Facts about Down syndrome

1. Down syndrome occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21. This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down syndrome.
2. Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition. One in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome. There are more than 400,000 people living with Down syndrome in the United States.
3. Down syndrome is not related to race, nationality, religion or socio-economic status.

Facts about the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati (DSAGC)

1. The mission of the DSAGC is to empower individuals, educate families, enhance communities and together, celebrate the extraordinary lives of people with Down syndrome.
2. The DSAGC serves hundreds of families across a 12-county radius of Greater Cincinnati.
3. Our variety of programs and services support families from as early as when a family might receive a prenatal diagnosis, through the early childhood years, during the time in which a child goes off to school and into every phase of adulthood.

Facts about the Buddy Walk

1. Out of 250 Buddy Walks held each year around the country, the Cincinnati walk is the largest.
2. The 2016 Buddy Walk was another banner year raising over $500,000. Over $4M has been raised since 2002. We also just celebrated our Buddy Walk's 15th Anniversary!
3. The Buddy Walk raises 50% of the needed resources to fuel the mission of the DSAGC over the course of the year.
4. The Cincinnati Buddy Walk hosts over 11,000 participants each year.
5. Our Q102 Media Sponsorship, as well as LAMAR billboards, provide thousands of dollars in free advertising that builds brand awareness for the Buddy Walk and its sponsors.

What does the money raised from the Buddy Walk support?

As the largest DSAGC fundraising event of the year, the Buddy Walk provides about 50% of the resources needed for the DSAGC to fulfill its mission throughout the year. Here are just a few examples of how that money may be used:

• Covers the costs of group classes dealing with essential early intervention building blocks along the lines of speech, sign, music or play therapy.

• New Parent Baskets and New Parent Dinners.

• Creation of up-to-date information on Down syndrome for medical and educational professionals who interact with our families on a regular basis.

• Family & Community Group Events to connect parents and children with each other.

• An Independent Living Retreat for Self-Advocates as well as ongoing social opportunities for them.

• Educational Workshops to empower parents with the tools to nurture and care for the unique needs of raising a child with Down syndrome.