supervision of a classroom teacher who has designed the instructional tools and strategies.

In the next phase, the team clarifies the responsibilities of the paraprofessional more specifically. It is important to be aware that in most cases, the paraprofessional should not have the primary responsibility for educating a student. Generally, these hands are not trained in curriculum and instruction and should not be given the primary responsibility for the development of your child's educational program. As a parent, if your team is relying on the paraprofessional to take the lead in these areas of curriculum and instruction, you need to communicate your concern by raising the issue in a very direct manner. Pose the question: "Why is it that a certified person, the general education teacher, is planning, implementing, and evaluating the curriculum for children without disabilities, while a noncertified person, the paraprofessional, is doing that work for my child who has a disability?" Your goal in asking this question is to help your team problem-solve other ways to meet the instructional needs of your child. The paraprofessional can assist with the implementation of instruction developed by the teacher, but he should not design the instruction.

As increasing numbers of paraprofessionals are working in public schools to support the inclusion of students with disabilities, parents need to provide support and direction in defining the variety of ways in which paraprofessionals can be helpful. In doing so, it is important to remember paraprofessionals are not substitutes for certified personnel. Rather, paraprofessionals provide an extra pair of hands in classrooms where the combination of needs necessitates two adults to coordinate and meet the needs of all the children in the classroom.

*The above is a short excerpt of "My Child Has a New Shadow...And It Doesn't Resemble Her!" by Mary Beth Doyle, Ph.D. [Click here](#) to read the valuable five page article in its entirety.*

### Other valuable sources on this subject:

["Working with Paraprofessionals"](#) by Michael F. Giangreco, reprinted by PEAL Center  
["Paraprofessionals in the Classroom, What Role Do They Play?"](#) by Patti McVay, reprinted in  
Disability Solutions Newsletter

["What is the RIGHT Amount of Help from Paraprofessionals?"](#) Collaborative Special Education, Blogcast

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## Social Groups Page

### Moms Night Out!

Amazing TVDSA Moms!

We are heading west to **Wingers Restaurant and Alehouse** located at 16250 N Marketplace Blvd. in Nampa on Wednesday, **March 15th** at **7:00pm**.

TVDSA will pay for your dinner and a soda. **Please RSVP** no later than **March 12th** so I can let the restaurant know how many moms will be coming.

I want to say thank you to all the moms who have been coming to Mom's Night Out. I love seeing all of you each month and really enjoy the new moms who have been coming out lately as well. Remember you truly are amazing for all you do day in and day out.

Please RSVP to Reme Echevarria by email at [moms@idahodownsyndrome.org](mailto:moms@idahodownsyndrome.org) or by text 208-866-4095.



### Best Buds & Lil' Buddies

**Best Buds** and **Lil' Buddies** are going on a great adventure to meet "Sue, The T Rex" at the **Discovery Center** on Monday, **March 27th** at **11:00am**.

All children with Down Syndrome and one of their friends will be paid for by TVDSA. If you have a pay stub or badge showing you are an employee or caregiver for someone with special needs, you get in for free as well. **PLEASE RSVP by March 24th** to Danielle Williams so she can keep count of all our friends. Bring your family, friends, etc., the more the merrier!

Additional kids will be \$4.00 each if we have at least 25 kids, otherwise tickets are more. Adults are \$16.00.

Make sure your RSVP has your family name, number of kids, and caregiver's & adults in your party.

We really hope you will join us on this amazing opportunity to Meet Sue the T Rex. She is just visiting us here in Idaho and will be gone soon.

If you have any questions about either group, please feel free to contact [Danielle Williams](mailto:Danielle.Williams@tvdsa.org) or call: 208-794-8995.

### Cool Club & Adults in Motion

**Cool Club** and **AIM** will gather for an afternoon lunch and movie on **Saturday, March 4th**.

Please join us for **lunch at Idaho Pizza Company** at **12:30pm** and a **movie** to follow **at the Northgate Reel Theatre** near the intersection of State St. and Glenwood St in Boise. Currently, the afternoon movie is Moana however the movie and time will not be known for sure until the Thursday before.

TVDSA will pay for pizza and a drink along with admission to the movie for those with Down syndrome and their guest. Participants may wish

to bring spending money to purchase snacks at the movie.

Come on out for an afternoon lunch, the movie or both. We would love to see you there. Please RSVP to Brenda Taylor or text/call 208-724-5226 by Thursday, March 2nd.

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

For more information about Adults in Motion (AIM), please contact [Kathy Britz](mailto:Kathy.Britz@tvdsa.org) or phone: 208-863-1423.



### 7th Annual All-Ability Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 15th from 1:00pm-3:00pm**

**\*\* NEW LOCATION: Winstead Park \*\***

6150 W Northview St. in Boise



We will be having a hoppin' good time and a great adventure hunting Easter eggs, snacks, face painting and dancing (plus more surprises).

TVDSA invites all elementary and younger kids, and their families to join us.

There will be separate egg hunt areas for different ability levels.

Plenty of eggs for everyone!

**\*\* There will be candy or prizes in the eggs. \*\***

**\*\* Parents will need to check eggs, if there are food allergies. \*\***

Bring your Easter basket and get ready to have some great fun.

The Easter Egg Hunt is an all ability egg hunt for the family and friends of TVDSA.

For more information or to help with this event, please contact: [Danielle Williams](mailto:Danielle.Williams@tvdsa.org); 208-794-8995.



## Conferences, Workshops, Webinars & TVDSA Scholarship Information

### TVDSA March Family Meeting

Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm-8:30pm

North End Collective Church, Boise  
1723 W Eastman St., Boise

#### **Topic: Buddy Cruise and Becoming an Entrepreneur**

Rebecca Page is an artist and speaker. She will be speaking about her business *Livin My Dreams* and how to become a Self-Advocate. [LivinMyDreams.com](http://LivinMyDreams.com)

Alvera McClain, Joyce Dunn, and Rebecca Page will be speaking about the Buddy Cruise. Buddy Cruise Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit founded in 2008 by 2 siblings in honor of their brother who has Down syndrome. Our annual conference at sea is a unique event with something for all ages and abilities.

Childcare will be provided.

Open to ALL families of children with disabilities.

Questions? Contact: [Charmaine Thaner](mailto:Charmaine.Thaner@tvdsa.org)

~ Save the Date ~

### TVDSA April Family Meeting

Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

6:30pm-8:30pm

North End Collective Church, Boise  
1723 W Eastman St., Boise

#### **Topic: Neurofeedback and Self-Regulation Presented by Dr. Todd Woodward of Cognitive Solutions.**

Most children and adults, particularly our special needs children, have some type of neurological dysregulation.

Come learn how Neurofeedback helps the brain learn to self-regulate in a more normal pattern.

Childcare will be provided.

Questions? Contact: [Charmaine Thaner](mailto:Charmaine.Thaner@tvdsa.org)

#### **Tools for Life Secondary Transition and Technology Fair**

March 6-7<sup>th</sup>

Red Lion Hotel, Pocatello, ID

Tools for Life is for secondary educators, post-secondary educators, special education staff, therapists, counselors, service providers, job developers, and especially high school students with disabilities and their families. Over 45 breakout sessions by state, regional and national experts on higher education, employment, community life, relationships, recreation, guardianship, assistive technology and more.

Registration is \$75.00 per adult and \$10.00 per student. Hotel room and food stipends available.

Contact: 1-800-432-8324 Register today!

#### **IPUL Workshop**

Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

from 6:00pm-9:00pm

at Idaho Parents Unlimited  
4619 W. Emerald, Ste. E, Boise

#### **Topic: Getting and Keeping the First Job**

Participants will learn about the importance of employment for all and its particular impact on people with disabilities. The critical role of families and engaging youth in career planning as well as maintaining high expectations of youth are included. Basic job search activities as well as skills that help youth with disabilities keep the jobs they get.

[Please RSVP](http://www.ipulidaho.org)

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

#### **2016-2017 Think College Webinars**

Registration is FREE, and includes live participation as well as a link to the recorded webinar for use after the event.

#### **Tales from the Helpdesk: Answers to our Most Commonly Asked Questions**

Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
from 1:00pm-2:00 pm

Experienced technical assistance providers will provide answers to the questions we receive most at our Helpdesk. Topics such as housing, CTP (Comprehensive Transition Program) requirements, working with Disability Support providers on campus, and more will be addressed. There will also be additional time to address YOUR most challenging questions.

[REGISTER NOW](http://www.thinkcollege.org)

#### **45<sup>th</sup> Annual National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) Convention July 20-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 Sacramento, California**

Online registration and the hotel block will open April 10, 2017.

For more information and details visit: [link](http://www.ndsc.org)

#### **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](http://www.tvdsa.org) for the guidelines and how to apply today.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Annual All Born (In) Cross-Disability Best Practices Educational Inclusion Conference Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> Holiday Inn Portland Airport**

The ABI Conference features 32 workshops in 4 sessions, keynote speakers, musical entertainment, art sale, and much more.

Registration fees: \$85 for professionals,  
\$60 for parents / self-advocates

Online registration is open now!

For more information and details visit: [link](http://www.allborn.org)



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

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



TVDSA is proud to once again support the Challenger Little League program.

**"Little League is for Everyone!"**

Challenger Baseball is Little League's adaptive baseball program for individuals 5 years and up with physical and intellectual challenges.

It is lots of fun for everyone!

This year they will also include a Senior League for players over 21.

TVDSA is sponsoring two teams again this year –  
an adult team and a youth team.

Season runs from Mid-April through June. Games are at 6:30pm on Saturday evenings at the N.W. Ada Fields at Eagle & McMillan. Registration fee: \$35.00

Registration Deadline: **March 15<sup>th</sup>** or until all teams are filled. Registration is available online or by mail.

[Click here](#) for more information, or contact:  
Tammy Cluff: [ldchallenger@aol.com](mailto:ldchallenger@aol.com) or 208.362.3072

## Interested in Helping TVDSA?

### Here are some current openings to volunteer:

- **Buddy Walk Chair and Committee Members:** Seeking dedicated people to make the 2017 Buddy Walk a success. Please contact [Kristie Oakes](#) or [George Taylor](#) for more details.
- **TVDSA Board Members:** Seeking **THREE** individuals willing to serve on the board, meet once a month, and help advance TVDSA's mission. For more information, please contact [Kristie Oakes](#).
- **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](#).
- **Dinner Auction Committee:** TVDSA needs volunteers to help organize a dinner auction fundraiser 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](#).

*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 Oakes](#)  
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](#)  
Board Member: [Charmaine Thaner](#)

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](#)