

The CIDSO News

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"A Brighter Tomorrow"

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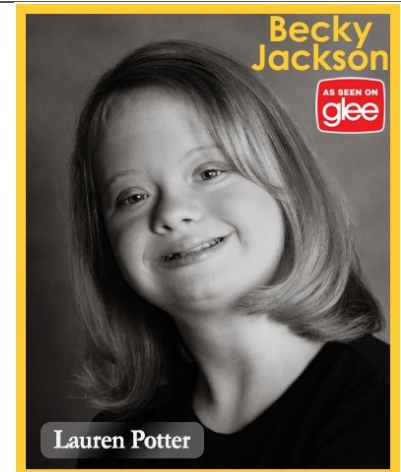
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Buddy Walk 2011 is Almost Here!

On Saturday, October 1, 2011, the Central Illinois Down Syndrome Organization (CIDSO) will host its annual "BUDDY WALK" event at Prairieland Elementary School (and adjoining Carden Park) located at 1300 E. Raab Road in Normal (near the intersection of Raab and Henry Street). See www.cidso.org.



This year's BUDDY WALK is anticipating a special appearance by TV-personality, Lauren Potter. Lauren is a young woman (19 years old) with Down syndrome who plays Becky Jackson on the popular TV show – "Glee." Becky is a cheerleader who is also an assistant to Sue Sylvester, a character played by ISU alumna, Jane Lynch. Lauren made her acting debut in the movie "Mr. Blue Sky" in which she played the part of young Audra Little. Her acting skills so impressed the producers of "Glee" that they offered her a part on the hit television series. Lauren is now in her third season with Glee.

Lauren has committed to attend and participate in the 2011 Buddy Walk in Normal if it does not conflict with the "shooting schedule" for Glee. Local organizers will know of her availability during the final days leading up to the event.

Buddy Walk Continued

Lauren is excited about the opportunity to use the “public voice” provided by “Glee” to speak out for other people with disabilities who may not have the same opportunities. She has participated in the Abilitypath.org campaign against bullying and has worked with the Special Olympics and Best Buddies programs in their “End the Word” campaign. Lauren appears in a “commercial” with Jayne Lynch on behalf of the “End the Word” campaign.

Lauren has both benefitted from and is committed to a simple ideal: that she shares in the rights and privileges of all citizens and has much to offer. She believes these rights extend to all people.

The BUDDY WALK is a non-competitive, one-mile walk from the Prairieland campus through the surrounding neighborhood and Carden Park. The purpose of the event is to raise funds in support of the educational efforts of CIDS0 – programs whose purpose is to help individuals with Down syndrome to achieve their full potential. These programs include supports for school-age children, adult literacy programs at ISU and the HALO program at Heartland Community College. CIDS0 also provides educational workshops for CIDS0 families and others in the community.

BUDDY WALK participants are urged to form a “team” – friends, family, fraternity brothers or sorority sisters – name your team, raise funds together, and walk together during the event – walk with your “Buddy”. This year the Illinois Wesleyan University basketball and baseball teams will have representatives present at the walk. 90% of funds raised remain in the community to meet the educational goals of CIDS0.

One of the highlights of past walks has been the participation of a significant number of members from the ISU football team. The players appeared wearing their “home” jerseys and walked with a “buddy” from CIDS0. It was especially impressive since many of the players had little or no connection to central IL – most were from communities far from Bloomington-Normal, but they decided to support the event with their presence.



The BUDDY WALK begins at 10:00 am with registration open at 8:30 am. The BUDDY WALK also features the following:

- Entertainment and special activities in the Prairieland parking lot and Carden Park prior to the event
 - A raffle inside the Prairieland gymnasium (raffle prizes awarded following the event)
- Food and beverages in the gym prior to the event.



Enjoy the morning with your family or friends while you help support educational programs for individuals with Down syndrome in Central Illinois.

Parking is available at Prairieland and in the surrounding neighborhood.

Firstgiving Reminder

Don't forget about the Firstgiving fundraising website. If you've made one....great! Keep sending it out! If you have not made a Firstgiving web page it's not too late. Firstgiving is an excellent way to help raise funds for our walk, spread awareness about our event, and reach family and friends who live out of town.

The Firstgiving page will walk you step by step through the personalizing page and registering. The directions are easy to understand, and will have you up and running in no time.

For those of you who are computer savvy, the personalization opportunities are a blast! As a bonus, the Firstgiving site now makes it easier to connect to your Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and many other social networks. www.firstgiving.com/cidso/2011BW.

Save the Date!

The next play date will be October 29th from 2-4 at Gunner Cox's house! Wear your costumes to this spooky Halloween extravaganza! To RSVP or for more information, contact Robyn at robynwenzel@hotmail.com or 309-452-9178.

Basket Donations Needed

October 1st is the big day this year, and we are getting together our raffle baskets now. Last year we had several generous families donate items for the raffle baskets. We would so grateful and happy to accept any items you or someone you know may have to donate to the raffle. You can contact me (via email) to make arrangements for pick ups or deliveries. It would be great if we could have the items by September 23rd. We have such great CIDSO families and we are very thankful. See you at the Buddy Walk ! - Brenda Harms

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Mark the Date

September 16th:
Last day to submit
Pujols information

October 1st: Buddy
Walk

October 14th: Pu-
jols Prom

October 29th: Play-
group at Gunner
Cox's House.

Board meetings are open to all CIDSO members. They are held at the home of Jean and Daniel Bates. Please contact Jean if you would like to pull up a chair join us.

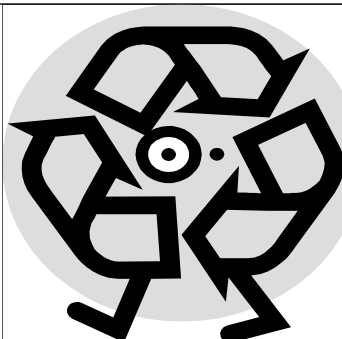
Friendly Reminder



As you know our four legged friends are welcome to join us at the walk. It has been a delight to see the family dog dressed to match your spirit team and support your walker. Please remember that only service animals are allowed inside of Prairieland Elementary. Thanks for your support and understanding!

Thinking About Going Green?

If you are interested in going green and receiving the newsletter electronically rather than by mail, please email the address you would like the newsletter sent to and contact Brenda Harms at jekkel1@msn.com.



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.