

OUR REACH



770

People with
Down Syndrome & their
Families

1,743

Facebook Followers

88

North Dakota
Communities Served

OUR SUPPORT



12

New Baby Packets
Distributed

14

Family Events Held
(In-Person & Virtual)

99

Families Receiving
Direct Support

OUR RESOURCES



25

Collaborative
Partnerships

\$95,000

Fundraising Goal Met for
Walk for Down Syndrome

123

Community Sponsors
(\$200 and above)

MISSION

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

VISION

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

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.

PARTNERSHIPS

- G.R.O.W. (Growing Recreational Opportunities with Friends) – Recipient of a North Dakota Community Foundation “Statewide Greatest Need Grant”
- ND Department of Health and Human Services and Family Voices of North Dakota to support families with prenatal and postnatal diagnosis
- 2023 Power Up Your Voice Conference
- Member of the ND Disability Advocacy Consortium
- 20 riders through 2023 iCan Bike Camp – partnering with Anne Carlsen Center
- Annual Fundraiser with Our Place Motorcycle Club
- Presentations to local schools on Down syndrome
- 2023 Giving Hearts Day participants along with over 500 ND/MN non-profits
- Partnered with other non-profits to host a Community Movie Night
- Early Childhood/Disability Advocacy Day at the Capitol
- Worked with partners to pass Paid Family Caregiver legislation and funding for the Cross-Disability Council/Waiver

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:

- Provide you with individual information and referral assistance around topics like education, health care, Medicaid, human service system access, transitions
- Help you brainstorm 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 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 for a meeting you 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	Michelle Ragan
Executive Director	Roxane Romanick
Program Support	Tiana Staudinger
GROW Coordinator	Kathryn Dunlap



walk for
**down
syndrome**

2023 WALK FOR DOWN SYNDROME

Teams in Attendance: 70 Gross Revenue: \$95,000 NEW RECORD*
 Highlights: Celebrated 20, massive numbers of peer to peer members, weather worries, partnership with Bismarck Larks – Funatix, Disney princesses, incredible face painting, and lots of happy faces.
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024!

2023 DESIGNER GENES SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

\$200 - \$399

American Family Insurance
Angela Swindler
Bismarck PEO - Chapter AA
Bourgois Family
C Bond Photograph
Cindy Arndorfer
Diane Johnson
Dr. Ana Tobiasz
Empowered Kids
Faye Dunnigan
Flash Printing
Heidinger Family
Horizon Husky Wellness
James Keegan
Joel and Nancy Mueller
Kristen Keegan
Krein Family
Krischenheiter Family
Kuzel Family
Lesner Family
Luigi's Ice Cream Truck
Neisheim Family
Rhonda Henschel
Spiffy Biff
Smith Family
Snustad Family
Tex Hall
Topp Family
Weisz & Sons

\$400 - \$999

Ameriprise Financial
Alexander Family
Bareknuckle Events
BARK Welding & Petroleum Services
Bismarck Magazine
Bismarck Motor Company
Bravera Bank
Bremer Bank
Caring Edge Home Health
Carly Toward
Capital City Wealth Management
Cedric Theel Motors
Dakota Carrier Network
Dakota Community Bank
Dakota Eye Institute
Dakota West Contracting

Dr. Angela Stephens
Dr. Joan Connell
Elsberry and Shively, PC
Gifted Bean Coffee House
Gigi's Playhouse - Fargo
Goebel Pediatric Dentistry
Gratitude Spa & Salon
Hilts Family
HIT, Inc
Inknetics
Johnson Family
Klein Family
Kirkwood Bank and Trust
Kuppler Family - Down Dogs for
Down Syndrome
Laughing Sun
Lillian Kraft Memorial (Schorsch Family)
Lindell Law Firm
Little Lights Pediatric Therapy
MATPAC Wrestling
Marlene Lyon
MDU Resources Foundation
Milestones Therapy
Mindful Health and Wellness
Modern Eye
North Dakota Ass. Of Community
Providers
Open A Angus
Pediatric Partners
Poppy's Promise
Pride, Inc.
Promoting Philosophy
Proximal 50
Rachelle Johnson
RDO
Red Door Pediatric Therapy
Sanford Health
Sherri Rostock
Skeels Electric
Skin Reflections
Starion Bank
Studio North
The Enrichment Garden
US Bank
Western Mini Storage

\$1000 AND ABOVE

701 Corn Hole
Avalynn's Fly High Foundation
Bobcat of Mandan
Carlotta Holter
Century 21 Morrison Realty
Child's Hope Child Care
Doosan/Bobcat Company
Don and Sylvia Schmid
Elk Ridge Development, LLC
Essentia Health
Hetleved CPA/Family
Inspire Family Fellowship
Jamie Christensen & Sue Jacobson @
C21 Morrison Realty
Pine Petroleum/Broadway Grill
Our Place Motorcycle Club
Medicine Shoppe/Gusto Cup
McQuade Distributing
Mesa Solutions
MHA Nation
Midwest Autism Association
Oakes Walk for Down Syndrome
Rita Keegan

TIME AND TALENT BUDDIES

Bismarck Parks and Rec
Bread Poets
CHS Color Guard
CHS Peer to Peer
CHS Varsity Football
Kitty Ko
Legacy National Art Society
Retired Special Education Quilters
Santa and Mrs. Klaus - you know who
you are!!!
Stacy Sturm
Steve and Carla LaFramboise
St. Mary's Leo Lions
UMary PT Students

