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I would like to take a minute of your time and introduce myself. My name is Vicki Kirkpatrick. I am 33 years old and married to the love of my life, Gregg. We have four beautiful girls; Lexi, Laney, Mackenzie and Madalyn.

Madalyn is our youngest at 2.5 years old. She has Down syndrome. I found prenatally that Madalyn would be born with Down syndrome. From that moment, Gregg and I agreed that we wanted her to be treated like her three big sisters. We were not looking for a special place, exclusive for her. We were

NEXT MEETING:

Erin Dominiak, M.D.
Adult Down Syndrome Clinic

Dr. Dominiak will discuss ways to set our children on the path to good health - whatever the age.

Thursday, September 27, 2012 at 7 p.m.
Schaumburg Township Board Room
One Illinois Boulevard, Hoffman Estates

Free on-site child care is available, but space is limited.
YOU MUST REGISTER FOR CHILD CARE.
http://ufdseptember2012.eventbrite.com/

Clark ran the Rock ‘n’ Roll Mini Marathon. We don’t only run FOR people with Down syndrome. We run WITH people with Down syndrome. Join us in 2013!
looking for a place for everyone. We never want Mady to feel different, just like we never want her sisters to feel like she is any different than they are. She is the reason that Gregg and I got involved with UPS for DownS. When Mady was 6 months old, we received a postcard from UPS for DownS for a Parent Night outing. We thought we could use a night out, and maybe we would learn something from other parents. It also didn’t hurt that it was being held at Al Capone’s Hideaway either! We wanted to be part of a group that would help us grow within the community. We found our place that night and have been actively involved ever since.

As a family, we try to be involved in everything we can with UPS for DownS. About a year ago, I was asked to be a board member. I was thrilled. This year brings along new responsibilities for me as Co-Chair along side Marylynn Cassata, and I can tell you, I am honored! I love that everyone in the group is so helpful, and they are all great mentors.

I have learned so much from this organization. We love the UPS for DownS philosophy of empowering families to make inroads and establishing a sense of belonging and acceptance in the communities where we live. My hope is that many of you will come out to our events so we can grow and support each other. I look forward to meeting more of you and learning your stories.

Vicki Kirkpatrick

UPS for DownS is organized and operated entirely by volunteers. This newsletter is similarly written on a volunteer, non-professional basis. Information presented here should not be construed to be objective or definitive, but represents the opinions and understandings of the contributors. We are not responsible for reliance made on any information in this newsletter. We strive to bring together those interested in Down syndrome and to create an optimistic outlook and attitude about Down syndrome for our families and others.
Lisa Reninger of Schaumburg and Kim Orlando of Bartlett coordinated the UPS for DownS Relay for Life team “Taking Cancer DOWN.” Kim and her mother are both cancer survivors.

Nearly every team member has a loved one or friend who has been touched by cancer, and persons with Down syndrome are as much as 30 percent more likely to contract leukemia than the at-large population.

These young people worked hard to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The team members held a car wash and held a reserved seating pasta dinner at Riccardo’s in Schaumburg.

Our communities should be proud to count them as fellow neighbors and citizens.

“Our most important message is that people with disabilities are not always recipients of charity,” Reninger says, “but also are able to give back.”

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**FALL TEEN SCENE/ADULT CLUB**

Save the Date: Saturday October 27th 2012

*A SPOOKTACULAR DANCE EVENT*

Come dressed in costume. Details to follow.

For September, TeenScene will be taking a trip to the Woodfield Apple Store. Details TBA. Contact Gloria for additional information: gnolan738@yahoo.com
UPS for DownS is proud to donate books to local schools, libraries and other community locations. You are invited to the UPS for DownS September 22nd meeting to pick up a copy of each book to donate to your school, library, therapist, doctor’s office. Please stay for entire meeting.

Pickup: 7:00 p.m. - 9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 27th
Location: Schaumburg Township Bldg.

You will also receive cover letters and book plates to distribute with the books.

This donation project is not intended to supplement your personal collection of books. These titles are available to borrow from the UPS for Downs’ Resource Library if you wish to read them.

Books are limited. Priority goes to those who attend meeting on 9/27. Books will not be mailed to individuals, but will be sent on your behalf to recommended locations if there are books left AFTER the meeting.

If you cannot make the September meeting, but would like books sent on your behalf, please submit your request in writing to taniakothera@me.com. Provide name and address of library or destination, as well as name of your child/family. You may direct questions to 847-895-2100, but only written requests for books will be accepted.

The 2012 October UPS for DownS’ Book Donation Selections:

I Just Am by Brian and Tom Lambke
This is a story about a young man with Down syndrome. These are his thoughts and feelings regarding his disability. It is written with help from his dad and much love.

The Down Syndrome Transition Handbook by Jo Ann Simons, M.S.W.
It’s full of practical tips and step-by-step instructions to help families envision their child’s future, develop a transition plan, and implement it. There’s also a wealth of information about adults in their twenties or thirties living at home who are still struggling with finding a job, locating housing, or establishing a meaningful life in their community, and who could achieve more independence with the right guidance and supports.

Come join us at the UPS for DownS post-conference hospitality suite. It’s a great way to meet new people and share your thoughts and experiences of the day. It will be held at the Convention Center at the conclusion of the workshop sessions 4:30-6:30 in room 55. Look for signs at the convention center. All are welcome.

After the NADS conference and the UPS for DownS cocktail party, do you really want to go home? PARENT NIGHT OUT has come to the rescue.

We will proceed to Maria’s Mexican Restaurant after UPS for DownS cocktail suite and stay out! We can talk about the conference and get to know each other a little better.

Limit 30 people, $15 per person, UPS for DownS pays the balance. RSVP to sneri@upsfordowns.org or call 847-891-3224.
Warning: Rumor has it UPS for Downs throws a great party! Book the sitter really, really late...or even overnight, your return home may be unpredictable.

INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN MAILED! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ONE AND HAVE NOT YET contact Stephanie Neri ASAP at sneri@upsfordowns.org or call 847-891-3224

The money we raise from this evening pays for everything we do for the year. And everything we do is designed to serve your child and your family. If you can help us with anything, let me know.

We are in high need sponsors this year! Sponsors can be a business, a family, a child, in honor of or in memory of someone you want remembered. Sponsors are $250, $500 and $1000. For more information contact Vicki Kirkpatrick at vkirpatrick@upsfordowns.org or call 815-444-1348

We need silent auction items! Can you help? We need sports tickets to the Bears, Bulls and Blackhawks games. We also need gift cards in any amount to Costco, Sam’s, Mariano’s and Trader Joe’s. If you can help or would like a list of other things we could use, contact Stephanie at sneri@upsfordowns.org or call 847-891-3224

Not attending but want to be a part of this somehow? We need 15 volunteers to work the night of the event to do check in, silent auctions, raffles and check out. Email for details.

ESCAPE........
Friday, October 12th
6:30 pm to 12:30 am
$75 per person
The Cotillion Banquets
Palatine, IL
You want in? Contact sneri@upsfordowns.org
SAVE THE DATE:
Fiddler on the Roof, Jr. auditions to take place Sunday, October 28 and Sunday, November 4. Audition registrations open October 1 at Jr. http://fiddler.eventbrite.com

Tentative performance dates: April 12, 13, 14

Siblings, typical peers and youth and adults with Down syndrome encouraged to audition. Ages 9 and up.
$75 per actor for entire season (UFD subsidizes the rest).

Mystic Legends!
Dancer/choreographer Priya Narthakii and Artistic Director Uma Suresh brought us "Mystic Legends: A Dance Tribute to the Wisdom of the Ancients." This multimedia dance theater event supports performing arts for the Down syndrome community and featured Sumanth Suresh, a young man with Down syndrome, on percussion accompaniment. Be there for 2013’s performance!

READY, SET, RAVIOLI!
Join us for the pasta dinner to encourage our Endurance Team athletes and show appreciation for all they have done.
Friday, October 5
6:30 p.m.
Chandler’s in Schaumburg
Free for athletes
$30 for family of 5

More details and RSVP at www.marathonpastadinner.eventbrite.com

DID YOU KNOW?
You can be a part of the excitement. And we cook breakfast!
charityblockparty.eventbrite.com

Join us at Charity Block Party and watch the Chicago Marathon... in person!
THEATRE CLASSES!
http://ufdtheatre.eventbrite.com/

Monday nights starting September 17th - 8 classes and a final performance

5:00-6:00 pm  **A Star is Born.**  This exciting performance based class introduces new actors to the stage. Ages 8 and up - meant for folks new to musical theatre.

6:00-7:30 pm  **Music in Me - scenes and songs from Broadway.**  Participants will analyze music and theatre techniques. Each performer will learn one ballad, one duet and character song and choose what they will perform! Perfect for the actor who is seeking skills and experience. Ages 12 and up.

7:30-9:00 pm  **Dancing like the Stars.**  This specialized dance class will break down the most important steps in Musical Theatre. Ages 12 and up.

Participants should be able to follow basic instructions and work collaboratively with the other actors. Overly disruptive behavior will be addressed as-needed.

ALL CLASSES held at Hoffman Estates Park District Community Center, Senior Center Room, 1685 West Higgins Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Register here:  http://ufdtheatre.eventbrite.com/

YOUR COST:  JUST $50 PER CLASS!

DID YOU EVER WONDER WHY YOUR REGISTRATION FEES FOR OUR THEATRE OFFERINGS ARE SO LOW?  UPS FOR DOWNS UNDERWRITES THESE COSTS, PAYING APPROXIMATELY AN ADDITIONAL $75 PER PARTICIPANT.

Be sure to watch for information in next month’s newsletter about auditions for our next musical: *Fiddler on the Roof*!
Garrett & Katelyn set up
Kim and Natalie
Party Train!

We added a BBQ and DJ Dance Party to our annual summer family swim party. It was an amazing night. Plan to join us at the Summer Splash Bash & BBQ in 2013!

It was a busy summer for UPS for DownS families as each of you participated in your local fests, barbecues, parades, ball games, concerts, farmers markets, swimming lessons and more in your individual communities.

PARENT COFFEE & PLAYGROUP

NOT for new parents only!

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Friday, October 5, 2012
Friday, November 2, 2012

First United Methodist Church
1903 E. Euclid Avenue, Arlington Heights

Childcare and light lunch provided.

Child care is provided courtesy of UPS for DownS.

For more information, contact Shannon at 847-788-1138 or kersemeier@sbcglobal.net.
The 2012 Rock 'n' Roll Chicago Half Marathon and Mini Marathon included a pasta dinner for athletes and the award of scholarships to Anna Neri and Kayla Fitzgerald. Early risers had fun keeping runners hydrated. This race now includes a 5K mini marathon, so the mere mortals among us can get in shape and be on the team, too!
At the Schaumburg Labor Day Parade, UPS for DownS celebrated the theme of “Life on the Farm.” As our float with its red barn, split rail fence and hay bales rolled by, many in the crowd called to our kids by name, confirming that UPS for DownS makes a difference in our communities and follows our mission of “inspiring community acceptance by sharing the presence, potential and abilities of people with Down syndrome.”

Azevedo family: planning and design
Foy family: trailer for float

Tamayo family: truck (and driving!)
Zambito family: work space
Tom Delaney & DADS group: labor

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The Famous Puzzler Rallye
Saturday night, September 15, 2012

Chicago’s most spectacular road rallye event, The Famous Puzzler Rallye takes you on a journey of the senses, mind and imagination. Try something different with your friends and family. Prepare for a fun-filled evening at the Famous Puzzler Rallye! It’s like a scavenger hunt on wheels! Solve puzzles, follow the map key, search out clues, solve riddles. No rallye experience necessary.

There are a variety of puzzles with varying degrees of difficulty - easy, easier and easiest. So don’t worry if you are not an expert puzzle solver, just grab some friends and get set to have a fun-filled evening of entertainment while benefiting a great cause.

HERE’S A HINT: Bring a flashlight, your brain and a sense of humor.

Try a puzzle now: The box to the left contains a well known saying or thing, can you figure it out? If you are running in a race and you pass the guy in second place, what place are you in?

S A T U R D A Y   N I G H T ,  S E P T E M B E R  1 5 ,  2 0 1 2
Begins at Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg, at Light Pole B-2, just west of the Firestone Tire Dealer.

Registration starts at 6 pm with a Beginner’s School at 6:45. Cars leave at approximately 7:15 pm.

Rallye Costs are tax deductible at $25 per vehicle if pre-registered before September 11th. Registration the night of the event is $30 per vehicle.

Preregister send check payable to UPS for DownS with your NAME, ADDRESS, E-MAIL, PHONE NUMBER to: Famous Puzzler, c/o Sakata, 706 Fieldstone Ct., Inverness, IL 60010

or register online at http://puzzler/eventbrite.com

For more information: Call Gary Sakata at 847-650-5614

www.wheelstrallyeteam.com www.upsfordowns.org

100% of the proceeds benefit UPS for DownS, an Illinois non-profit organization offering support, acceptance and encouragement to families and people with Down syndrome.

Unable to participate in the Rallye? You can still help! Dine at the Schaumburg Fuddruckers at 436 E. Golf Road on Saturday, 9/15/12. With this Admission Ticket, 20% of your purchase will be donated to UPS for DownS!

Benefit Night Admission Ticket
Helping you with your fundraising.

Group: UPS FOR DOWNS
Date & Time: ALL DAY Saturday, 9/15/12
Location: 436 E. Golf Road - Schaumburg

Present this ticket when you order and your group will receive twenty percent of your purchase as a donation from Fuddruckers.

This is the largest rallye in the Chicago area - and the most fun, too!

Register online at: http://puzzler.eventbrite.com
SEAN CONOR

Date of Birth: August 24, 1992

Occupation: Student

Last Book Read: The Hunger Games

Favorite movie(s): Indiana Jones

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite thing about school: Seeing all my friends

Hobby: Watching WWE

Latest Accomplishment: Senior Prom King

Quote: “Never give up!”

Sean is pictured with prom date Sarah, who was also nominated to prom court.