

Central Illinois Down
Syndrome Organization
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www.CIDSO.org

CIDSO NEWS

April 2014

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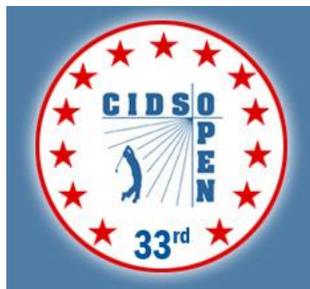
Redbird Readers

The Redbird Readers is an adult literacy program. This cooperative effort between CIDSO and ISU meets weekly during the school year. There are currently 16 participants and 32 tutors in this program. The CIDSO News will be proudly featuring articles written by our Redbird Readers.

CIDSO

By Eric Morenz, Redbird Reader Participant

CIDSO the reading program is for people with Down's Syndrome at the ISU Milner library. I learn how to use a power point and some math problems. I learn how to use Face- book, I like doing activities outside of library with CIDSO. We did the buddy walk and the Halloween party, we did go out to dinner and a dance. My tutors they help me learn and they come up with activities we do. I like coming to the library every Monday night because we hang out with our friends. I hope I see new tutors at our CIDSO reading program.



CIDSO Gala & Open

Mark the date, the 33rd Annual CIDSO Gala and Open will be the last weekend of May. Please join us Friday, May 30th at 6:00pm at the ISU Bone Center Ballroom for the Gala. Golf will be at the Weibring Golf Course at ISU on Saturday, May 31st.

For more details check out www.cidso.org/events.asp#golf.



Sensory Friendly Movie

Join us for *"The Muppets Most Wanted"* on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 10:00 AM. This "sound down/lights up" movie is hosted by the Starplex Theater in Normal. The Starplex offers free child admission with one \$6 adult ticket purchase.

Surfing the Web

The Comfort Wall: Let's face it, as a parent of a child with special needs; some days are better than others. Being a caregiver to any child brings with it unforeseen challenges. But, a relationship with a special child brings with it its own gifts including perspective, wisdom, faith and love.

www.understandingspecialeducation.com/comfort.html



"MONICA & DAVID"

Monica & David is a 2009 documentary by Alexandra Codina. The film focuses on the daily lives of Monica and David, a young married couple with Down syndrome. The film premiered on November 22, 2009 at International Documentary Film Festival and won *Best Documentary Feature* at the 2010 Tribeca Film Festival.

The documentary begins with Monica and David talking to each other via the phone a few days before the wedding. They are shown to be eager to wed and live together with Monica's mother Maria Elena and her stepfather Bob. Their wedding is large and beautiful, and the couple exchanges vows before retiring to their honeymoon suite. Afterwards they leave on their honeymoon, where they are accompanied by Monica's parents. As the documentary progresses Codina shows viewers the couple's large support network, which includes people with and without Down syndrome. It also highlights that while Monica and David are both aware that they have some differences from other people, they view themselves as the same as someone without Down syndrome.

Later in the documentary Codina records the couple's move to Hollywood Beach, FL, as Bob is retiring. The move is initially largely uneventful, although Monica does take some time to adapt. During the footage shot while the move is progressing, we learn that David has been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and requires several shots a day to keep his insulin levels under control. Monica details the changes in David's life, which involves a healthier diet as she does not want him to fall into a coma or require hospitalization, which is how the diagnosis was discovered.

The bright side includes several instinctual qualities Monica and David possess--qualities often weak or lacking in people considered normal. Marie tells a story that reveals her son's sureness of purpose. David told her he was madly in love with Monica but had been rejected because she had another boyfriend. She told him "You have to respect that, so you'd better get over Monica." David's undaunted reply became his mantra: "That's my girl, and I'm going to marry her someday."

Coming Soon!

Board Meeting
April 7th

Sensory Friendly Movie
April 12th

CEC Adult Bowling
April 13th
April 27th

CIDSO Gala & Open
May 30th & May 31st

Board Meeting
July 7th
October 6th

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cidso.org

Facebook Fan? Like Us!
Central Illinois Down
Syndrome Organization

About Our Organization

The Central Illinois Down Syndrome Organization (CIDSO) is a not-for-profit organization of families and interested persons working to increase public awareness, support families, and improve opportunities for those touched by Down syndrome. Established in 1974 to act as a support service, we serve Bloomington, Normal, and the McLean County area. Our organization is the oldest Down syndrome parent group in Illinois and the second oldest in the nation.

New Parent Outreach

The process of acceptance begins as soon as Down syndrome is suspected. To support parents and extended family during this time, a parent outreach member will gladly make hospital or home visits. Informational packets are also available to new parents. Parent Outreach Members, *Brenda & Kevin Harms*, (309) 378-2388 and *Rick & Jennifer Bauersfeld*, (309) 874-2038, can be contacted any time.

Enrichment/Participation Fund

This fund is designed to enrich the lives of those born with Down syndrome and promote community involvement/participation. It is available to any person with Down syndrome regardless of involvement/participation in CIDSO. Applications are reviewed at the quarterly board meetings and must be received by CIDSO at least 10 days prior to the board meeting. Additional details and applications can be found in the "Resource" section of the CIDSO website. <http://cidso.org/resources.asp>

Disclaimer Policy

The editor of this newsletter writes as a non-professional. CIDSO does not promote or recommend any therapy, treatment, institution, political affiliation or professional system and any information contained herein shall not imply such. Please discuss specific concerns with a professional.

