



Let's get Down to it...

January 2016

www.lldss.org

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Upcoming Events

- January 14th, LLDSS Monthly Meeting 6-8PM Erin's Pavillion
- Saturday, February 13th, Valentines Day Party. 2-4 PM, surprise details to follow 😊

Executive Officers

President

Jared Owen

Vice President

Rachel Jackson

Treasurer

Jason Schnepf

Secretary

Pam Rigby

Board of Directors

Barb Fiedler

Terry Horstman

Josh Houser

Heather Ivers

Becky Johnson

Tara Owen

Julie Ressler

Tim Rigby

Ben Simpson

Kristy Wagner

Ann Wells

A Message from the President

Greetings LLDSS Members!

What a fantastic year 2015 was for the LLDSS! We raised a ton of awareness and accomplished many of our goals of promoting inclusion and acceptance. Not to mention we had a ton of fun too. Our golf outing was one of the best ever, and we couldn't be happier with the decision to move it to Edgewood Golf Course in Auburn. The money we raised went to purchase AV equipment that UCP uses for their respite program members. UCP has already used this equipment and have published some videos using the equipment we bought them on their YouTube site. If you get a few moments be sure to check them out by following this link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQoBnSBrDTYzvL3Kgh45VTA>

We couldn't have asked for better weather for our 15th Annual BuddyWalk. It was absolutely perfect for the nearly 600 walkers to enjoy. The scenery was also perfect, so much so that we have decided to bring the Walk back to Washington Park in 2016. Once we confirm the date, we will be sure to pass it along.

We worked to create more awareness of our Social Media sites to help future fundraising campaigns. It's a pretty simple strategy; the more followers we have, the more people we have at our BuddyWalk and Golf Outing. The more people who attend these events, the more likely it is that our mission of promoting inclusion and acceptance of persons with Down Syndrome will continue to prosper.

I hope our momentum can build upon that strategy. Its working little by little, and I am confident that by next year we can double our number of followers. Another goal for our group in 2016 should be the creation of a new pamphlet. Its been many years since we last developed an LLDSS pamphlet. This is usually one of the first things that a new or expectant parent sees, and I would really like to include some of our more recent successes. I may call on some of you to submit some great photos of your children. The last thing we need to address is scholarship eligibility and availability. It is equally important for you to know both what you have available and what your current eligibility is.

Looking forward, I am very excited to be your President in 2016. I am positive that we are all in for another great year, and I will do everything I can to keep our group meetings interesting and resourceful. Looking forward to seeing you all very soon.

Very Kindly,

Jared Owen

217-899-1718

Oderaj78@yahoo.com

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/?ref=nf>

Special Olympics Illinois
www.soill.org

LLDSS Parents Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LLDSSParentsGroup/>

Contact Us

Website
www.LLDSS.org
Facebook –[click here](#)
Twitter @TheLLDSS

Jared Owen
Oderaj78@yahoo.com
217-899-1718

News and Noteworthy

Jason Schnepf is our new Treasurer! We are technically still in a transition period, but Jason will be taking over the checkbook for the group very soon. In the meantime, please keep corresponding with both Andrew and Jason on scholarship or funding related matters. Jason.schnepf@gmail.com gossrow3@comcast.net

Mary Ellen McNiece looking for a replacement to head up the Chatham Area Special Olympics. Mary Ellen has been coordinating this for 14 years and is due a well deserved break. This position is strictly volunteer. Interested persons would be responsible for coaching or finding coaches for our current sports of Basketball skills and team, soccer skills and track. An organized person would be best for this as there are annual forms that have to be filled out, in addition to locating venues for practice, coordination of coaches, and procurement of uniforms and equipment. Mary Ellen and I both agree that the ideal person would come from LLDSS. She hasn't advertised this news elsewhere as she would like to work within our group first. If you are looking to get more involved in 2016, this is a great way to start! Contact myself or Mary Ellen if interested.

Jason Schnepf and I are set to be VIPs during this years UCP Telethon. Part of the job as a VIP is to set a goal for fundraising. Jason set up a link on our website for you to go to if you would like to donate! <http://www.lldss.org/calendar/?entry=26> We appreciate any consideration you give.

Member Spotlight

Through a job cooperative with the Hope Institute, Hannah McNiece gained employment with the Renken Dentistry team a little over 2 years ago. Dr. Josh Renken believes that Hannah brings a very unique dimension to the business; "Not only has Hannah opened up our patient's perspective on persons with disabilities, but she has also enlightened our staff." Dr. Renken goes on to say that many of the patients who visit his dentistry also own businesses and can instantly see the great aspect to the work environment that Hannah adds. Hannah works Monday through Thursday 8:30 -2 and performs a wide variety of jobs. She takes patients back to the rooms, cleans at both Dr Renken's office and at Schon Dental next door. She does laundry, helps set



up trays, and has learned to tear down a room and set it up with a buddy. Dr Renken is providing natural job support using his employees as her buddy to check her work and help as needed. Dr. Renken says, "she is such a terrific employee, but she also promotes job potential for other people with disabilities." Hannah McNiece, our very own Ambassador of Ability! For this reason and many others, Hannah McNiece is in the Spotlight. Congrats to her and the team at Dr. Renken's office for a job well done!