

Central Illinois Down
Syndrome Organization
PO Box 595, Normal, IL 61761
309/452-3264
www.CIDSO.org

CIDSO NEWS

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President:

Steve Newbold
309-826-1658

Vice President:

Dawn Mattia
309-750-9164

Secretary:

Brenda Harms
309-378-2388

Treasurer:

Randy Mattia
309-750-9164

Newsletter Editor:

Dawn Mattia
309-750-9164

CIDSO Open/Gala:

Deb Cochran
dlc-15454
@comcast.net

Buddy Walk:

Cheryl Cumrine
309-824-1559
Jean Bates
309-452-2555

Social Chair:

Judy Bates
309-726-1145

Event Coordinator:

Open Position

Advocacy &

Resources:

Sandy Ginther
309-829-0968

Self Advocates:

Abbey Heins
Kathy Peden

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People With Disabilities Impetus For New Teaching Hotel

By Michelle Diamant

Construction is set to begin on a first-of-its-kind hotel where teaching and employing people with disabilities will be just as important as accommodating overnight guests.

At least 20 percent of workers at the 150-room Courtyard by Marriott being built in Muncie, Ind. will be individuals with developmental and other types of disabilities, project organizers with The Arc of Indiana said. These employees will be working in all types of positions, including management.

In addition, the hotel will offer postsecondary educational opportunities for individuals to learn about the hospitality and food service industries and will serve as a training ground for human resources professionals to better understand how to hire people with special needs.

There are also plans for two businesses owned by people with disabilities to be located in the hotel lobby.

"As far as the typical guest experience, this Courtyard will be no different," said Sally Morris of The Arc of Indiana. "That said, this hotel will not just meet ADA standards, it will exceed them. Every decision we are making is meant to enhance the guest experience for all of our guests."

Morris said that the idea for the project came from Jeff Huffman, a dad who was frustrated by the lack of postsecondary opportunities for his son Nash, who has Down syndrome, and others like him.

Construction is set to begin later this year on the hotel, which will include a restaurant and parking garage, all attached to the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie. The property is expected to open in summer 2015.

The state of Indiana has committed up to \$5 million to help fund the hospitality training institute and teaching hotel.



Sensory Friendly Movie

Back by popular demand! Join us for **"Frozen"** on Saturday, June 14, 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.



I WANT YOU

We need someone to volunteer to organize a summer gathering for the families of our younger members. It could be a play date at a park or the Children's Museum, a game or event, or a trip to the zoo. CIDSO will pay for the expenses related to this event and will help you advertise it. Email us at info@cidos.org if you are able to help.



Patients with Down Syndrome not Benefited by Alzheimer's Drug

Originally printed in "Third Age"

Patients with both Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease are not benefited by a popular drug used to treat cognitive decline, a new study shows. According to *HealthDay News*, researchers from King's College London found that the brain function of people older than 40 years with Down syndrome was not helped by taking memantine. The results came as disappointing to researchers, who had been excited about the positive results found in mice with Down syndrome.

To test the effectiveness of memantine, 88 people with Down syndrome received the drug for one year, while another 85 people received a placebo. Some study participants had Alzheimer's while some did not. Overall brain function declined in both groups regardless of whether or not they were taking the drug.

In fact, memantine was not only ineffective, it was dangerous. Eleven percent of people in the group that took the medication experienced serious adverse side effects, compared to just seven percent of people in the placebo group. Five people from the memantine group eventually died of these complications.

Still, researchers were pleased that their work would contribute to the ongoing field of study involving Down syndrome and Alzheimer's. According to *HealthDay News*, the issue is particularly important as nearly 40 percent of people with Down syndrome will be diagnosed with dementia once they pass the age of 60.

"Memantine is not an effective treatment in this group of patients," said study author Clive Ballard. "We believe that this robust finding will have implications for clinical practice and research strategy in the future. Specifically, therapies that are beneficial for people with Alzheimer's disease are not necessarily effective for the treatment of cognitive impairment or dementia in the context of Down syndrome."

Coming Soon!

Sensory Friendly Movie
June 14th

Board Meeting
July 7th
October 6th

Annual Picnic
August 24th

Buddy Walk
September 27th

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cidso.org

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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 CIDOS 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.

