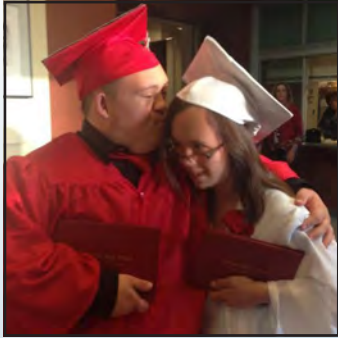
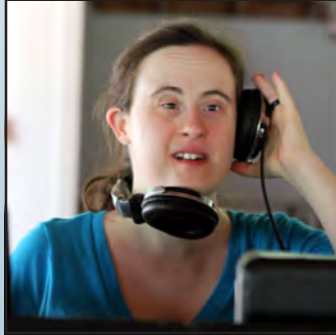


“I have Down syndrome and I am proud of who I am.”



## Education



## Public Awareness



## Advocacy



## Support

## FACTS ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

Down syndrome is a common genetic variation which usually causes delays in physical, intellectual and language development.

The exact causes of the chromosomal rearrangement and primary prevention of Down syndrome are currently unknown.

Down syndrome is one of the leading clinical causes of cognitive delay in the world.

The incidence of Down syndrome in the U.S. is estimated to be one in every 691 live births. About 5,000 children born in the country this year will have Down syndrome.

About one-quarter million families in the United States are affected by Down syndrome. It is not related to race, nationality, religion, or socio-economic status.

The incidence of births of children with Down syndrome increases with the age of the mother. However, due to higher fertility rates in younger women, 80% of children with Down syndrome are born to women under 35 years of age.

There is a wide variation in mental abilities, behaviors and physical development in individuals with Down syndrome. Each individual has his/her own unique personality, capabilities and talents.

30-50% of the individuals with Down syndrome have heart defects and 8-12% have gastrointestinal tract abnormalities at birth. Most of these conditions are now correctable by surgery.

Individuals with Down syndrome benefit from loving homes, early intervention, inclusive education, appropriate medical care and positive public attitudes.

In adulthood, many persons with Down syndrome hold jobs, live independently and enjoy recreational opportunities in their communities.



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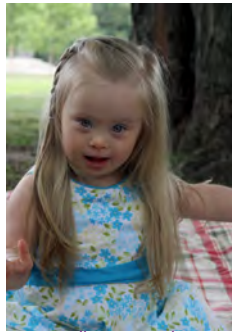
## Down Syndrome Society of Rhode Island

Promoting the rights,  
dignity and potential  
of all individuals  
with Down syndrome

99 Bald Hill Road, Cranston, RI 02920  
401-463-5751 • [www.dssri.org](http://www.dssri.org)

## Our Mission

The Down Syndrome Society of Rhode Island (DSSRI) is dedicated to promoting the rights, dignity and potential of all individuals with Down syndrome through advocacy, education, public awareness, and support.



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## Information & Support

DSSRI provides information and support on medical and educational issues associated with raising a child with Down syndrome. We share this information with parents, family members, professionals and other individuals through:

- support on an individual, parent-to-parent basis
- informational workshops
- newsletters
- a comprehensive library
- conferences and special events

## Especially for New Parents



DSSRI offers a new parent brochure, **New Babies**, **New Pathways** which contains useful information for the first days and weeks after you learn your baby has Down syndrome. We also provide a New Parent Package, which includes

books about Down syndrome, pamphlets, newsletters, and DSSRI membership information. The New Parent Committee provides in-person, telephone, and email support. It hosts social activities where new parents can network with other parents.

## An Information Resource

We are constantly updating and expanding our lending library, since research and medical information related to Down syndrome continually changes. Our library is the most current and comprehensive on this subject in the state. Our web site offers interesting articles and state and national resource links. Visit us at [www.dssri.org](http://www.dssri.org)

## Public Awareness & Advocacy

DSSRI also serves as a resource for professionals interested in parental concerns. We provide speakers to schools, colleges, professional organizations, and civic and fraternal groups. DSSRI also advocates in the service system and in the community for all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



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We offer the following resources:

**DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS PROJECT** - Members of DSSRI have been trained to teach this program at schools. This interactive project can be adjusted for the individual needs of students and schools.

**SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS** - These include DSSRI's annual fundraising event, holiday party, and new parent gathering. Our Buddy Walk® is held in the fall as part of Down Syndrome Awareness Month; show your support by walking or volunteering!

**AFFILIATIONS** - DSSRI is affiliated with the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) and the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). On several projects, DSSRI collaborates with Advocates in Action RI.

## Would You Like to Join Us?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## I would like to become a member:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="radio"/> Individual/Family | \$25      |
| <input type="radio"/> Professional      | \$30 +    |
| <input type="radio"/> Contributor       | \$50 +    |
| <input type="radio"/> Sponsor           | \$100 +   |
| <input type="radio"/> Sustainer         | \$250 +   |
| <input type="radio"/> Benefactor        | \$500 +   |
| <input type="radio"/> President's Club  | \$1,000 + |
| <input type="radio"/> Friend            | \$ _____  |

I would like to make a donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please charge my credit card for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY OF RI  
MAIL TO: 99 Bald Hill Road, Cranston, RI 02920