

Central Illinois Down
Syndrome Organization
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www.CIDSO.org

CIDSO NEWS

May 2014

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Miss Amazing Pageant Puts Girls with Disabilities First

Congratulations to Kristin Crumrine, Illinois Miss Amazing Queen, Senior Miss Division. We wish her all the best when she competes this summer in Omaha, NE for the nation title.

The following article was featured in "TODAY News", September 7, 2013.

At one very special pageant, it isn't about who has the best voice or the prettiest dress. It is, however, still about the tiara.

"Every girl at the Miss Amazing pageant receives a crown because every girl to an extent in her own way is Miss Amazing, just by participating in the event and really pushing her limits," said Jordan Somer, the founder of the Miss Amazing pageant, which is just for girls with physical and mental disabilities.

"We have participants who have Down syndrome; we have participants who have autism, high-functioning, low-functioning. We have participants that don't use words to talk," Somer told TODAY. Somer created the Miss Amazing pageant when she was just 13 years old, and now, seven years later, pageants are held across the country. Events, which include an introduction ceremony, evening wear and talents like martial arts and singing, are designed to help build confidence and self-esteem.



Sensory Friendly Movie

Join us for "Rio 2" on Saturday, May 10, 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.

Thank You

Special thanks to Dominick Bullinger and Grand Trunk for their donation to CIDSO and matching gift.

Thank you to Randy Mattia and State Farm for the Good Neighbor Grant received by CIDSO.



CIDSO Gala & Open

Join us for 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.

Deb Cochran is looking for assistance with obtaining donations for the silent auction and help with the decorating of the ballroom. If you are interested in either of these, please email dlc-15454@comcast.net

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



Discussion Boards & Blogs

www.downsyn.com

"Just when you think you have learned what you need to know in life, someone truly special comes into it and shows just how much more there is."

This is a resource for those who love someone with Down syndrome that includes information for new parents and relatives. There is also a forum for those ready to share the joy, love, hardships, and fun of raising your child with Down syndrome.

www.gardenofeagan.blogspot.com/

Check out this blog by a mother who is battling breast cancer while parenting five kids with Down syndrome. Her writing is both humorous and heartbreaking, kind of like life.

Coming Soon!

Sensory Friendly Movie
May 10th

CIDSO Gala & Open
May 30th & May 31st

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 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.

