Happy New Year!

Thank you for your generosity in 2021. It was another successful year for the DSCBA as we worked very hard on fundraising to meet our budgetary goals. As you read through this report you will see that your support, whether through funding or volunteering, made a significant impact on our ability to serve our members well during the year.

Going into 2021, we had every intention of bringing in-person services back to our community. Unfortunately, it quickly became clear it was not safe to do so. We remained diligent about maintaining the quality of our online services and we were open full time and available to all our members around the Bay Area looking for information, referral, and resources. We welcomed many new families and connected and empowered our members through support groups and educational opportunities. Children of all ages engaged in fun activities such as Zumba, dance and music therapy. We brought our teens and adults together weekly with their peers/friends through nine THRIVE classes. We also started a one-of-a-kind mental health and wellness partnership program with the goal of providing access to traditional mental health services not readily available to our members with Down syndrome. As we look ahead into 2022 our plan is to ease into in-person programming where we can accomplish it safely. With your continued support, we will enter our 23rd year strong with an amazing staff ready for what the year has in store.

-Nancy
New and Young Family Support

31 Gift Baskets Sent
In partnership with Jack’s Baskets

30 Early Connections Support Groups
(19 in English & 11 in Spanish)

10 Grandparents Groups

“DSCBA was the first place we went that shed such a positive view on Down Syndrome.
-Kristine”

40 New Families Welcomed

Medical Outreach:
Provided support materials to medical providers, presented to and received referrals from NICU social workers at Stanford’s Birth Center, presented to East Bay Neonatologists with Jack’s Baskets, and updated and improved our handouts for providers.

18 Webinars & Classes for parents & educators (of children of all ages)

Topics & Attendees:
- Toilet Training: 88
- Down Syndrome & Autism Spectrum Disorder Series (5 webinars): 357
- Introduction to IHSS: 42
- Introduction to Medi-Cal: 43
- Person-Centered Planning: 86
- Self-Determination Program: 86
- Encouraging Independence: 58
- Phone & Internet Safety for Teens: 13
- Body Awareness & Safety: 64
- Use of Psychotropic Medications: 43
- American Sign Language: 30
- CPR: 19
- Puberty: Issues & Concerns: 41
- Re-thinking Your Estate Plan: 18
- Food & Health: Connecting for Healthy Lives: 48
Down Syndrome Education Alliance

6 Ability Awareness Presentations
(230 students & 14 educators)

10 TEACH Workshops
For 334 families & educators

TEACH Topics:

- Ability Awareness in Your School
- IEP Binder Builder Workshop
- Back In School Q & A
- Homeschooling Q & A
- Homeschooling Q & A in Spanish
- Road to Success for Your Students with Down Syndrome (2)
- An Educational Workshop for Paraprofessionals
- 2021 Inclusion Collaborative Conference Presentation: Effective Modifications for Students Working Below Grade Level in a General Ed Placement Setting

We also provided direct training to educators via Zoom on topics including DS 101, Communication, Accommodations & Modifications, and Behavior, and we provided direct consultation and support to families and educators on IEPs and other issues.

DS/ASD Dual Diagnosis Educational Series:

- The Dual Diagnosis of Down Syndrome and Autism (92 attendees)
- Behavior and ABA to Support Individuals with a Dual Diagnosis of DS-ASD (45 attendees)
- Occupational Therapy & Sensory Diets to Support Individuals with Dual Diagnosis (35 attendees)
- AAC Systems & Strategies - Dual Diagnosis DS-ASD Webinar (63 attendees)
- Structured Home Teaching Activities for DS-ASD Families (57 attendees)

Teresa Unnerstall’s 10 Back to School Tips for DS-ASD Families in 2021. It’s a deep dive into easing back after the long Covid-19 lockdown. This blog gives specific directives to help our kids move forward. It’s not only for families but teachers, therapists and school administrators as well.

NICKSPECIALNEEDS.COM
Blog #239~ Back to School Tips for DS-ASD Families in 2021
14 Shares
The Virtual Communication Readiness Program served 6 children and their families and 19 educators.

Expression Connection

- Provided Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) support for four children with Down syndrome.
- Expanded and presented our online Low-Tech AAC Library to the Down Syndrome Affiliates In Action and shared it with other organizations.
- Created a low-tech library in Spanish and introduced it to our Spanish-speaking families.
- Created low-tech boards for use by first responders and shared them with the San Ramon Volunteer Fire Department and other Bay Area first responders.
- Provided AAC supports for our Music Therapy program.

"I am so grateful for the DSCBA and the amazing work that they do for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. The support that they have given me over the years has been incredible. I have been practicing pediatrics for 18 years and I would have to honestly say that I have learned so much more about Down syndrome and how to care for my daughter from this organization than I’ve ever had in my medical career. I have learned to help my daughter with her articulation in speech, I have taught my daughter to read, and countless number of other ways to help her live up to her full potential, all because of the programs at the DSCBA."
Celebrate! Fundraisers & Events

Stepping Up for Down Syndrome

With the help of 86 Team Captains, over 1,000 donors, and many generous sponsors, DSCBA raised nearly $175,000 during this annual campaign. As the largest fundraiser of the year, this event runs simultaneously with National Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October. Thank you to our sponsors, John Muir Health, Bank of Commerce, CIBC, Rotary Club of Danville/Sycamore Valley, and the SF Giants.

Our annual Step Up for DS Walk typically brings 1,500 people together. We determined it was not safe to have an event of that size, so we invited our fundraising families to an exclusive special event thanking them for stepping up. It was a COVID-safe day at the Classic Pumpkin Patch in Castro Valley. Over 150 attendees donned Halloween costumes and enjoyed carnival rides, goodie bag treats, photos with costumed characters, and free pumpkins! Thank you to the volunteers from Dougherty High School Interact Club, Sagacious Insurance and Rotary Club of Danville/Sycamore Valley. The Golden Gate Garrison and Rebel Legion characters also made a special appearance.

Gala 2021

A livestream benefit concert with two American Idols became a new and happy adaptation to our normal Gala festivities on Sunday, May 2nd. This professionally produced virtual event gave us the opportunity to bring live music into the homes of our guests and connect in a new way, while simultaneously hosting a week-long online auction fundraiser. Thank you to our MC Mark Ibanez, Sports Director KTVU Fox 2, and American Idols Casey Abrams and James Durbin. It was exciting to see the Fund-A-Need thermometer move up as guests donated online throughout the evening. Thank you to the 128 bidders who participated in the online auction over a period of 9 days by bidding on 290+ amazing packages. Overall, the Gala raised over $95k thanks to the support from our generous community. Thank you to our Sapphire Sponsors Chevron and The Drucker Family, Emerald Sponsor Wells Fargo, Supporter Sponsors The Home Co., Castle Management, and the Shu Family, and Wine Sponsors Las Positas Vineyards, Rotta Winery, and Maruitson Wines.
Virtual Wine Tasting

In March and April, we partnered with three renowned California wineries for a Virtual Winetasting Series. **Duckhorn Portfolio, Rombauer Vineyards and Cakebread Cellars** each provided a live interactive wine-tasting experience via Zoom. Participants received a wine shipment prior to the event so they could taste along and interact with wine specialists who shared vineyard history, wine-making stories, tasting highlights and food-pairing suggestions. DSCBA netted $11,212 through 112 tickets and donations.

Peninsula Connection

**16,000 Views of the Peninsula Connection’s We All Can Virtual Flash Mob Video w/ Brave by Sara Bareilles**

6 Virtual coffee chats to connect families

Tips for Change

On Monday, August 2nd, **Gianni’s Bistro** in Danville generously opened their doors for the annual “Tips for Change” fundraiser. With DSCBA staff as the servers, diners enjoyed some of the finest Italian food in the Valley, and all tips, plus a percentage of sales, were donated to the DSCBA. A total of $3,340 was raised. THANK YOU to all who dined in or ordered take out, and to Gianni’s Bistro for the continued support!

Gianni’s and DSCBA staff and volunteers serve diners at the Tips for Change event: (back row: Gianni’s staff, owners Gianni and Melanie Bartoletti, Jackie Jolly, Melissa Benavida. Front row: Teresa DeVincenzi, Cathleen Small, Heather Vukelich, Laura von Savoye). Photo by Nancy LaBelle

Family fun at the Pumpkin Patch
She looks forward to it as it provides a strong sense of belonging. It’s fun and helps her recognize herself as a unique person who happens to experience DS.

More than 180 virtual sessions

Our participants THRIVE when they are: Together, Happy, Respected, Independent, Valued, and Empowered.

Alex is very social and never wants to miss even a virtual class. He loves seeing his THRIVE friends and always looks forward to every social event.

Music Therapy sessions are designed to include individuals from every age group. We began a new group in October, Music Therapy for Adults, with a record number of registrants!

Virtual Special Classes:
- Zumba
- Dancing Without Limits
- Storytime
- Drum Circle
Support Groups & Services

Services to Latinx Families

• Provided an interpreter for most of our webinars and workshops
• CPR class in Spanish
• Provided interpreter for Teaching About Bodies & Boundaries During the Early Years
• Grew WhatsApp Spanish-speaking group to 26 members
• Connected an immigrant, illiterate mother of two children with disabilities (DS & Autism) with an immigration attorney who agreed to take on her case pro-bono
• Know Your Rights immigration webinar for our members and partner agencies
• Spanish-language Early Connections Support Group and Music Therapy
• Christmas Toy Drive, and more!

Mental Health & Wellness Alliance

• 15 therapists trained
• 11 individuals receiving individual or group therapy

With support from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and other generous funders, we launched a pilot partnership program in 2021, providing training & support to mental health clinicians to help make effective mental health therapy accessible to people with DS and their families.

Social Media

• Facebook: 6,221 followers www.facebook.com/dscba
• Donations from Facebook Fundraisers = over $37,500
• Instagram: 1,161 followers www.instagram.com/dscba
• LinkedIn: 142 followers: www.linkedin.com/company/the-down-syndrome-connection-of-the-bay-area
• YouTube: Every webinar, TEACH series, etc. can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSebSQQfEyJz_hXj2-vVlmNlw

Mom’s Night Out • Dad’s Night Out
• Grandparents Group • Parents of School-Aged Children • Virtual Coffee Chat • Down Syndrome & Dementia Group • Story Time

60 Group Sessions

“As an aunt caring for her aging nephew with Down syndrome, the resources are limited.... The DSCBA family support group has... supported me to process a difficult journey.... It is better than therapy for me. Families have real and current experience.”

- Martha E.

I am remarkable!
Volunteers

Thank you to our many volunteers who delivered gala gift baskets, art supplies for THRIVE Zoom classes, Step Up for Down Syndrome kits, and bags of Halloween candy, and who also made posters, volunteered at our outdoor events, led dance classes, and more.

- National Charity League Chapters - Rolling Hills (San Ramon/Danville/Alamo), Vista Oak (Alamo), Walnut Creek, Diablo Valley (San Ramon/Danville/Alamo) and Skyline (San Francisco area)
- Boys Team Charity - Lamorinda, Diablo, Alamo-Danville
- Maura Perkins and Team at Sagacious Insurance
- Rotary of Danville/Sycamore Valley (Pumpkin Patch for Step Up Walk)
- Dougherty High School Interact Club (Pumpkin Patch for Step Up Walk)
- Dancing Without Limits (Meet Santa event)
- Slack Solutions Engineering Team
- Maria Cranston
- Anna Ericson
- Dawn Handley
- Jiya Jogia
- Debbie Muñoz
- Molly Osbourne
- Audrey Pape
- Meghan Quigley
- Toni Sweet
- Michelle Syverson
- Lexi Wetmore
- Yu Hsuan Yang

Gratitude: Volunteers & Donors

In 2021, Chevron Extra Mile stores donated change that added up to a whopping $38,740 for DSCBA! District Manager Robert Milner presented us with the check. Chevron also continues to be a major sponsor of our annual Gala.

DSCBA is proud to co-sponsor the SR Valley Kiwanis AKtion Club, a service group consisting of adults of all abilities providing community service.
Thank You DSCBA Major Supporters ($1,000 and above)

The DSCBA sends our deepest gratitude to ALL of our donors at EVERY level. Due to space limitations, we are only listing those supporters at the $1,000 and above level. We apologize if we have inadvertently missed anyone. Thank you for all you do for our community!

Ability Central
Advocates for Accessible Recreation, Inc.
Layne & Mike Alfrey
American Asphalt
Alejandra & Edward Balocating
Barr Family Foundation
Bay Club
Alice Beckman Fund of the East Bay Community Foundation
Melissa & Frank Benavidez
Karen & Dave Bere
Blue Shield of California
Sharon Boatright
Bold, Polisner, Maddow, Nelson & Judson
William N. & Taryn B. Calhoun
California MyAbilities
Chapter Employee Resource Group, Comcast Cable
California Relief Grant
Mike & Traci Cannon
Gloria & Paul Casadont
Castle Management Company, Inc.
Tim Chao
Chevron
CIBC Private Wealth Management
Jennifer & Stephen Clark
The Clorox Company
Shirley Coke
Compass, Inc.
Costco
Donna & Tim Crawford
Kevin Crostley
Kevin Dangers
Dr. Sally Davis-Rhodes
Keiri & Tony De Luca
Tom & Linda Delaplane
Randall Devoto
Diablo Valley Insurance Agency
DocuSign
Bob & Kathy Drucker
Joe & Kat Drucker
Frank & Patricia Elliott
Freitas Foundation
Ken & Susan Fusselman
Brooke & Tobby Gavino
Genentech
Global Down Syndrome Foundation
Golden Gate Sign
Google
Bill Gardner
Bill Graham Supporting Foundation
Jessica & Matthew Graham
Grand Napa Vineyards
Tim Guay
Denise Hackett
Brad Hakala
Susan Hansen
The Harkins Family
Joel Hedberg
Tara & Paul Herberth
Kelly Holbrook
The Home Co.
Matt Hunter
Marianne Iversen
Jazzercise San Ramon
Fitness Center
John Muir Health
Donald & Carole Johnson
Marcela Kamp
Sharon F. Kariya
Alicia & David Keenan
Joseph Keenan
Tony Kelly
Kids-N-Need
Kiwanis San Ramon
Knights of Columbus 4060
Nancy & Rick LaBelle
Julie & Bill Lapp
Las Positas Vineyards
Lawrence Livermore National Security
Lencioni Fund
Catherine Lenfestey
Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation
Lowell Berry Foundation
Marino Family Charitable Foundation
Mass Mutual Northern California
Mauritian Wines
Michael & Laurie McGrath
Benjamin McKe
Melon Trust of Delaware
Viviana & Steven Meyer
Todd Michel
Kathy & Mike Miles
California Bank of Commerce
Susan & William Montague
Dana & Brett Morris
MUFA Union Bank
The Nicholson Family Foundation
Noll Foundation
Jeffrey Nornhold
Laura & Kurt von Savoye
Brian Olin
Tamara Oribello
Zach Osborne
AnneClaire Osman & Matt Meyer
Tamasin Partridge & Jack Halperin
Niro & Kshama Perera
Bill & Pat Pfann
Deborah Pfann
Megan & Matt Portoni
Kirsten Preusse
Steve & Alyson Pugsley
Cheryl Putnam
Quest Foundation
Raquel Ramos & Michael Mallie
David & Lexi Ravarino
RBC Wealth Management
Janet & Jim Richman
Carol & Paul Rioux
Rite Aid KidCents Foundation
Mary & John Robbins
Rosendin Foundation
Rotarian Foundation of Livermore
Rotary Club of Danville/Sycamore Foundation
Rotary Club of Oakland #3
Rotary Club of San Ramon
Rotta Winery
Pete Rowland
Safeway Foundation
Sagacious Insurance
San Francisco Giants
San Francisco Kiwanis Club
Stephen Schendel
See’s Candy Shops, Inc.
Stephanie Seeno-Miles
Share the Spirit
Jill Shoemaker
Sandy Shu
Diane Snyder
Sommer Family Foundation
Special Advantage
State Council on Developmental Disabilities
J. Ralph & Lois Stone Family Foundation
Barbara Strehlitz
Somashekhar Sundareshan
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Julie & Ed Tang
Bryan & Kerry Terry
Town of Danville
Mark & Rosie Traylor
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Monica & Steve Vernay
Walmart San Ramon
Wayne & Gladys Valley Foundation
Mark & Heather Vukelich
Svetlana & Robert Walters
Wells Fargo Private Bank
Steve & Gina Wilcox
Phil & Mary Williamson
C.C. & Camelia Willis
Jessica & Josh Wood
Nancy & Jack Worthington

Financial Statement (estimated)

Income $1,092,324 Expenses $1,068,567
Fundraising $504,375 Program $865,614
Grants $474,992 Admin. $119,493
Contributions $83,370 Fundraising $83,460
Service Fees $28,822
Other $788 Net Income $23,757*

*Will carry over to 2022 programs.
Connection: Our First In-Person Event!

A Magical Day with Santa and his Elves

The DSCBA office was transformed into a magical North Pole Workshop on Sunday, December 12th for a “Meet with Santa” Event. With holiday touches everywhere, over 300 attendees (member families) enjoyed this COVID-safe celebration that included a holiday boutique and other festivities. Time slots were provided for families to visit Santa, everyone wore masks, we held the main event outdoors, and some families tuned in from home via Zoom for a chat with Santa.

Many familiar faces and new families were welcomed this year. Guests were treated to coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, stickers, and letter writing to Santa. Each family got a private visit in Santa's workshop with his elves, a framed family picture with Santa, and a take-home Cookie Decorating Kit. By popular demand, Olaf the Snowman was back as well.

The event could not have happened without the many volunteers who donated their time and support! A shout out to our elves from Dancing Without Limits, and the National Charity League for baking over 900 delicious cookies and volunteering at the event. A big thank you to those who donated towards the event to keep it free for attendees, and to all who supported the DSCBA by purchasing See’s Candy, logo items, holiday ornaments painted by Executive Director, Nancy LaBelle, and bracelets created by 11-year old Avery, a DSCBA member.

We were excited to be able to host our first in-person event safely! Thank you all for joining on this special day to celebrate the holidays with DSCBA members, welcome many sweet babies, and make new friends!

Year End Fundraiser Success!

We are grateful for the generous donors who came together on Giving Tuesday, the world’s largest day of giving and raised $6,847 to help us fill our Welcome Baskets for new families. Thanks to a KidsCents Grant from The Rite Aid Foundation, the impact was DOUBLED!

The DSCBA also partnered with See’s Candies and held its first ever Holiday Candy Fundraiser. Thanks to 165 amazing DSCBA supporters we raised a sweet profit of $5,398.85. Watch out for our next See’s fundraiser in 2022. Finally, our year-end online appeal raised more than $22,000 for THRIVE scholarships! Thank you for your generosity.