



# Let's get Down to it...

October 2015

[www.lldss.org](http://www.lldss.org)

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## Upcoming Events

- October 18th - LLDSS Bowling Outing, 1-3PM, Strike n Spare West
- November 12th - LLDSS Meeting, 6-8, Erin's Pavilion - Behavior Training for Person's with Down Syndrome
- December 13th - LLDSS Christmas Party, 11-2PM, Erin's Pavilion

## Executive Officers

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Jared Owen

### Vice President

Rachel Jackson

### Treasurer

Andrew Gossrow

### Secretary

Pam Rigby

## Board of Directors

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## A Message from the President

Greetings LLDSS Members!

As many of you know, September 19<sup>th</sup> marked our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual BuddyWalk. While we have hosted the walk most recently at Southwind Park, we decided to take this year's walk back to the place it all began in 2000. Many of you may not realize that the BuddyWalk is a worldwide event that has grown tremendously since its



inception back in 1995 when there were only 17 walks. Today there are more than 300 registered walks, and that number grows every year! Last year alone, over \$13 Million was raised for the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) charter as a result of BuddyWalks. A portion of the funds we raise goes to the NDSS, but a large amount stays here in Central Illinois. Funds we have raised from previous walks have gone to contributions for both Washington Park to upgrade their playground equipment, and the construction of Southwind Park.

For the Lincoln Land Down Syndrome Society, the Buddy Walk represents our yearlong effort to raise awareness about Down Syndrome, and to promote inclusion of those persons with Down Syndrome in our community.

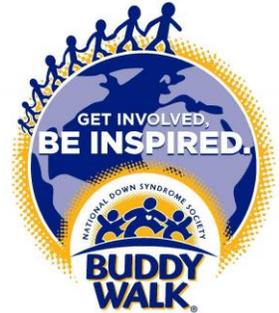
This year we estimated around 600 people attended the Walk at Washington Park. The day was absolutely beautiful and I want to thank all the volunteers that made this event possible. Julie Ressler did a fantastic job making all the pre-arrangements and much of the walk's success can be directly attributed to her. Thanks everyone!

Very Kindly,

Jared Owen

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## Useful Links

Lincoln Land Down Syndrome Society  
<http://www.LLDSS.org>

National Down Syndrome Society  
<http://www.ndss.org/>

Sparc <http://www.spfldsparc.org/>

United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln  
<http://ucpll.org/>

PUNS List Information  
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=47620>

LLDSS Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lincoln-Land-Down-Syndrome-Society/100514010032422>

Down Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis  
<http://dsagsl.org/programs/community-groups/>

LLDSS Moms Group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/404921159550855/?fref=nf>

Special Olympics Illinois  
[www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org)

## Contact Us

Website  
[www.LLDSS.org](http://www.LLDSS.org)  
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## News and Noteworthy

LLDSS Members Tacy Ann Mayner and Jared DeGroot had a great idea recently. They had shirts made up for this year's BuddyWalk to represent Team Hylan (their son). For each one of the shirts that was made, a donation was set aside to the LLDSS. Tacy and Jared are very happy to report they raised \$350.00! What an awesome idea, thanks Tacy and Jared for your very considerate gift. We are all "Smilin for Hylan" as the shirts say!

## Member Spotlight

I think it goes without saying, that for many of us the Early Intervention (EI) program in our State is a foundation that has attributed to our children's successes in school and in life. The Early Intervention program's mission is to assure that families who have infants or toddlers with diagnosed disabilities, developmental delays or substantial risk of significant delays receive resources that assist them in maximizing their child's development. The program in Illinois provides services to over 20,000 children aged birth to 3. (That represents about 3.5% of children in that age group in Illinois) Illinois is in unprecedented times regarding our financial state of affairs. Under the proposed budget, EI is set to lose \$23M to the program. It has also been proposed that the definition of developmental delay be reduced to 50% delay instead of 30%. This shrinks that earlier number of 20,000 recipients down to 14,000 children. On September 24th, at the Illinois State Capitol rotunda, LLDSS members Josh and Page Houser, accompanied by their two beautiful children Grace and Genevieve, provided first hand testimony on how the program has accelerated the possibilities of their daughter Grace's potential. As a Society, the LLDSS is committed to increasing and fostering the potential in all our members. Everyday our members do extraordinary things. Josh and Page testified for the future of the program, which in and of itself is a completely selfless act. This is why they are in the spotlight for this quarter's newsletter. Well done, and on behalf of all our future members and EI recipients, thank you Houser Family!

