

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mar. 20 | WDSO Skating Party

Skating Party - 2 pm - 6 pm
Capitol Ice Complex
221 Reno Ave, Bismarck

Mar. 21 | World Down Syndrome Day

Mar. 26 | OMPC Bikers 4 Bikers Fundraiser

12 pm - 3 pm - HIT
2640 Sunset Dr., Mandan

Mar. 26 | YESS Mocktail Party

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Hillside Community Center
1719 Boulevard Ave, Bismarck

New Thru Two Learning Series

March 29, April 12, April 26

Apr. 26 | DG Board Meeting

6 pm - Designer Genes Offices

Jun. 27 | DG at the Larks

Jun. 21 | DG Board Meeting

6 pm - Designer Genes Offices

Aug. 21 | DG Picnic

See more dates on back page ...

TAKE A MOMENT & MAKE A DIFFERENCE PLEASE TAKE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

Designer Genes is conducting a survey! The purpose of this survey is concerned with the current status of employment rates for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

The target participants for this survey are individuals with an intellectual and/or developmental disability who are between the **ages of 16-65+** and their caregivers/guardians.

The survey is 15 questions and should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. All of the responses collected from this survey will be recorded anonymously.

The data collected from this survey will be presented to various stakeholders in North Dakota in regards to competitive pay employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Just aim your smartphone camera at the QR code at right to be given a link to take the survey.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

Research Study Participants!

- Scan the barcode to access the survey.
- Complete a 5-10 minute electronic survey.



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY 2022 & #LOTSOFSOCKS CAMPAIGN

We'll be celebrating World Down Syndrome Day a day early on Sunday, March 20 at the Capital Ice Complex (221 E. Reno, Bismarck) from 2 - 6 pm. Open to all ages and the entire family.

Here's the fun we have lined up:

- Supper starting at 4:30 pm
- Free ice skate rental and ice skating from 2 – 4:30 pm
- Trial runs on hockey sleds with Dreams in Motion
- Lots of Socks – Wear the ones that make your heart sing - crazy, cool or comfy!
- Free Head Shots for your Walk Stars' 2022 Star Posters - get a head start for the Walk for Down Syndrome!
- Connections and conversations as we celebrate what we all have in common – a connection to Down syndrome.

RSVP are requested to plan for food and volunteers:

<https://forms.gle/AuY6LjTcb1cQhhZ16>

If anyone is considering a peer presentation at their school, church, or service group, please see Designer Genes as a resource for information, books, and past presentations.



WHAT IS #LOTSOFSOCKS

The #LotsOfSocks campaign exists to raise awareness about Down syndrome. #LotsOfSocks gets people talking on World Down Syndrome Day (WDS), celebrated each year on March 21.

HOW DO YOU BE A PART OF THE #LOTSOFSOCK FUN?

1. Wear your own choice of socks that are going to get noticed - they might be mismatched socks or your wildest and most colorful socks, whatever takes your fancy! If someone asks you about your socks you can tell them, "I'm wearing them to raise awareness about Down syndrome."
2. Invite others to rock #lotsofsocks on Monday, March 21st! Remember to post lots of photos to your social media channels and don't forget to tag #DGND and #LotsofSocks.

**OUR PLACE MOTORCYCLE CLUB
PRESENTS THE 6TH ANNUAL
BIKERS 4 BIKERS**



**Lunch • Games
Face Painting
Bake Sale • Bingo
Silent Auction**

**SATURDAY
MARCH 26, 2022
12 P.M. TO 3 P.M.**

**HIT INC.
2640 SUNSET
DRIVE
MANDAN, ND**



BIKERS FOR BIKERS IS BACK JOIN OMPC - OUR BUDDIES IN LEATHER

Come support the iCan Bike Camp at the OMPC Bikers 4 Bikers event on Saturday, March 26. Drop in at any point from 12 – 3 pm at HIT, Inc. (2640 Sunset Dr., Mandan). Here's just a few of the things you won't want to miss:

- Not cook! We'll have lunch waiting.
- Buy a raffle ticket to win a ride during the opening loop at the 2022 Walk for Down Syndrome
- Get sweet! Buy something at the bake sale.
- Get tattooed! OK, maybe just get your face painted.
- Dance to the tunes from our friend and DJ, Steve LaFramboise.
- Bid on a silent auction item and play a little Bingo
- Make bikers and Designer Genes happy! All funds raised go to support the 2023 iCan Bike Camp.

OPMC has raised \$21,600 since the start. Please bring your family and friends and help us support our buddies as they support us!

NEW THRU TWO LEARNING SERIES



If you're someone that loves infant and/or toddler who has Down syndrome (birth to 3), join us on the following dates and for the topics listed:

- March 29 Early Tips for Communicating and Learning
- April 12 Inclusion: When, Where, and How
- April 19 Transition at 3

We will be hosting this series virtually and in-person from 6:30 – 8:00 pm (CST). In-person will be held at Poppy's Promise, 1615 Capitol Way, Bismarck. Our hope is to offer child care onsite.

If you want to attend virtually, please register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZcvf-Grrz4sHdaKEi_Eopnp68HpCXsGrLer

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



MAKE YOUR AMAZON PURCHASES WORK FOR DESIGNER GENES

To get your Amazon purchases working for Designer Genes, just go to smile.amazon.com and search for Designer Genes of ND. All purchases after that will benefit Designer Genes as long as you go in through smile.amazon.com.

NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME CONGRESS - WANT TO GO?

Did you know that there are funds through the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities for individuals and families to attend learning opportunities up to \$2000 a family? Click on Consumer Leadership Funds at: www.nd.gov/scdd/grant.

This is a great opportunity if you are thinking of attending the country's leading Down syndrome conference. Learn more at: <https://www.ndsccenter.org/annual-convention/about-the-convention>. Registration for the national conference opens March 14. The self-advocate, sibling, and kids' camp portions of the conference fill up within hours of the conference opening so don't hesitate.

DESIGNER GENES BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY SANDY MCMERTY, BOARD PRESIDENT

Designer Genes celebrated ten years of incorporation in December, 2021. We presented bylaw changes to the full membership and cleaned up language from the original set of bylaws that were created. Thanks to everyone that took the time to review the changes, voted, and helped us to move forward.

Your board of directors passed a budget for 2022 that includes further investments for Designer Genes. These include new program coordinator time for education and event work, training, and community partnerships for the Walk for Down Syndrome. It's so exciting to see how much Designer Genes has grown, but we also know that we are going to have to plan for a succession of our executive director and new adventures in the future.

WORK FOR US

The Arc of Bismarck is hiring a program director. Designer Genes will be contracting for 10 hours a week of this new staff's time to run programs and increase our training opportunities. We're excited about this new investment!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Continued from front page ...

Aug. 30-31 | Power Up Conference

Sept. 24 | Annual Walk for Down Syndrome

State Capitol Grounds - Bismarck
10 a.m. - Registration
11 a.m. - Walk

October 2021

Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Oct. 25 | DG Board Meeting

6 pm - Designer Genes Offices

Dec. 3 | Supper with Santa/ Annual Meeting



A · DOWN · SYNDROME · SUPPORT · NETWORK

DESIGNERGENESND.COM

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BISMARCK ND 58502-0515

info@DesignerGenesND.com



walk for
**down
syndrome**



DESIGNER GENES SAYS LET'S CELEBRATE HERE'S A FEW ITEMS BLESSING OUR ORGANIZATION

Being part of 2022 Giving Hearts Day raised just shy of \$11,000 for Designer Genes. Thanks to everyone that said #helpsomeone and contributed.

GIVING HEARTS BUILD FUTURES

Designer Genes believes in building a strong future for people with Down syndrome and their families.

Im Building A Bond!

www.givingheartsday.org

Giving Hearts Day

Help someone.

Designer Genes has been fortunate to have a social work intern from the University of Mary. Kennon Schmit started in January and has been a valuable asset to carrying out our mission.

Community and member volunteers helped Designer Genes to take a weekend at Papa's Pumpkin Patch. In return, Papa's sent Designer Genes a check for \$2000. We couldn't do it without everyone that comes out to help.

Great big round of applause for Brody's Buddies Bath Bombs. Brody Krein is making bath bombs and donating the proceeds to Designer Genes in honor of World Down Syndrome Day. He and his mom, Jen Klein Schafer, were covered in a KFVR-TV story which just hit the national news syndicate and he's getting orders from all over the US!

EVERY CHILD IS GIFTED. THEY JUST UNWRAP THEIR PACKAGES AT DIFFERENT TIMES.