



FACT SHEET

What is the Buddy Walk?:

The Buddy Walk® was developed by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

The Buddy Walk has grown from 17 walks in 1995 to nearly 245 individual Walks in 50 states and 5 countries in 2013. The Buddy Walk® had a record breaking year in 2013 with more than 305,000 participants, raising \$12.1 million dollars nationwide to support local programs and services, as well as the national advocacy and public awareness initiatives of NDSS that benefit all individuals with Down syndrome.

What is the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio?

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO), a 501 (c)(3) organization, is the leading Down syndrome resource for information, education, support and referral assistance throughout 18 Central Ohio counties.

What counties do we serve?

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

What kind of media exposure does the Columbus Buddy Walk receive?

The Columbus Buddy Walk® is open to all media sponsors and invites an honorary emcee each year. This year, ABC-6 / Fox28 news Anchor Yolanda Harris and Sunny 95 Morning Personality Dino Tripodis will host the event. We are also happy to welcome back (G14) Magazine as our print media sponsor again this year!

How does the event work?

Registration for the Columbus Buddy Walk opens at 9 a.m. At 9:45 a.m., the program begins; 10 a.m. is the official start time for the one mile walk. At 11:30 a.m., we host a Walk Celebration in the stadium. During the Walk Celebration, participants visit the Resource Fair in Crew Stadium Plaza featuring vendor booths, clowns and mascots, kid-friendly activities, a bounce house and so much more for the whole family to enjoy!

Our mission and vision:

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. Our vision is for people with Down syndrome to achieve their fullest potential in an accepting and inclusive community.

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