



STRONGER TOGETHER

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The Value of Our Volunteers

We couldn't do what we do without leaders—across so many disciplines—donating their time, talents and wisdom to further our mission. As we stretch to reach more individuals and families, our volunteers support us through fundraising, donating their help and services, and serving on our board.



5,085

Donated Hours in 2017

\$196,888

The value of professional in-kind donations

10,000+

people participated in the 2017
Buddy Walk and raised **\$460,000**



care packages delivered to
families who had extended stays
at Nationwide Children's Hospital

148

individual scholarships
awarded, adding up
to a combined total of
\$26,032 distributed



MEDICAL OUTREACH

20 Birthing Hospitals in
Our Service Area

50 In-Person Meetings
at Hospitals

2 National Conference
Presentations

26 Presentations to
Medical Staff

PRESIDENT & CHAIR MESSAGE



Kari Jones
President and CEO

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio had a big year in 2017. We saw significant growth in programs, a dramatic increase in fundraising, and we served more families than ever before.

DSACO outlined a strategic plan in 2015 that set ambitious goals: establish and develop effective committees, increase corporate giving, and reach underserved communities. All of our work came together in a big way in 2017—and it was very exciting for everyone who was involved. And *a lot* of people were involved. Volunteers gave more than 5,000 hours of their time, we received nearly \$200,000 in donated professional services, and our families were trailblazing paths for new members with enthusiasm we've never seen before.



Derek Graham, Esq.
Board Chair

The impact of a united effort was significant.

Reviewing all that we accomplished in 2017 leaves us proud and inspired. Proud of the success of our collaborations. Proud of the efforts of our advocacy. Proud of the strength of our families—old and new—who worked hard in so many ways to help us achieve our mission. And inspired by you, our stakeholders. We could not have done it without you.

A portrait of a woman with dark, curly hair and glasses, sitting on a black leather chair. She is wearing a dark blue dress with large, light purple and white floral patterns. She is holding a violin and a bow, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a solid, dark brown color.

**STRONGER
INDIVIDUALS**

SELF ADVOCATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In March of 2017, DSACO launched a paid internship program specifically designed for adults with Down syndrome. Three interns; Jillian, Emma, and Annie, worked hard to develop office management skills that bolstered confidence and competence in pursuit of exploring new vocational opportunities.

DSACO worked closely with interns to assist them in achieving their goals, which included; gaining advocacy experience, time management, computer skills, and team building.

“ She enjoyed the experience and we have noted a marked increase in her self-confidence. Her overall disposition is happier.

– Mom of a Self Advocate

ICAN BIKE CAMP

Since 2008, DSACO has served as a local host for iCan Bike, a bicycle camp (run by iCan Shine) for individuals with disabilities. As host, DSACO manages volunteer and camper recruitment, as well as coordination of scheduling for the camp.

In collaboration with Nationwide Children's Hospital, DSACO successfully hosted two camps in 2017, with locations in both Worthington and Grove City.

Fifty-two campers, ranging in age from 8 to 36, had the opportunity to learn to ride a bike in a safe, supportive environment. By the end of the 5-day camp, 79% of riders at the Worthington camp and 89% of riders at the Grove City camp were riding independently. Even those who did not ride independently made remarkable progress, gaining self-confidence and balance. From the lens of physical fitness and social inclusion, riding a bike is truly a rite of passage.

SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY

Serving more than 57 children since its inception in 2012, DSACO has hosted its Summer Learning Academy for families who are looking to minimize learning loss for their children over the summer months. In an effort to offer services to individuals with Down syndrome in the broader Central Ohio area, we expanded the program to two pilot locations in Lancaster and Newark in 2017. Much to our excitement, we received positive feedback from the parents and educators of the 9 children served at the pilot locations and will launch full Summer Learning Academies in Newark and Lancaster in 2018. In addition, DSACO will be launching two new pilot locations—in Cambridge and in Zanesville—for a total of five Summer Learning Academy locations in 2018.





**STRONGER
FAMILIES**

NEW PARENT SUPPORT

We know that families need extra support in the early days of receiving a Down syndrome diagnosis. The diagnosis is unexpected and there is a lot to learn. Of the 59 new family referrals we received in 2017, 12 were visited by a DSACO team member at the hospital and five were welcomed once they got home. All 59 received a New Parent Welcome Package containing toys, books and clothes for the baby, as well as pizza gift cards, books and information about Down syndrome for the parents.

In November, we celebrated these families at our New Parent Brunch, in which 68 parents and children were in attendance.

59

New Babies Born in
Our Service Area



RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

In August, DSACO hosted 59 parents at its first ever Research Symposium in collaboration with the National Down Syndrome Society. Other participants included: Emory University, LuMind Research Down Syndrome Foundation, and Global Down Syndrome Foundation.

“ We’re experiencing
a renaissance when it
comes to the multitude
of researchers focusing
on the Down syndrome
population.

– Dr. Huntington Potter

Parents learned from 14 different national and local researchers on their latest work. In addition to gaining a better understanding of the current research landscape, attendees were given the opportunity to connect with researchers and learn more about participating in their clinical research. Consequently, 12 families registered for DS-Connect®, the National Institute of Health’s Down Syndrome Registry. Additionally, eight of the researchers in attendance gained new participants for their studies.

RESOURCE & PLAY GROUPS

One important aspect of building stronger families is connecting them to each other. It is through our resource and play groups that families form lifelong bonds through support and friendship.

In 2017, DSACO supported 15 different groups that provided opportunities for individuals, parents, and siblings to connect. New in 2017, DSACO launched a formal Latino Resource Group, as well as a SIBS group. In total, 116 meetings were held throughout the service area.

15

Individualized Groups
Supporting Families





**STRONGER
COMMUNITIES**

COLUMBUS BUDDY WALK®

DSACO wrapped up 2017 with a fantastic year for the Columbus Buddy Walk, which was the second largest—both in attendance and in fundraising—in the country! We were excited to host over 10,000 individuals, families, friends, and community leaders in support of Down syndrome and raise over \$460,000—a significant increase over 2016's numbers.

▲ 25%

Increase in Participation
from 2016 to 2017

Most notable, however, was our national recognition with an award for Best Marketing Campaign by Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action and a Champion of Change award from the National Down Syndrome Society as Buddy Walk® of the Year!



ADVOCACY

DSACO led statewide efforts to establish Ohio's first ever Down Syndrome Awareness license plate with a new logo representing Down Syndrome Awareness.



The license plate launched in April and features a newly created website, downsyndromeohio.org. The website shares information about Down syndrome, statewide advocacy initiatives, and provides a map of all of the Down Syndrome Associations throughout the state.

We advocated and collaborated with the National Down Syndrome Society, and other Ohio Down Syndrome Associations, to have the ABLE TO WORK Bill signed into law in December. This law enhances the existing benefits of STABLE Accounts by allowing individuals with disabilities to save their own earned income—without jeopardizing Social Security and other government benefits.



MEDICAL OUTREACH

After an initial launch of the DS Medical Edge program in which there was a sole focus on medical professionals who delivered a prenatal diagnosis, in 2017 DSACO pushed to find a more quantifiable way to measure outcomes and success. Thanks to a collaborative approach among multiple health care systems throughout Central Ohio, our Medical Advisory Committee created a 3-2-1 Protocol, specifically designed to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all medical professionals delivering the Down syndrome diagnosis. In partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital, we were able to identify which families—and which hospitals—did not follow the recommended protocol. This allowed the DSACO team to target trainings and discussions with specific birthing hospitals for more strategic and intentional conversations that will help future families receiving a Down syndrome diagnosis.



Financial Health

Assets

Current Assets	\$927,815
Fixed Assets	\$19,895
Total Assets	\$947,710

Liabilities

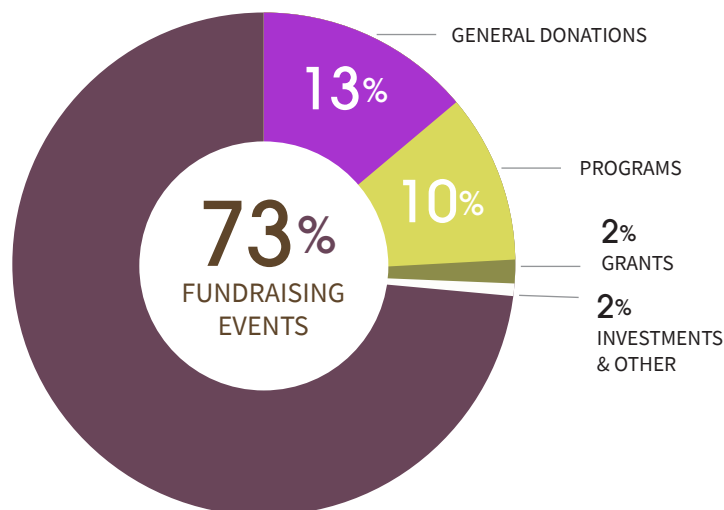
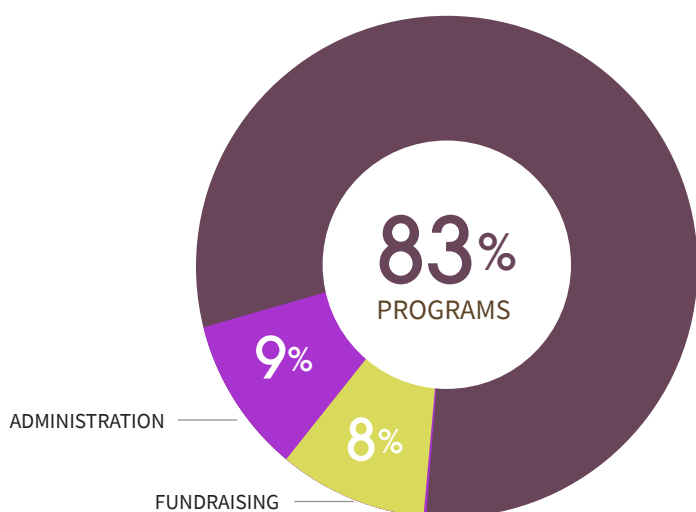
Current Liabilities	\$102,357
Net Assets	\$845,353
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$947,710

Expenses Breakdown

Programs	\$628,480
Administration	\$67,586
Fundraising	\$63,312
Total Expenses	\$759,378

Revenue Breakdown

Fundraising Events	\$668,834
General Donations	\$115,039
Investments & Other	\$18,592
Grants	\$13,000
Programs	\$95,438
Total Revenue	\$910,903



These figures are on an estimated, unaudited basis.

2017 Donors

\$30,000 +

IGS Energy
Tri-W Group

\$10,000 -29,999

Cricket Wireless
Nobis Industrial Sales
Eric and Mary Stucke
The Kroger Company

\$5,000 - 9,999

AEP Ohio
Air Force One
Jim and Kim Baich
Cardinal Health Foundation
Columbia Gas of Ohio
Creative Options, LLC
Feazel Roofing
fiserv.
Funny Bone Comedy Club
Jeffrey and Debbie Jones
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Jorndt
Mount Carmel Health
System
The Country Club at
Muirfield Village
Foundation
The OSU Wexner Medical
Center
Thompson Hine
Westerville Sunrise Rotary
Foundation
Westfield Insurance
Foundation

\$2,500 - 4,999

Autism Society - Central
Ohio
Tanya and Thomas
Buckingham
Creative Foundations
Crowe Horwath LLP
GBQ Holdings
Rick and Beth Gibson
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Grange Insurance
Lynn Hawk
HER Realtors – Shannon
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HMB
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Nationwide Children's
Hospital
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Disabilities
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\$1,000 - 2,499

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\$250 - 999

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