

OUR MISSION - To strengthen opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and those who support them to earn, learn and belong.

OUR VISION - We see a community that embraces, respects, and supports people of all abilities, especially those with Down syndrome.

OUR VALUES - Designer Genes will embrace people as they are to create supportive and protective communities, and view the organization as a benefit to the whole. Down syndrome is at the center of what we do and we strive for relationships that support our core families.

EARNING

- Advocacy on state and federal supports for persons with intellectual disabilities and their families
- Member support regarding ABLE accounts, Medicaid access and use, and navigating support systems
- Collaboration on the statewide Transition Community of Practice Annual Conference which promotes coordination of employment and post-secondary supports for students with disabilities



LEARNING

- Individual member support around Individual Education Plan and Individual Family Service Plan development among a broad range of topics to 80 families (through Nov., 2019)
- Continued support to GROW and gardening for members with Down syndrome and other disabilities.
- Hosted 25 riders through the 2019 iCan Bike Camp
- Community presentations on Down syndrome and related topics.

BELONGING

- Partnered with Dakota Center for Independent Living to launch the Youth Empowering Social Status (Y.E.S.S.) group
- Over 85 teams supporting individuals with Down syndrome at the 16th Annual Designer Genes Walk for Down Syndrome.
- Ongoing relationships with national partners: NDSC, Global Down Syndrome Foundation, DSAIA, and NDSS
- Nine families with new babies supported by Designer Genes
- 238 individuals in the Designer Genes membership. Up 4% from 2018

PARTNERSHIPS

- G.R.O.W. (Growing Recreational Opportunities with Friends) project
- Family Voices on North Dakota to support families with prenatal diagnosis through Project Carson
- 2019 Power Up (Health and Disability) Conference
- Member of the North Dakota Disability Advocacy Consortium
- 2019 Statewide Transition to Adulthood Conference
- 2019 Y.E.S.S. First Annual Youth Conference
- Various activities with University of Mary
- 2019 Giving Hearts Day participants along with over 400 ND/MN non-profits

DESIGNER GENES AT YOUR SERVICE

Together, we have worked to build Designer Genes to what it has become today and we need to celebrate all the hard work. Because of the effort, here's what Designer Genes can do for you today:

- Provide individual information and referral assistance around topics such as education, health care, Medicaid, human service system access, transitions
- Help you brainstorm on ways to make a community activity more accessible
- Track and provide advocacy on local, state, and federal policy that is important to our members
- Connect you to another individual or family that has similar information or issues
- Host an activity that you might be dreaming about – Call us with your ideas
- Support a new North Dakota family you might know that has just received a diagnosis of DS
- Promote community inclusion
- Tell a peer group about Down syndrome (i.e. your child's class, your book club, etc.)
- Share our conference room space for a meeting you'd like to have
- Find a book or materials you might be hunting for (if we don't have it - we'll get it) in our library

CURRENT OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	Sandy McMerty
Vice-President	Andrea Stewart
Treasurer	Deb Clarys
Secretary	Karissa Kautzman
Director	Heather Lundeen
Director	Rachel Keegan
Director	Erin Hill-Oban



2019 BUDDY WALK

Teams in Attendance: 85

Gross Revenue: \$75,414

Highlights: Heroes, new name, gift of great weather, steel drums, and dinosaurs.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

THANK YOU TO OUR BUDDIES

FINANCIAL BUDDIES

American Bank Center
Ameriprise Financial
American Bank Center
Anne Carlsen
Arndorfer Family
Badlands Consulting
Baker Boy
Bain Insurance
BARK Welding & Petroleum Services
BisMan Power of 100
Bismarck Parks and Rec
Bismarck Moose Lodge
BNC National Bank
Bobcat of Mandan
Boepple Family
Bulawa Family
Capital City Wealth Management
Capital Credit Union
Cedric Theel Motors
Celley's Sports
Century 21 Realty – Jamie Christensen
Century 21 Realty – Sue Jacobson
Century 21 Realty – Tricia Schlosser
Clarys Family
Clausnitzer Dentistry
Clive Kuppler Memorial/Down Dogs for Down Syndrome
Cloverdale
Dakota Eye Clinic
Dakota Promotions
Dakota West Contracting
Debbie Stiles Memorial
Dr. Joan Connell
Doosan Bobcat
Dunnigan Family
Edward Dzura Memorial
Elsberry and Shively, PC
Evanson Jensen Funeral Home
EverSpring Inn and Suites
Flash Printing
Gate City Bank
Germolus, Knoll, & Leibel
Gifted Bean Coffee Shop
Gigi's Playhouse
Goebel Pediatric Dentistry
Heartview
Healing Horse Ranch/Young Bird Family
Hetletved Accounting
Hieb Farms

HIT, Inc.
Idea Monster/Sandy McMerty
Ideal Dentist Imagery
Image Makers
Independent Doctors - Drs. Denise and Stephen McDonough
Integra Reality
Jerome Distributing
Juniper Environmental Services
K&K Ag
Kennedy Supermarkets, Inc.
Kristy Family
Liberty Diversified
Liechty Homes, Inc.
Lindell Law Firm
McQuade Softball Tournament
MDU Resources Foundation
Marion Family
Medicine Shoppe (Mandan)/Gusto Cup
MidDakota Medical Building Partnership
Milestones Therapy
Morgan Hayden State Farm
Moritz Sports & Marine
Muggerud Family
Murphy Elementary School
Nuvation
Oban Family
Optimist Club of Bismarck
Our Place Motorcycle Club
Papa's Pumpkin Patch
Pastime Steakhouse
Pediatric Partners
Pine Petroleum/Broadway Grill
Pandolfo Family
Poolman Family
Poppy's Promise
Pride, Inc.
Proximal 50
RDO
Red Door Pediatric Therapy
Ritter Adair & Associates
Safe Ship
Sam's
Sanford Foundation
Schau Family
Schmid Family
Security First Bank of ND (Center)
Shirek Family
Skeels Electric

Sogard Family
Spiffy Biffs
Starion Financial
The Bone & Joint Center
Thrivent Financial
Trademark Realty
Walth Family
Walmart
Weisz & Sons Contractors
Wells Fargo
Wild Inspire (Wild Family)
Women of the Moose – Mandan Chapter
Zion Lutheran WELCA - Kulm

TIME & TALENT BUDDIES

BHS Cheer Team
CHS Peer to Peer
CHS Color Guard
Designer Genes Board of Directors
Henry and the Hens
Joseph Bump – UMary Communications Intern
Juniper Environmental Services
Madeline Easton – UMary Communications Intern
Mandan Dacotah Lions
Missouri Valley Quilting Guild
New Song
North Star Lions
Schmitz Family
Stacy Sturm/URL Radio
Steve and Carla LaFramboise
St. Mary's Leo Lions
St. Mary's Steel Drum Band
UMary Staff and Students