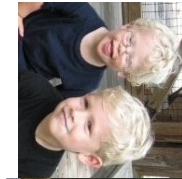


SERVING OTHERS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Through the existence of GCDSS, communication to new parents has increased and advocacy on behalf of our children is stronger. We provide a wealth of information and resources on our website at www.gcdss.org.

Our continuing goals are:

- *To continue reaching parents of newborns with Down syndrome individually and through hospitals by sharing a Welcome Basket filled with useful and much needed information about the diagnosis of Down syndrome.*
- *To purchase and donate to our elementary school libraries books about Down syndrome, such as, [We'll Paint the Octopus Red](#).*
- *To host educational seminars about various health and well-being issues associated with Down syndrome.*
- *To foster a positive working relationship between our special needs children and the community in general, including school, athletic programs, church and employers.*
- *To assist in the education of and to encourage individuals with Down syndrome to become self-advocates for full inclusion and acceptance in their communities.*



Building a Bridge to a Brighter Future
...One Family at a Time
P.O. Box 654
Gautier, MS 39553



AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY
AND A REGISTERED 501 (C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society, Inc.



*Supporting
families and
individuals with
Down syndrome*

*Building a Bridge to a
Brighter Future... One
Family at a Time.*

www.GCDSS.org

What is Down syndrome?

Down syndrome is the genetic condition resulting when a baby is born with three, rather than the usual two, copies of chromosome 21. Because there are three copies of chromosome 21, Down syndrome is also called Trisomy 21. In a small percentage of cases, there is only an additional part of chromosome 21. The cause of the extra chromosome (or part) is still unknown. This extra genetic material affects the cognition and development of the child, but is not a blueprint that determines his or her potential, success or inability to lead a fulfilling, meaningful life.



**Buddy Walk®
2008**

What is the mission of the Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society?

The purpose of the Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society is to build a supportive network for families and individuals with Down syndrome to share information, strength, and hope. It is our mission to ensure that all people with Down syndrome have the opportunity to achieve their full potential in community life. At the same time, it is our goal to provide children and adults with a Down syndrome peer group in which they can form lifelong friendships. Parents, family members, individuals with Down syndrome, and anyone else interested in learning more are welcome to attend any of the events sponsored by GCDSS.



How does GCDSS achieve the mission?

The Board of Directors for the Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society meet monthly to discuss various issues and projects. The Support Group meetings are scheduled for every second Saturday (unless noted differently on our website) and hosted by members of GCDSS. In addition, we host other informative programs for our members, their friends/family, and professionals. Our main public awareness event is our annual Buddy Walk®, a one-mile fun walk, intended to highlight Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Please visit our website, www.GCDSS.org for the latest schedules and information as well as register to become a member.

Contact Information

GCDSS

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