

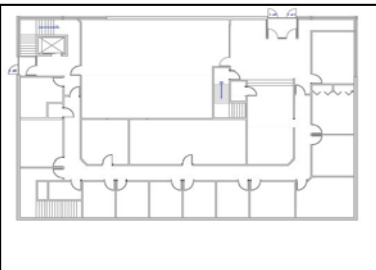


Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana

Serving Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland Areas

February/March 2015

Building for disABILITIES 2015



Left: Day 1, UAW (United Auto Workers), Local 551, Local 588 and Ford Motor Company starting the construction for our new building.

Left center: New Building layout/floor plan lower level.

Right center: Building for disABILITIES postcard

Right: Day 3, The Pangere Corporation and the Regional Council of Carpenters doing a walk-through inspection and planning out next steps.

The Down Syndrome Association is working on building, growing and moving into a permanent 5000 square foot location. We will still be in downtown Highland but will have a brand new facility. Yes, the DSA of NWI will continue to serve (babies, children, teens and adults) with disabilities in Northwest Indiana, as well as the Chicagoland area. Seminars and programs such as: **The Chit Chat speech groups, Making Connections** (reading & math tutoring), **Sensory Groups, S.M.I.L.E. Group** for teens and adults, **parent educational workshops** and **social programs** will remain. We very excited to be able to improve and add so much more including to our program list including: **cooking classes, summer camp** and **play groups**. Club Shining Stars will now have a location in our building and will continue to serve all disabilities. This remodel has begun, so we encourage you to take part.

Please help out our community and so many deserving DSA members by: **volunteering, buying a tile** for our new building (form inside) or **donating on our Go Fund Me site www.gofundme.com/specialbuild**. We also have corporate sponsorships letter too! After all it takes a village and we are counting on your help!

A **BIG THANK YOU** to those making this happen! This project could not be possible without the help of: The Pangere Corporation, Taylor Design Architects, the Regional Council of Carpenters and Carpenters Local 599, The Ford Motor Company and Laborers International Union of North America Local 41 for you generosity and helping with this project! A SPECIAL BIG THANK YOU to the UAW (United Auto Workers), Local 551, Local 588 and Ford for helping the Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana initiate this project and get us off the ground with the construction.





Recent DSA Events/Activities

Frozen Holiday Party 2014



A Frozen Celebration In Review

This year's DSA of NWI "Frozen" themed Holiday Party was a definite crowd pleaser in so many ways! With 438 in attendance, the laughter, smiles, and appreciation were apparent throughout the afternoon. To the surprise of attendees, this year the DSA of NWI spread the holiday cheer with valuable and purposeful gifts to many recipients by way of the new Give Back Program, with items totaling \$1945. Rounds of applause, photo opportunities showcasing appreciation and excitement, filled the room when names were selected from the raffle and we gifted (5) iPads (each valued at \$300), Valentine's Day Dance coupon valued at \$120, Awards Night coupon valued at \$120, (3) iTunes gift cards to (3) families (\$15 each), Olaf stuffed animals and (5) Signing Time videos (\$160 value). Additional excitement was abound when DSA of NWI Board President Bill Buckley announced the official construction for our new building location, the collaborative efforts with the SMILE Group and Club Shining Stars, the plans to expand our reach in the community, and the new programs and events planned for 2015. The DSA of NWI Board has been very busy working to continue to provide additional opportunities to our families with special needs.

A big thank you to the following for helping with the Frozen Party:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Accents on 45th | Maldonado Family |
| Albert's Diamond Jewelers | Manes Family |
| Bolster Family | Memories in Minutes |
| Chicago Architecture Assoc. | Museum of Science & Industry |
| DJ Nino | Nierengarten Family |
| Doreen's Pizza | Nines Salon |
| Dosen Family | Price Family |
| Duke of Oil | Purdue Boilermakers |
| Dunhill Tuxedo | Ramos Family |
| Dybowski Family | Radisson @ Star Plaza |
| The Essence Suites | Santa and Elves |
| Gary Railcats Baseball | Scandura Family |
| Holdren Family | Simantirakis Family |
| Houlihan's-Schererville | Sky Zone-Schererville |
| Hoye Family | Smoothie King |
| Indiana Beach | Penny Taus & Family |
| Indianapolis Children's Museum | Patti Thompson |
| Indianapolis Colts | Twig Photography |
| It's My Party | Vanis Salon (Schererville) |
| IU Athletics | Walt's Stop and Shop |
| Ofelia Jimenez & Family | Wee Care Therapy |
| Jak's Warehouse | White Hawk Country Club |
| JMotive Photography | Wicker Park Golf |
| Koultourides Dental | Wisniewski Family |
| Kujawa Family | Wozniak Family |
| NWI Symphony | Zanies Comedy Club |
| Patti's All American | |

Pictures below taken by: **Kristen Ann Proffitt**
(TwigPhotography.net)



Upcoming DSA Events



Arts Abound Ages 10 & Up

Picasso Inspired Painting Class

Monday, February 2nd 6-7:30 pm

Found Object Animal Creations

March 9th 7-8:30 pm



Please join us in Dyer for an art night for persons with special needs.
Every student will be able to follow along, step-by-step, to create their own art.
One parent/guardian will need to stay with their child/adult.
Please wear painting clothes.

This event is FREE for a child/adult with disability.
Please call the office at 219-838-3656 for directions.
There is a \$20 fee for any parent/guardian who would like to participate.
Space is limited to 20 participants for this program.

*We will keep and display our artwork at Milestone Therapy before returning to the students at the end of February.
Arts Abound is a creative arts program for all ages taught by: Dawn Buckley (certified Illinois/Indiana Educator)
Please R.S.V.P by registering online at dsaofnwi.org.



We Wish a Very Happy Birthday to:



February

Alberto E. Sanchez
Joel Sodo
Zachary Anderson
Garrett Kuiper
Bo Gill
Catie Rohrman
Adam Sekula
Philip Henderson
Brennan McQuillen
Kaylee Tomfohrde
Jessica Tellez
Greg Hagenow
Jayla Wilkins
Olivia Longo
Duncan Murtaugh
Takara Gleim
Summer Luttrell

Max Holbrook
Mariano Arias
Ryan Persenaire
Jhon Brown
Robin Tucker
Nathaniel Cox
Susana Fonseca
Scott Schmidt
Armando Arciga

March

Trey Wardian
Kristina Plucinski
Dennis tomczak
Cristopher Dorsey
Dernardo Lugo
Chase Fleszewski
Deborah Ellrich

Riley Etheridge
Avery Kwiecien
Jessica Brown
Xavier Rodrigues
Colleen Cavanaugh
Ginny Gavin
Amanda Gurtz
Jamerson Bryant
Jacob Peterson
Timothy Klisser
Jake Kelley
Cameron Hardesty
Nicholas Bontempo
Nathan McBride
Daniel Bultema

Maile Hardesty
Thomas Kleszynski
Ava Campos
Jose Brignoni

If we have made any errors or omissions, please accept our apologies and let us know by calling our DSA office at (219) 838-3656.

Next DSA of NWI Board Meetings: February 11th and March 11th @ 7:30 pm.

Contact DSA President, Bill Buckley, at bbuckley@dsaofnwi.org for meeting location and time. Everyone's welcome!
DSA newsletter distribution sequence: February/March, April/May, June/July/August, September/October/November & December/January

Upcoming DSA Events/Activities



**Down Syndrome
Association**
OF NORTHWEST INDIANA



DAD'S NIGHT OUT! **Tuesday, March 10th at 7 pm**

Join other dads for a Dad's Night Out at Houlihan's located at: 1550 U.S. Route 41, Schererville, IN.

The DSA will pick up an entrée, but you will be on your own for beverages.

Contact Bill Buckley: bbuckley@dsaofnwi.org



SAVE THE DATE...

**DSA of NWI
Buddy Walk
September 12, 2015
9 am - 5K Run
10:30 am - Buddy Walk**

The DSA of NWI will have its annual Buddy Walk on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

This year we are adding a 5K run. All are welcome to participate in the run, walk or both!

Keep an eye out for team registration, to be up and running by World Down Syndrome Day.



Family Fun Night at Chipotle-Merrillville

1948 Southlake Mall, Merrillville, IN
See DSA Facebook page for more information
Date: February 16th, 4 - 8 pm.

Fifty percent of the proceeds will be donated to the DSA and Club Shining Stars. Show the flyer and mention why you are there to eat!



IEP Bootcamp sponsored by DSA of NWI @ Milestone Therapy (Highland, IN Location).

Sunday, February 8th from 2-5 p.m.
@ Milestone Therapy in Highland, IN

The cost is: \$25.00 per person, online registration: www.dsaofnwi.org
For more information visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/1574993339404653/>

IEP Boot Camp Curriculum:

1. Troubleshoot your child's IEP
2. Complete your own IEP analysis
3. Find strengths and weaknesses based on facts, data, and documents
4. Learn about IDEA law & how it effects your child
5. How to write measurable, objective & PURPOSEFUL IEP goals
6. General education impact
7. How to hold the IEP team accountable for progress
8. How to strategically plan with your IEP team to maximize your child's education
9. Assistive Technology integration
10. Medical Vs Education diagnosis & services

Hot Topics Q&A:

Each participant of IEP Boot Camp MUST bring a copy of their child's IEP or EI transition paperwork.

IEP Boot Camp is a hands-on advocacy experience!

RESULTS:

By the end of this workshop, you will:

1. Be confident in designing, implementing and monitoring your child's IEP.
2. Be knowledgeable to ask the right questions and make the best decisions.
3. Be empowered to become respected as the leader of your child's IEP team.



ROCK YOUR CRAZY SOCKS on World Down Syndrome Day

Keep the tradition alive
and wear your crazy socks.

www.worlddownsyndromeday.org

SAVE THE DATE MARCH 21st

Time: 12 pm - 3:00 pm
Balloon Launch at 3:21 pm

Location: 2927 Jewett Ave, Highland, IN 46322
Secondary location: New building - 2906 Highway Ave, Milestone Therapy
(Corner of 4th Street Jewett Ave parking lot)

Celebrate with us on World Down Syndrome Day for our annual open house.

See our progress with
the new building.

We will have crafts, a jumpy, food, music, a mobile game hut and announce our raffle winners

This event is FREE for all DSA of NWI members and their families.

Come help us celebrate!

Valentines Dinner and Dance 2015

Location: Andorra Banquets, 1112 Route 41 Schererville, IN 46375

Time: 4-9 pm

Please register online by February 7, 2015

Name of Adult Attending (one adult free of charge):

1. _____

Name of Person with Down syndrome attending (free of charge):

1. _____

Contact Person Phone: _____

Contact Person Email: _____

Additional paid guests: Adults \$20.00 each, Children who are eating \$15.00 each

Name of Guest(s):

Circle:

_____ (Adult/Child)

_____ (Adult/Child)

_____ (Adult/Child)

_____ (Adult/Child)

Total Adults: _____

Total Children (eating): _____

Total children not eating: _____



Make checks payable to Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana.

There will be high chairs and boosters available upon request.

Please confirm with the DSA office if you have mailed or plan to mail in your registration form for this event. Call (219) 838-3656.



Down Syndrome Association
OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

Making Connections Tutoring Program
Ages: 5 years and up

Interested in math or reading tutoring for your child? Our Second Session is almost here. The charge is \$20.00 per person. This fee includes all six 40 minute one on one sessions! Fee's directly cover the cost of materials and supplies needed for your child. Participants are expected to be on time for their session. After three misses your child will be dropped from our program.

Making Connection's Math Program is geared to Touch Point Math starting with recognizing numbers, moving to one-on-one correspondence and then working on addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and money skills. The program also incorporates math games and IPAD apps.

Making Connection Reading Program starts with sight word recognition and continues to develop fluency and comprehension. The students work with leveled readers and the Natalie Hale Special Reads for Special Needs program. This program also incorporates games and IPAD apps.

Session 3: January 13th, 20th, and 27th

February 3rd, 10th, and 17th

Session currently in process.

Session 4: March 3rd, 17th

April 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

The session times are as follows: 3:40-4:20, 4:20-5:00, 5:00-5:40, 5:40-6:20, 6:20 -7:00

Chit Chat Club

Small Speech Groups

Small Speech Groups will continue soon.... These FREE groups are held twice a month at the DSA Office on Thursdays from 5-7p.m. If you are interested in our Speech Sessions, please register online at www.dsaofnwi.org or call the DSA office (219) 838-3656

These groups are led by an amazing lady:

Stacey Killeen is a practicing pediatric Speech and Language Pathologist for the last 15 years and has had the opportunity to work in a variety of settings, which include early childhood classroom, elementary and middle schools. She has specialized in speech and language therapy as well as feeding, swallowing and oral motor therapy.



Dates: February 12th & 26th
March 12th

Times:
5:00-5:40 Ages 0-4 Speech Sounds
5:40-6:20 Ages 5-10 Increasing Vocabulary
6:20-7:00 Ages 10 and up Speech Games and Activities



Sensory Stations

Monday, February 16th 6-6:45p.m.

Come and have a fun time playing and enjoying sensory activities at the DSA of NWI office.

The lil' ones will enjoy some Rainbow Sensory fun.

This is a FREE event for all little ones ages 0-6yrs! Siblings are welcome.

This group is led by a Certified Special Education Teacher.

R.S.V.P. by calling the DSA office (219) 838-3656

Upcoming Events/Activities



Valentine Balloon Creations February 9th, 6-7 pm

Older kids, teens and adults (those able to use a balloon pump with help) interested in making balloon creations, please join us at **It's My Party from 6-7 pm** to create the balloon centerpieces for the DSA of NWI Valentine's Party. Those who help create the centerpieces will be able to take one home after the Valentine's Party.

Space is limited (10 kids max).
If interested please R.S.V.P to the DSA Office as soon as possible!

There is no cost for this event.
Feel free to bring a snack to share with others.

Parents and/or chaperones are asked to stay and create along side their companion.

Signing and Art Abound (Lil' Artists)

Ages 0-9yrs old
Monday, March 9th from 5:30-7 pm
In dyer, IN

We will be learning the signs for animals from 5:30-6:00 pm by singing, saying and doing activities to reinforce what we learn.

After Sign Language Fun we will create Animal Puppets from 6-7 p.m.

R.S.V.P. by calling the DSA Office (219) 838-3656



Mom's Night Out Thursday, March 5th 7 pm



COOPER'S HAWK™
WINERY & RESTAURANT

Mom's come and join us at Cooper's Hawk in Merrillville for a much needed night out.

We will have a table reserved for our group. The DSA will pick up a few appetizers, you are on your own for beverages.

R.S.V.P. by calling the DSA office (219) 838-3656

UAW Local 551 & New Age presents...
REDEMPTION!

A Family Carnival & WrestleMania Fundraiser Event for the DSA of NWI

All proceeds go to the DSA of NWI
Admission is FREE
(special prizes to all who donate for this cause).

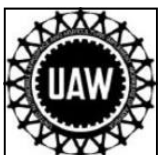
There will be carnival type games, pie throwing contests, face painting, raffles and much more.

The WrestleMania Redemption show begins around 7 pm.

One hundred percent of the proceeds go back to the DSA of NWI for the new building and programs.

We hope to have a strong showing of support at this event.

Keep an eye out on the DSA of NWI business Facebook page and website for more details, and let us know if you can come out to show your support and thank the UAW for their help and partnership with the DSA of NWI.



Event is sponsored by the UAW Local 551.

Date: March 7th

Time: Doors open at 5 pm

Location: UAW (United Auto Workers) Union Hall

13550 S. Torrence Avenue, Chicago, IL 60633

Contact Bill Buckley for more details at: bbuckley@dsaofnwi.org



Upcoming DSA Events/Activities



Pictured: Chase Pleszewski & Patrick O'Kourte

DSA of NWI 2014/2015 Calendar

Twig Photography has taken beautiful photos of our kids/adults with Ds. Our calendar turned out amazing! To obtain your copy call the DSA office at (219) 838-3656.

Calendars are \$20 each.

They really show off our kids beauty, strength and determination!

www.twigphotography.net

www.facebook.com/twigphotographykristenproffitt

C.S.R.I Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 4th

Wednesday Basketball Program

Time: 6:30-7:30p.m.

Dates: March 4th through May 20th

Location: Eads School in Munster

Fees apply. Advanced registration is necessary.

For ages 3+

R.S.V.P. by calling: Munster Parks and Recreation 219-836-7275

Saturday, March 14th or 21st

Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory Play

Time: 2p.m.

Date: March 14th or 21st

Location: Crown Point Community Theater (1125 Merrillville Road)

Admission is \$2.00 for CSRI participants and students, \$5.00 for caregivers.

These are special performances for CSRI.

R.S.V.P. by calling:

Crown Point Parks at 219-661-2271 (for tickets and info.)

The DSA of NWI has recently implemented a new program called....

I C.A.N

(Celebrations, Achievements and A Nice Gesture)

1. Please make sure your child/adult with Ds is on our birthday list so they will receive a birthday card during the month of their birthday!
2. We want to know about our members, please let us know of a person with Ds whom has recently been hired, makes a great accomplishment, graduates, is sick in the hospital, having surgery, has a death in their family or just needs to hear from a friend. Please let us know by calling the office at (219) 838-5250 or email us at dsa@dsaofnwi.org



S.M.I.L.L.E. has its own Facebook page: S.M.I.L.L.E.

(Special Moments In Little Events) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1491861004380539/>. If you, or someone you know, are age 16 through 116 with Ds, please like/join the S.M.I.L.L.E. page. We'll keep you informed of exciting upcoming events, and we'll celebrate the achievements/milestones of our members, as well as birthdays.



New S.M.I.L.L.E. event: **The Breakfast Club!** This will be a monthly gathering at different restaurants throughout Northwest Indiana to enjoy good food with good friends. The January site took us to Old Country Buffet in Highland where we shared stories of our holiday festivities.

Upcoming Breakfast Club get-togethers:

February 21 @ 8:30 at Chick-Fil-A in Merrillville - Kitchen tours and other surprises.

March 14 @ 8:30 Breakfast Club will meet in Valparaiso - The Broadway Café.

April Breakfast Club will move south to the Lowell/DeMotte area.

Watch the S.M.I.L.L.E. Facebook page and your email for further details.

We want **YOU** involved in S.M.I.L.L.E. activities. Like our Facebook page, and send your email address to Glenn Tucker, so we can keep you informed of upcoming events.

Upcoming S.M.I.L.L.E group events:

March - 2nd Annual Open Gym Nite. Basketball, volleyball, cornhole/beanbags, table games, bingo, pizza and snacks.

June - 2nd Annual S.M.I.L.L.E. Night at the Races. Illiana Motor Speedway in Schererville.

Do you have ideas for S.M.I.L.L.E. activities? Would you like to organize an event or volunteer to assist in planning/participating our get-togethers? Contact the DSA Office (219) 838-3656 or Glenn Tucker directly at glenn.tucker@hotmail.com. We value your input!



Make Your Mark With A Tile! Building for disABILITIES

Individual/Family:
6" x 6" Custom Ceramic Tile \$100.00

Business/Organization:
12" x 12" Custom Ceramic Tile \$500.00

- By purchasing a tile:**
1. You will help support our new Community Building.
 2. You will help decorate the interior of our entryway.

Here is how it works:

Send in your logo, design or artwork on an 8" x 10" paper (do not bend or fold paper) or call the DSA office and we will give you paper to use.

Send in cash, check or pay online at www.dsaofnwi.org.

We will reproduce your drawing on a ceramic tile. When the tile has been glazed and fired, your tile will be installed into our new building right at the entryway!

What should I draw? Art Guidelines

You may draw a picture, use a handprint, or a business logo but be sure to use 8" x 10" paper. Anything smaller or larger will not be accepted. For best results use art paper or heavier paper such as card stock. Do not use copy or printer paper. Construction paper does not copy true to color. Keep names and dates one inch (1") from edge of paper. Fill the entire page with color. For best results, use bright, bold colors and use the following materials: Markers, Tempera Paint, Water Color, Crayons (Except – don't use "Construction Gray")

****DO NOT create artwork with trademarked subjects such as Disney Characters or other licensed images****

Building for disABILITIES Tile Project

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

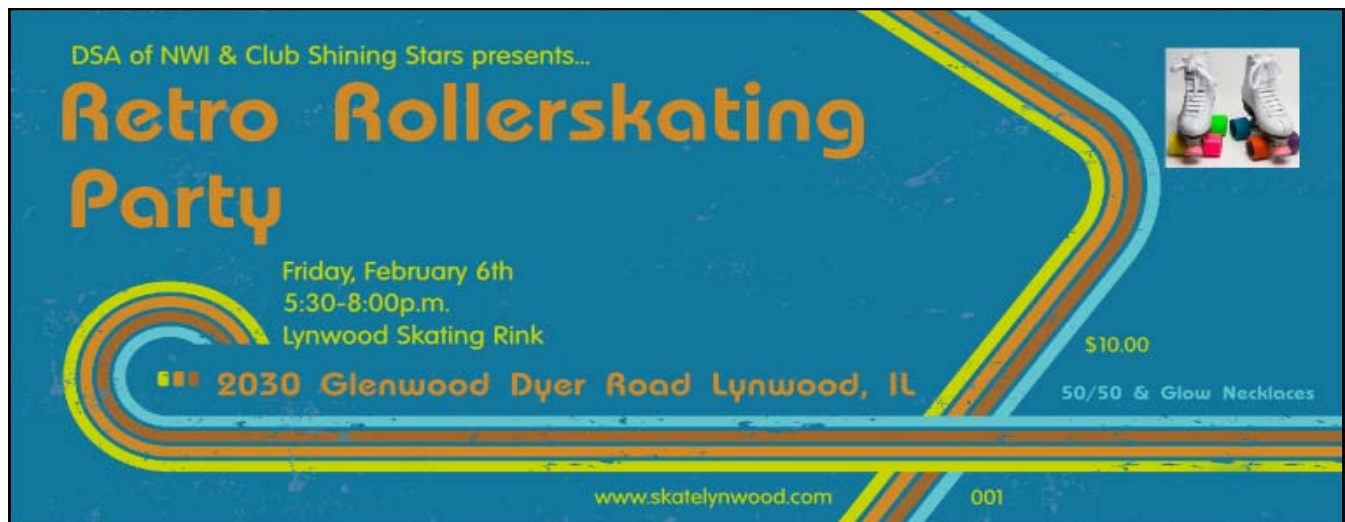
Phone Number: _____

I have enclosed a check for \$100 for my 6" x 6" tile and have attached my drawing on 8" x 10" paper.

I have enclosed a check for \$500 for my 12" x 12" tile and have attached or emailed my drawing.

Send this form to: Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana 2927 Jewett Avenue Highland, IN 46322. Please contact Bill Buckley at bbuckley@dsaofnwi.org or Dawn Buckley at dbuckley@dsaofnwi.org, with any questions.





Bust out your parachute pants and dust off your neon scrunchies! Join us for a totally awesome time at our Retro Rollerskating Party! This will be a private party for ticket holders only. Admission is \$10.00 per person (\$15.00 per person at the door). This includes 2 1/2 hours of skating and **FREE** skate rental. You are welcome to bring your own skates or rollerblades if you choose. They also have skating helpers (tripod walkers on wheels) for those who may need extra balance.

There is a snack bar on the premises if you want to purchase food. We will have a 50/50 raffle and glow items for sale. There will also be a few prizes awarded for "Best Retro Wear" (participation is optional).

You may register online, call the office at 219-838-3656, or pick up tickets at the Down Syndrome Association of NWI anytime M-F 9am-1pm or Tuesday evening from 4pm-8pm. Printable tickets purchased online will be emailed.

This is a private event for ticket holders only!

Tell your neighbors, bring your friends! Just say **“NO”** to being a couch potato and come out for a totally tubular night!



Upcoming DSA Events

DSA of NWI **Fashion and Talent Show 2015**



LET THE GENES ROCK!

Rising Stars will shine...from baby to adult!

Saturday, March 7, 2015

Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church Family Life Center

7950 Marshall Street Merrillville, IN 46410

If your loved one would like to participate in the Fashion and Talent Show, please complete the following application and mail it or sign-up online at DSAofNWI.org no later than March 1, 2015.

Doors will open at 2:00 pm and show will begin at 2:30 pm

Participant Name: _____

Participant Age: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Talent: _____ Fashion Show: _____ Both: _____

Total Number of People Attending: _____

Talent Show /Act Information

Title of Act: _____

Group Name: _____

Solo: _____

(Length of act must be between 3 and 5 minutes)

Please describe the act being performed. Include all pertinent information and inform us if you will be providing music for the sound person.

If there are any questions, email dsa@dsaofnwi.org or call the office at (219) 838-3656. The DSA of NWI will be providing sandwiches, chips and beverages. Please bring an appetizer, snack or dessert to share.



Down Syndrome Association of Northwest Indiana

Serving Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland Area

2927 Jewett Avenue
Highland, Indiana 46322
Phone: (219) 838-3656
Email: dsaofnwi.org
Office hours: M-F 9-1, T 4-8p.m.

<p>DSA of NWI Board of Directors</p>	<p>Find Information About Our Ex- citing DSA of NWI 2015 Events</p> <p>Inside: JOIN THE FUN!</p> <p>February 1st Disney: Frozen on Ice February 2nd Cookies and Canvas February 3rd Making Connections February 6th Retro Rollerskating Party February 8th IEP Bootcamp February 9th Valentine Balloon Creations February 9th Skyzone Special Needs Night February 10th Making Connections February 11th DSA Board Meeting February 12th Chit Chat Club Speech Groups February 14th SpongeBob Movie (Sensory Friendly) February 14th 4th Annual DSA Valentines Dinner & Dance February 16th Sensory Stations for Kids February 16th Chipotle Family Night February 17th Making Connections February 21st SMILE Breakfast Club February 26th Chit Chat Club Speech Groups March 3rd Making Connections</p>	<p>March 4th C.S.R.I. Wednesday Basketball program March 5th Mom's Night Out at Cooper's Hawk March 7th DSA Fashion Talent Show March 7th UAW Local 551 is sponsoring a DSA of NWI Fundraiser (WrestleMania) March 9th Sign Language (Animals) March 9th Skyzone Special Needs Night March 9th Arts Abound March 10th Dad's Night Out - Houlihan's March 11th DSA Board Meeting March 12th Chit Chat Club Speech Groups March 13th Tools for Tots: Sensory Strategies for Preschool & Beyond March 14 Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory Play March 14 SMILE Breakfast Club March 16th Spring Sensory Stations March 17th Making Connections March 21 World Down Syndrome Day March 28th HOME Movie (Sensory Friendly) March 31st DSA Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt</p>	<p>Mission</p> <p>The Down Syndrome Association (DSA) of Northwest Indiana is a non-profit organization of families and interested persons working to improve the quality of life for those individuals having Down syndrome.</p> <p>Vision</p> <p>Our vision is to foster understanding, acceptance and inclusion of persons with Down syndrome, which will give them the greatest opportunities to realize their aspirations and enjoy independent and productive lives.</p>
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Executive Board:

President-Bill Buckley
Vice President-Linda Manes
Treasurer-Patti Thompson
Secretary-Alexis Hoyo


Board of Directors:

Director of Events
Brenda Slusher

Director of Education
Kate Nierengarten

Director of Outreach
Natalie Hoyo

Director of Fundraising
Steve Hoyo

 **A big thank you to Pirates, Inc.**
for their years of support to our DSA organization!