



## Fact Sheet

### What is Down syndrome?

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs in 1 out of 792 babies everyday in our country. It affects people of all ages, races and economic levels and is the most frequently occurring chromosomal abnormality. Trisomy 21, the most common type of Down syndrome, occurs when there are three, rather than two, number 21 chromosomes present in every cell of the body. Instead of the usual 46 chromosomes, a person with Down syndrome has 47. It is this additional genetic material that alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with the syndrome.

Today, with early intervention, quality medical care, education programs and social acceptance, people with Down syndrome can live full, productive lives.

### What is the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio?

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO), a 501 (c)(3) organization, is a network of individuals with Down syndrome, their parents, families, caregivers, volunteers, health care providers, educators and friends. Collectively, we refer to all of these individuals as members. We provide members and the public with information, education, support and assistance throughout 23 Central Ohio counties.

### What counties do we serve?

We serve Athens, Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Madison, Marion, Meigs, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Perry, Pickaway, Ross, Union and Vinton counties.

### How many families do we serve?

Annually, we serve more than 800 families in the central Ohio area; more than 1,000 members and supporters receive our quarterly newsletter.

### What programs and services does DSACO offer?

The services we provide include medical outreach, support groups, educational programs, scholarships, referrals and resources.

### Where does DSACO get funds?

DSACO secures funding through corporate and personal donations, foundation grants, service fees and fundraisers. The Association's largest fundraisers are the Columbus Buddy Walk®, Dancing with our Stars Gala, the DSACO Golf Classic and the Run for Ds; 5K and 10K.

### Our mission:

The mission of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio is to support families, promote community involvement and encourage a lifetime of opportunities for people with Down syndrome. DSACO promotes a better awareness of Down syndrome while building healthy collaborative relationships with other professional agencies and service providers.

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