

The CIDSO News

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**"A Brighter
Tomorrow"**

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Introducing Bernadette Rasha



CIDSO is extremely excited to have a special guest walker join us in this years Buddy Walk. Bernadette was born and lives in Nashville, TN. As a young child she was always exposed to art books, art galleries, and art programs on TV. She would sit and try to draw and color what she saw in books or on TV. Bernadette's Grandmother was an artist and came from a line of artist. She started Bernadette in painting as a young child. Bernadette's style is simple and direct.

Bernadette's art career began in 2004 when she was asked to exhibit in a show at a local mall. She was told that the artist didn't sell their work, but that it was good exposure for her. The last thirty minutes of the show two people walked up and bought two paintings. With the sale of those two paintings she wanted to do more painting and more shows. She has exhibited and sold her works in art shows and conventions in Tennessee, Indiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Kentucky, Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, and Kansas.

Bernadette and her art has been show cased in the newspaper and in several magazines. She has, also, had one of her paintings on the cover of a magazine. In several art competitions Bernadette has placed first, second, and third place. Bernadette's art has also been seen on special cans of Diet Pepsi.

"My goals are to increase my skills. I want to improve on painting three dimensional, lighting and form, shape and shadows, and to learn how to blend colors."

Look what's new for the Buddy Walk

The Buddy Walk is going to be September 26, 2009 at Carden Park, located behind Prairieland Elementary in Normal. Registration and fun will begin at 8:00 and the walk will start at 10:00. This is the 5th year of the CIDS0 Buddy Walk and we have some very special things planned for this year's event. We are pleased to announce the **Partner's in Progress Award** which will be given out at the walk. This award honors those who show exceptional efforts in promoting the inclusion and acceptance of those with Down syndrome.

We are going to take this opportunity to celebrate the lives of those touched by Down syndrome. We are thrilled to have artist Bernadette Rasha join us for the walk. If you would like a sneak peek at Bernadette's creations, you can check out her web site at www.bernadetterasha.com.

We also are planning a showcase tent featuring some of our very own CIDS0 members and their interests, abilities, and accomplishments. In order to do this, we need your help. Any CIDS0 member who would like a poster in the showcase tent needs to send Dawn Mattia a current, clear photograph and a few facts about the member. For example, if I were to feature my daughter, I might say "She loves her brother, she likes chocolate ice cream, she learned how to tie her shoe". Please submit your information to Dawn at dawnmattia@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

As in past years, we are offering a free Buddy Walk T-shirt for those who pre-register for the event. That would be for people who register by September 4th. Since this is our 5th anniversary, we are also encouraging people to wear "retro" shirts from past years.

Team spirit is something that helps to add fun and energy to the walk. Please consider forming a team, coming up with a team name, and showing a "sign of support" for your team. There will be a sign making station available at the walk or you can make own in advance. The largest team (as reported to the registration table by the team captain) will be the Grand Marshalls for the walk and will have their photo featured on next year's registration materials.

Mark your calendar now for the walk. This is a full filled morning complete with food, fun, entertainment, and a \$1 raffle. The entire family will enjoy this event. You don't want to miss it!

Submitted by Dawn Mattia on behalf of the CIDS0 Buddy Walk Committee

NDSS and NDSC Applaud Funding for Kennedy-Brownback Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act

The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) and National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) commend the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for providing funding to implement the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act (also known as the Kennedy-Brownback bill in honor of the two Senators who originally championed it). The passage of this important legislation was an extremely high priority for NDSS and NDSC, the original sponsors of the bill in the Senate and the leadership of the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus. After an extensive advocacy effort, including visits to Capitol Hill by individuals with Down syndrome and their families, the bill was signed into law by former President Bush on October 8, 2008. However, it did not come with any Congressional appropriations to enact the recommendations. Now, MCHB has dedicated \$820,000 in funding for each of the next four years.

The funding will be awarded through a federal grant process. Eligible groups--which include hospitals, disability groups, governmental agencies, etc.--are encouraged to apply for the funding in a competitive application. One "applicant" will receive the funding. Although according to the terms of the grant, single disability organizations cannot be the "lead" grantee in the proposal, NDSS and NDSC are partnering with other disability organizations to submit one proposal as a combined "applicant." By the end of the year, an announcement will be made on which applicant wins the competition and receives the funding.

The funding "seeks to increase patient referrals to providers of key support services for women who have received a positive test diagnosis for Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida, Dwarfism and other prenatally or postnatally diagnosed conditions; strengthen existing networks of support through outreach programs; improve available data by incorporating up-to-date, evidence-based information into existing state programs for birth defects and prenatally or postnatally diagnosed conditions and ensure that patients receive information about the accuracy of the diagnostic tests for the conditions. Provisions also include the establishment of or increased access to a resource hot-line."

Buddy Walk Fundraising!

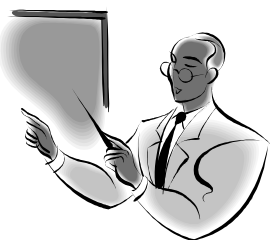
By Robin Wynzel

Thank you for your continued support of the Central Illinois Down Syndrome Organization (CIDSO) Buddy Walk! For over 30 years, CIDSO has provided local community support for new educational, recreational, social, and vocational opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome.

The 2009 Buddy Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2009 at Carden Park in Normal . We look forward to seeing you again this year! For details, view the 2009 registration form at <http://www.cidso.org/files/RegistrationBrochure.pdf>

CIDSO's online fundraising page is up and running! Visit www.firstgiving.com/cidso to help raise funds for CIDSO and the 2009 Buddy Walk. It is easy to create a fundraising page, simply click the "Get Started" button on the web site and follow the step by step instructions. You can also use this website to make a donation or search for fundraising pages of people you would like to sponsor.

CIDSO greatly appreciates your participation and support!



Positive Behavior for Safe and Effective Schools Act

The National Down Syndrome Congress is part of the School Success for All coalition of national disability organizations who have actively advocated for a bill that was recently introduced on May 21st by Representative Phil Hare (D-IL) called the Positive Behavior for Safe and Effective Schools Act (H.R. 2597). The legislation is designed to encourage the use of school-wide positive behavior support (PBS) for all students. School-wide PBS reinforces desired behavior and eliminates inadvertent reinforcement of problem behavior. For more information on this bill, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> and key in the bill number (H.R. 2597).

Mark the Date

July 15th: Deadline for Time Square photo entries.

July 20th: Board Meeting

August 29th: Summer Picnic

September 26th: Buddy Walk

NDSC Conference: July 31st—August 2nd.

Disclaimer Policy

The editor of this newsletter writes as a non-professional. CIDSO does not promote any therapy, treatment, institution or professional system, etc. Please discuss specific concerns with your health care professional.