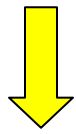


F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Newsletter April-June 2009



**Look at
What's NEW!**

Lending Library

We are excited to announce the opening of our Lending Library! Katherine Ingram, a long-time FRIENDS member, has graciously offered to manage the library at her downtown Dothan business. The books and media will be housed at her office so you can pick them up there or call her to have them mailed to you. Her phone number is (334) 805-4144. Library items will be posted on our website by our July meeting (www.downsyndromefriends.org) so you can see what we have and give Katherine a call. Thanks Katherine!!!

Save the Date--Special Needs Speaker—July 27

All of us are concerned with what will happen to our special needs children when we are gone. Our first speaker, Nick Shimoda, will address this topic July 27 and help us prepare for the care of our special needs children when the time comes that we are not the care-giver. Mr. Shimoda is a Dothan attorney who specializes in matters affecting special needs. You'll get more information on this as time gets nearer, but tell your friends and save the date!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Attached you will find our membership form. We encourage you to join our group and receive the many benefits of membership with F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Cost is nominal--\$5.00 per family.

Why should you join? Membership allows you to take advantage of our scholarship program (read more about it below!) It gives you access to our lending library and a voice in what is placed in that library. And it gives you a reduced rate for speakers as we begin a "lecture/learning" program (exploring areas of interest pertinent to Down syndrome in our area.) But the biggest reason you should join is to make a difference in the lives of our loved ones with Down syndrome throughout the Wiregrass. When we combine ALL our voices, our message of acceptance, support and inclusion will resonate throughout our communities.

JOIN TODAY!!!!

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Scholarship Program

We are excited to initiate this new benefit for our members. For 2009 our scholarship policy is as follows:

To qualify for the available funding, an applicant must be a current member of FRIENDS OR have participated in at least 1 meeting within the past year OR have participated in 2008 Buddy Walk. We realize that many of you became affiliated with FRIENDS through our first Buddy Walk and we want to make the policy inclusive to all our new FRIENDS. Payment will be in the form of either reimbursement with proof of payment being submitted to FRIENDS or proceeds being forwarded directly to the provider of the service.

Funding will be available in the following areas:

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1. Education: (seminars, conferences, educational equipment) Information will need to be provided concerning the item to be purchased or the conference or seminar to be attended. Payment for a conference or seminar will be made in the name of the sponsor and forwarded to the applicant, at which point the applicant will be responsible for sending in the money and registration.
2. Recreation/Therapeutic Activities: These activities may include, but are not limited to, dance, art, horseback riding, music, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy or other activities that build skill, strength and/or self confidence.

At this time, scholarships will be limited to \$100.00 per member with Down syndrome per year. (See attached application.)

Buddy Walk 2009



We are now in motion to insure that this year's Buddy Walk is even better than last year!

How can you help?

Mark your calendar for October 24, 2009 and plan to join us at Kiwanis Park for our second annual Wiregrass Area Buddy Walk. Start thinking about building your teams. October is just around the corner!

Got suggestions for books or media?

FRIENDS is placing books and media with accurate Down syndrome information in local Wiregrass libraries. We will place "Babies with Down syndrome" and "Gifts" in Wiregrass libraries. Do you have a suggestion for a book to be placed in libraries? Do you know of a library that would benefit from receiving one or two of our books? If so, give Josette a call at 693-9199 or shoot her an email at josette000@centurytel.net.

Photo's of our FRIENDS:



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