

Q: What is Down Syndrome Alabama's Mission?

For more than 30 years Down Syndrome Alabama's mission has been to promote Awareness, Acceptance, Advocacy, Appreciation and Inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome of all ages. DSA is committed to the wellbeing and quality of life these individuals experience here in Alabama.



Q: Who Does DSA reach with its programs?

• Individuals with Down syndrome of all ages

DSA also accomplishes this by reaching the varied circles of influence that will touch a person with Down syndrome's life: Family - Medical/Mental Health Professionals - Service Providers & Resources - Early Intervention Providers - Education (Preschool - High School) - IFSP & IEP - Transition Processes - The Community at Large - Post High School Experiences - Career Development & Vocational Training - Financial/Legal Professionals for Planning - Caretakers for elderly with Down syndrome.

Q: How is Funding applied? [Funding Categories: Individual Donor - Corporate Sponsor - Golf Event Sponsor - Buddy Walk Sponsor]

• 7 Advocacy groups:

New Parents - Preschool - Elementary - Middle School - High School - Adults - Hispanic - Birmingham City

• 5 Satellite locations throughout Central Alabama

North (Cullman) - Northwest (Jasper) - Northeast (Gadsden) - Southwest (Tuscaloosa) - Southeast (Sylacauga)

• Heart 2 Heart – A hospital visitation outreach to individuals with Down syndrome and caretakers.

Serving UAB - Children's - Brookwood - St. Vincent's

• An interactive website that includes topical pages, a calendar, directories, resources and registrations downsyndromealabama.org

• Conference - Nationally recognized experts on a topic relevant to Down syndrome. This benefits individuals with Down syndrome, caretakers, health professionals, service providers, educators and other state advocacy groups.

• All Member Seminars & Workshops: Conducted by regional experts in their fields: Individuals with Down syndrome, caretakers and professionals in related fields benefit by participating in these workshops

• John Mark Stalling Adult Advocacy Programs:

- **Caretaker to Caretaker Healthcare Referral Program:** The DSA Caretaker to Caretaker Healthcare Referral Program is an online searchable directory and printed directory of health professionals personally recommended by a Caretaker of a person with Down syndrome.

- **Self-Advocate Board:** Goal for 2015 is to appoint a self-advocate representative onto the DSA Board of Directors

- **Career and Volunteer Development:** Workshops with Vocational trainers, Mental Health Professionals and local potential employers.

- Identification of areas within DSA where individuals with Down syndrome can learn a skill, build their resume and establish a recommendation.

- **Connections:** A database network to keep adults with Down syndrome connected to their support advocacy group given the possible change of residence they may experience as they age.

- Greeting cards to celebrate holidays and birthdays
- Educational & Activity opportunities for self-advocates that are relevant to their life as a mature adult

• New! Member magazine – 3 issues with topics relevant to all ages, groups and service providers – starting in May '15

• New! Library Outreach – providing current books and reference materials to local libraries throughout Central Alabama

• New! Sibling Advocacy Group - resources and support for the siblings of people with Down syndrome. Focus is upon three main areas: Secondary Caretakers - Community Impact - Support & Activities