

Central Illinois Down
Syndrome Organization
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www.CIDSO.org

CIDSO NEWS

November 2014

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CIDSO Christmas Party & Annual Meeting

Join us December 7th from 3:00-5:30 pm for our Christmas party and annual meeting. We will gather at Calvary United Methodist Church, at the corner of Raab & Towanda in Normal. The agenda includes annual meeting, election of officers, crafts, singing, dinner, and a visit from Santa.

Since Santa has agreed to take time out of his busy season to join our party, we like to do what we can to make his job a little easier by presenting him with toys. We ask each family to bring an unwrapped gift that Santa will give to Toys for Tots. Please RSVP to judybates1943@yahoo.com or call Judy at 309-261-0770.



National Inclusive Schools Week & CIDSO Teacher Recognition

In honor of National Inclusive Schools Week, December 1-5, 2014, CIDSO will be recognizing local teachers who promote inclusion at their school. This recognition is for school staff who work to be sure students with special needs are included with their typical peer in the classroom and other school activities. This involves modification of regular education curriculum and modifying activities so special needs students can be included with their peers throughout the school day. It also involves staff being willing to learn, listen, and act on suggestions to make school more inclusive.

If you work with school staff that deserves recognition for their inclusion efforts, please submit their name and the name of the school to info@cidso.org. Nominations must be received by November 23, 2013. Teachers recognized will receive a certificate and small token of appreciation from CIDSO. Certificates will be available for pick up at the Christmas party. If you would like the certificates prior to the December 7th party, please indicate so in your nomination. Those making nominations will be responsible for picking up and delivering the certificates



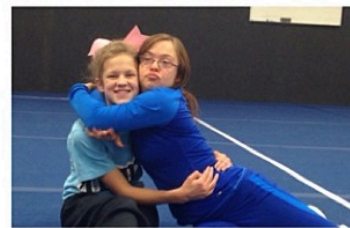
Sensory Friendly Movie

Join us for **"Big Hero 6"** on Saturday, November 8th, 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.



Buddy Walk Big Success

Over 700 people turned out to support the 10th Annual CIDSO Buddy Walk. Beautiful weather, hot coffee, and wonderful snacks greeted walkers. Kids were entertained by a bouncy house and face painting. This year's walk also featured in Indiana bracelet artist with Down syndrome.



Lions Spirit Cheer Team

By Tara Haynes, mother of Carly Haynes (spirit head coach) and Patrick Haynes (spirit athlete)

Approximately 10 years ago a sister of a young lady with Down syndrome came up with an idea. She wondered if it would be possible to offer a cheer team in the Bloomington/Normal area for people with disabilities. The answer was "YES" and CIDSO stepped in to help bring that dream to life. Since that time, the answer every year has continued to be "YES" from CIDSO. The cheer program, strongly tied to Lions Cheer Company, trains, mentors and encourages both boys and girls in the Central Illinois Area. The team provides the experience to perform Cheerleading routines and interact in a typical gym setting. The athletes voted and have named the team "Spirit"

CIDSO's involvement in the supportive and financial assistance area has allowed the program to be open to all athletes regardless of resources. Many young men and women may not be able to participate without the support CIDSO has consistently provided for this team. It is a gift and a pleasure to assist my teenage daughter, as she coaches this team with her dedicated group of volunteers. As a parent of an athlete with disabilities and a daughter/coach who is devoting her life to working with all disabilities, Spirit has added so much joy and fulfillment to our family as I am sure it has to all of the families the program has touched in the past and present.

The program welcomes all school age athletes with physical and cognitive disabilities. Each athlete is praised for their own ability and each athlete has a very important role in the routine. It is often said, there are no second string performers in cheerleading, everyone on Spirit is a star!

Thank you CIDSO for your continued support of Spirit Cheer at Lions Cheer Company, the coaches thank you, the families thank you and most of all, the athletes who are on the stage shining thank you.

Coming Soon!

Sensory Friendly Movie
November 8th

Christmas Party/
Annual Meeting
December 7th

Board Meeting
January 12th

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 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.

