

# TVDSA NEWSLETTER



TREASURE VALLEY  
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

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## Come Celebrate Down Syndrome!

TVDSA is having a summer picnic/ belated World Down Syndrome Day celebration!

Join us Saturday, June 18 at 11:00 am to party on the Boise State Blue!

We'll have a light lunch, music and dancing, and TVDSA footballs to toss around. Come for a chance to reconnect with our amazing community and meet new members and families.



Please **RSVP here** to let us know how many are planning to attend. This will help us know how much food to order.

Entrance and parking will be at the Allen Noble Hall of Fame at the Boise State Albertsons Stadium.

We can't wait to get together and celebrate!

## TVDSA Upcoming Events

### June 7

#### **Board Meeting**

Google Meet, 7:30 pm

### June 11

#### **Lil' Buddies**

Cassia Park, Boise  
9:30 am

### June 15

#### **Mom's Night Out**

Smoky Mountain Pizza, Meridian  
6:30 pm

### June 18

#### **ALL TVDSA MEMBERS**

Boise State Albertsons Stadium, Boise  
11:00 am

## TVDSA Social Group Changes

One the many benefits of a TVDSA membership is our outstanding social groups. They provide fun outings, activities, and fellowship for babies, kids, teens, and adults with Down syndrome, and their parents, too.

### **Thank You!**

After several years of service, some of our social group leaders have decided to step down. TVDSA thanks Reme Echevarria (Mom's), Danielle Williams (Best Buds) Brenda Taylor (Cool Club), and Kathy Brilz (AIM) for all their hard work and years of volunteering. Their hard work and generosity will be missed.

### **New Leaders**

Fortunately, TVDSA is pleased to announce we have had parents step

up to fill some of these positions. Julie McConnel will take over Mom's Night Out, Tove Bracilano has done a great job with Lil' Buddies, and Katharina Gillis will be stepping into the role of coordinating AIM.

### **We Need Your Help!**

TVDSA is looking for organizers for our Best Buds (ages 6–12) and Cool Club (ages 13–17) social groups.

Organizing one of our social groups is a wonderful way to get to know our TVDSA community. You plan an age-appropriate activity once a month, whenever and wherever works for you!

If you're interested, email our programs coordinator, Angela Cochems at [programs@idahodownsyndrome.org](mailto:programs@idahodownsyndrome.org).

# Social Groups

## Lil' Buddies

Lil' Buddies day at the park!

Join us on Saturday, June 11 from 9:30 to 11:00 am at Cassia Park in Boise!

The park shelter will be reserved with snacks and pastries provided. Please plan to bring your favorite beverages and email with any food allergies or dietary restrictions!

The Cassia Park playground is located at 4600 W. Camas St, includes accessible elements for children of all abilities and is mobility device friendly!



Please RSVP by June 9 to Tove Bracilano at [lilbuddies@idahodownsyndrome.org](mailto:lilbuddies@idahodownsyndrome.org).

## Mom's Night Out

Our Moms Group is officially BACK!

A huge thank you to Reme Echevarria for organizing our Moms group for the last several years. She has done such a wonderful job providing fun opportunities for all of us moms to get together and strengthen relationships.

We have eaten at some delicious restaurants, laughed together at fun events and even enjoyed some wonderful pampering! We appreciate all her hard work!

Julie McConnel has taken over the organization of the TVDSA Moms group, but don't worry! Reme isn't going anywhere! She will still see us at the Moms events.

We have a LOT of catching up to do! TVDSA will provide dinner and a soft drink for each mom who attends.

Remember, only current paid TVDSA members may attend and you MUST RSVP by June 10 using [this link](#). Please note any dietary restrictions you may need to have accommodated. There will be gluten-free options available.

I cannot wait to see you all again soon! Please contact Julie at [moms@idahodownsyndrome.org](mailto:moms@idahodownsyndrome.org) with any questions.



Speaking of which, our next get together, after a looooooong pandemic hiatus, will be June 15 at 6:30 pm. We will meet at Smoky Mountain Pizza in Meridian (990 E Fairview Ave). We hope all moms of kids of any age will come and join us for an evening of food and fun!

## Save the Date!

TVDSA Moms *ONLY* Backyard Summer Pool Party, July 29, 6:30 to 8:30 pm in Boise near Cloverdale and Overland.

More details to come!



## Social Group Attendance Policy and Membership

TVDSA no longer requires a health waiver to be filled out or temperature checks. We also no longer have restrictions requiring masks or limiting attendance. We will still have PPE available to those who still choose to use it and will encourage distancing as appropriate.

Activities are only open to current TVDSA members. If you need to renew your membership using the [TVDSA Membership Form](#) or check your membership status, please email [membership@idahodownsyndrome.org](mailto:membership@idahodownsyndrome.org).

## Idaho Parents Unlimited (IPUL) Monthly Training—

### The Power of Positive Partnerships

#### Webinar

**June 21, 2022, 12:30 pm MST**  
([Click here to register.](#))

Join IPUL staff and members of medical and education communities as they discuss how to help overcome and break down potential barriers to build trusting relationships between families and providers.

## Called Beyond Adventures

Called Beyond Adventures is providing a customized youth elk hunt in Southern Idaho for a child with physical limitations (and at least one parent).

Called Beyond will work with the family on adaptations for the child to be able to participate in a mentored elk hunt.

The participant must be an Idaho resident between the ages of 10 and 17 with a physical disability/physical limitations.

For more information about the adventure, go to the [Called Beyond Adventures website](#).

# Tickets Still Available for Albertsons Boise Open

TVDSA is excited to announce the return of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Albertsons Boise Open** this August 18–21, at Hillcrest Country Club! Thanks to Albertsons, 100% of all ticket sales will support local Boise charities!

TVDSA is participating again this year. **TVDSA has a site** to purchase tickets, so encourage your friends and family to purchase tickets and support TVDSA.

The tournament features three nights of exciting concerts: Midland, Billy

Idol, and Train on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole at Hillcrest Golf Course, and concert admission is included with each daily event ticket! .



## Idaho Gives 2022

TVDSA participated in **Idaho Gives 2022** from May 2–5. This state-wide giving event raised funds and awareness for TVDSA.

During the 3 days, TVDSA raised \$1,281 from 15 donors. These donations will help fund several initiatives, like growing our lending library, giving a welcome basket for new parents, supporting our social groups, sponsoring members attending conferences, and funding college scholarships for students with Down syndrome. Most importantly, though, donations go to support TVDSA's mission of enhancing the quality of life

for persons with Down syndrome by promoting inclusive environments as well as advocating respect, dignity, and appropriate supports for people with Down syndrome to ensure that the world sees them as we do – Equal.



## Member Directory Coming

There is currently a project in work to create a TVDSA Member Directory. This will be an *opt-in* directory where current members will give their consent for information to be shared.

TVDSA member and former Board President, Kristie Oakes, will develop a directory for current TVDSA members to ensure they have access to one another.

Friendship is very important to everyone, and peers are the best way

to form lasting relationships. By giving access to their contact information, along with the age of the individual(s) with Down syndrome to our current members, we can provide them with the information necessary to achieve these friendships.

There will be more information available as this project progresses and the first step will be the opt-in form. If you are not currently a member you can join online.

## From the Board

Summer is here and we're so excited to be reconnecting in person with our members, friends, and families. Read below for some updates for what is going on with TVDSA now and in the next few months.

### Communication Preferences

TVDSA has many topics for communication. To make sure you only get the information that you want, you can verify/update your communication preferences using our **Stay in the Loop** form on the TVDSA website.

Let us know if you have any questions.

### TVDSA Walk For Down Syndrome

TVDSA is happy to announce we will hold an in-person walk for 2022.

The walk will be held at Indian Creek Plaza, Sunday, October 16. If you wish to volunteer for the walk, contact Jen Rice at **secretary@idahodownsyndrome.org**

Check the website and future communications for updates. If you are not sure you are on the correct email lists, you can update your communication preferences using the **Stay in the Loop** form.



## Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life for persons with Down syndrome by promoting inclusive environments as well as advocating respect, dignity, and appropriate supports for people with Down syndrome to ensure that the world sees them as we do — Equal.

## Our Vision

A world where full inclusion is a reality rather than a goal.

## Join TVDSA Today!

If you are not currently a member or you would like to renew your membership, you can do so **online with the TVDSA Membership Form**. You can contact us at [membership@idahodownsyndrome.org](mailto:membership@idahodownsyndrome.org) to verify your membership status.

## Board of Directors

### President

George Taylor

### Vice President

Perrine Blakley

### Secretary & Membership

Jen Rice

### Treasurer & Spanish Contact

Lucy Olmos

### Members Programs Coordinator

Angela Cochems

## Contact Information

Treasure Valley Down  
Syndrome Association

PO Box 1404  
Meridian, ID 83680  
208-945-7448

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



## Summer Learning Programs for Kids who Learn and Think Differently [understood.org](http://understood.org)

### Español

Aun cuando no hay clases escolares en el verano, los niños pueden seguir aprendiendo a través de un programa de verano. El verano puede ser una oportunidad excelente para aprender nuevas habilidades y evitar que se olviden las que se han aprendido durante el año escolar.

Esto puede ser especialmente cierto en 2022 al tener las escuelas que empezaron a recuperar el tiempo de aprendizaje perdido durante la pandemia del coronavirus. Los estados y los distritos escolares locales recibieron en marzo un gran estímulo económico cuando se convirtió en ley el plan de rescate en los Estados Unidos (American Rescue Plan). Esta financiación de emergencia incluye miles de millones de dólares que deben ser gastados de determinadas maneras:

- Abordar el impacto del tiempo de enseñanza perdido, a través de la implementación de programas de verano y otras iniciativas basadas en evidencia.
- Ofrecer programas de enriquecimiento educativo durante el verano.
- Satisfacer las necesidades de los estudiantes con discapacidades.

Algunos programas de verano se centran en lo académico. Otros se enfocan en el enriquecimiento a través de las artes o el deporte.

Los programas de verano pueden ayudar a los estudiantes que tienen dificultades a ponerse al día, y con suerte a divertirse participando en ellos.

**Lea el artículo completo en [understand.org](http://understand.org).**

### English

Even when school is out for the summer, kids can keep learning through a summer learning program. Summer can be a great time to learn new skills and keep old ones from getting rusty.

This may be especially true in 2022 as schools start to make up for learning time that was lost during the coronavirus pandemic. States and local school districts got a big funding boost in March when the American Rescue Plan was signed into law. This emergency funding includes billions of dollars that must be spent in certain ways:

- Addressing the impact of lost instructional time, using summer programs and other evidence-based initiatives
- Providing summer enrichment programs
- Meeting the needs of students with disabilities

Some summer programs focus on academics. Others focus on enrichment, like arts or athletics. And many programs offer a mix of both.

Summer learning can help struggling students catch up — and hopefully have some fun along the way. Explore summer learning options for kids who learn and think differently.

**Read the full article at [understood.org](http://understood.org).**

