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CIDSO NEWS

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The 9th Annual CIDSO Buddy Walk

CIDSO's 9th Annual Buddy Walk will be held Saturday, September 28, 2013 at Carden Park and Prairieland Elementary School located at 1300 Raab Road in Normal. Registration will begin at 9:00 with the walk kicking off at 10:30.

The Buddy Walk was developed by the National Down Syndrome Society in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. The Buddy Walk has grown from 17 walks in 1995 to nearly 300 walks planned for 2013 worldwide. In 2012, more the \$11.5 million was raised nationwide to benefit local programs and services, as well as the national advocacy and public awareness initiatives of NDSS that benefit all individuals with Down syndrome.

People with Down syndrome and their families are encouraged to invite "buddies" to join them in the one mile walk at Carden Park. Food, games, entertainment, and a raffle drawing will be part of the fun! Put together a team to walk with you and ask your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to sponsor you by pledging a donation to help support CIDSO programs. Ninety percent of the funds raised will remain in the local area while the remaining money will be used by the NDSS for national programs and awareness.

Registration is \$5 per person; children age 5 and under are free. Shirts are also available for \$5 and can be ordered while completing online registration before September 6th or purchased at the event. Online registration is at: www.firstgiving.com/cidso/2013BW. This site can also be used to coordinate teams and gather donations.

The walk will again feature a \$1 raffle. If you would like to donate a basket or basket items for the raffle please contact Brenda Harms at jekkel1@msn.com. Donations are greatly appreciated!

Join the close to 800 participants that turn out for our local event. By participating in the Buddy Walk you help us take steps to a brighter tomorrow.



Sensory Friendly Movie

Join us for **"Planes"** on Saturday, September 14, 2013 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 the friends and family of Marietta Romer. Their generous donations in honor of her memory are greatly appreciated.

Schools Must Pay for Special Education Evaluations, Court Rules

By Shawn Heasley, Disability Scoop

School districts should reimburse parents for independent educational evaluations of students with disabilities, at least in some cases, a federal court is affirming.

Though the US Department of Education has long indicated that parents have the right to an independent opinion at public expense under certain circumstances, the Jefferson County Board of Education in Alabama challenged the rule. The school district declined to reimburse parents named in court papers as Philip and Angie C. after they sought an outside evaluation when they disagreed with the district's assessment of their child.

The Jefferson County Schools argued that paying for parent-solicited evaluations goes beyond the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act because the long-standing federal law does not specifically mandate it. But a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit found "no Merit" to the school district's argument.

"The regulations at issue here is valid so long as public financing of a parent's IEP is consistent with the intent of Congress in enacting IDEA," the judges wrote in their opinion.

The court ruling notes that federal lawmakers have reauthorized the IDEA numerous times without taking away the right to a taxpayer-financed independent evaluation, which the Education Department implemented in the early days of the IDEA.



Fundraising Night for CIDS0 Buddy Walk

Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt
 115 Krispy Kreme Drive, Bloomington
 Tuesday, September 17
 6:00pm to 10:00pm
 10% of all profits will benefit the CIDS0 Buddy Walk

Coming Soon!

Buddy Walk Fundraiser
Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt
September 17th
6:00pm – 10:00 pm

CIDSO Buddy Walk
September 28th

CIDSO Board Meeting
October 7th @ 6:30pm

Transition Workshop
October 29th

CIDSO Christmas Party
December 8TH

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>

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