





















VDSA does not have a 'core' mission, it has one mission: To continue to lead people with Down syndrome out of the shadows, to engage them and their families, empower them and their families, and educate parents and the public about individuals with Down syndrome.

Join Us!



Tom Haskins

Founding Board member of VDSA Father to Sam, 43-year-old with Down syndrome.





IT'S OK TO BE LITTLE

NWN SYNDROME

a fetetetet

The Virginia Down Syndrome Association had a record year in 2022. We reached a new milestone by welcoming 117 new families into the association and increasing the number of programs provided by 61 %! These milestones are a testament to the commitment, dedication, and passion of our community partners, financial supporters, volunteers, Board of Directors, and staff. We asked more from our supporters than ever before, and our supporters stepped up. The impact of that support is undeniable.

It was also a year of growth and change. In October 2022, we became the Virginia Down Syndrome Association after serving as the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond for more than three decades. This was in part due to our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion that demands we're reaching all families of children with Down syndrome across Virginia. Our work to reach families outside of Richmond is now being met with a name that demonstrates our ability and goal to serve all families across the commonwealth.

As a result of our increased outreach into the community, we identified more individual support needs, including how we serve Latino families. This led to hiring our first-ever, bilingual fulltime Family Care Coordinator in November 2022 to be even more responsive to the individual needs of our members. Additionally, in response to a need for increased inclusion in early childhood development settings, we hired our first-ever Outreach & Inclusion Specialist, thanks to the generous support of the Robins Foundation. Our team has expanded its capacity to directly support families with information, referrals, and assistance when navigating medical care, behavioral healthcare, social services, and therapeutic services to ensure the most optimal health and development of all individuals with Down syndrome in our community.

Even with all this growth, we know we can't meet these needs alone. We are building partnerships and collaborating with other agencies to strengthen our impact. Through our collaboration with Beyond Boundaries, Jacob's Chance, VCU OT, Longwood University Speech Therapy, Autism Society of Central Virginia, Art on Wheels, ARC of VA, and others, we can better meet the diverse needs of all families.

This new approach is guiding us towards our vision for a community where all individuals with Down syndrome are fully included and valued members. We know this vision is attainable – if we all work together. We hope you'll join us!



Mark Boone Sr. Board President



Jennifer Case, LCSW Executive Director





VDSA celebrated many milestones in 2022!

14 % Increase in Membership.61 % Increase in Program Offerings.

Services launched in a new community: Fredericksburg



We provided programmatic or individual support to **416 families** in 2022 through either program attendance or an individual family support connection. This includes:

- Family navigation support services to **113 families** of individuals with Down syndrome.
- Receiving **117 new families** into our membership.
- 19 families supported through our First Call program which serves new babies born with a Down syndrome diagnosis and/or parents who receive a prenatal diagnosis.
- Providing financial support for **37 individuals** with Down syndrome to participate in community enrichment and social activities **(total amount of \$15,049)**.

Provided **303 educators, families, professionals, and community leaders** with education about best practices and recommendations for individuals with Down syndrome.

538 volunteers provided 1,773 hours of service to VDSA in 2022!







Parent of Individuals with Down syndrome





Professionals who work with individuals with intellectual disabilities



Social and Educational Programs

Such as art in the park, rock climbing, bowling, family dinners, webinars, early childhood education classes, reading programs, and more!







355

Attendees who were parents, caregivers, or siblings to an individual with Down syndrome

A Year of Great Change

Our name change shows the evolution of the organization and reflects the work we are doing across Virginia. We serve more than the Richmond region and want to ensure individuals with Down syndrome and their families know we are here for them, too.

– New Logo Design 2023 ––––



Growing Our Team

Thanks to the generous support of the Robins Foundation, we grew our early childhood services. We hired Nikida Cromartie-James as our Outreach & Inclusion Specialist in 2022. Nikida provides support to child care programs, preschools, early childhood professionals, and parents of children from birth to 6-years of age to access quality child care environments.

We also hired Jasmine Samuel as our first bilingual Family Care Coordinator in 2022. Jasmine provides support to all our members with regards to the individual with Down syndrome in their life. This support covers questions about Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) to Medicaid waivers, employment support resources, housing, food insecurity, clothing, and more.

21 Shades of Virginia



We launched a new family support group – **21 Shades of Virginia** – to support families expecting or raising a Black or interracial child with Down syndrome. The purpose of this group is to create a space for the Black community to network, collaborate, create, and share information while building meaningful connections.

To me, 21 Shades of Virginia means being among people that not only look like me, but can understand me and my family. It means having a tribe of people that always make me feel welcomed and included. It means that my family and I are not alone in this journey.

- Angelica Williams

2 or more families gathered together,
over 1 common bond,
Sharing a common cultural background,
Hoping to achieve change,
Advocating for our loved ones,
Devoted to Down syndrome,
Expecting greatness from each one of them,
Seeking the world to see them exactly as we do!

16th Annual Step Up RVA \$218,467 Attendees Raised Step Up Teams

Exhibitors in the Community Resource Fair



Greater Richmond Area



Junior Volunteer Academy

VDSA launched a new program for 11 to 14-year-olds with Down syndrome focused on pre-employment through volunteer service projects. Nine individuals with Down syndrome participated and provided eight hours of community service.

Summer Employment Academy

Eight individuals with Down syndrome completed four weeks of job skills' training and job apprenticeship in placements throughout the community. Job sites included: Capital Ale House, Henrico County, C-MoR, the Science Museum of Virginia, Vitamin Shoppe, Kroger, Delta Hotels, and Taziki's.





Adventure Club

In partnership with Beyond Boundaries, we launched a new program for teens and young adults called the Outdoor Adventure Club. Activities include first aid outdoor safety, hiking, tent building, and fishing. **Six teens and adults with Down syndrome participated** in our first six-week session of Adventure Club in 2022!



Schip's Story

Our son Chip switched to Medicaid and needed all new providers after his dad retired. The task of finding him a qualified, compassionate, and convenient PCP, dentist, and ophthalmologist in the approved network seemed daunting. When I reached out to VDSA for guidance, they offered a list of providers for consideration, and importantly, hoped that we would make good choices for Chip. As seniors who care for an adult child with Down syndrome, their support helped us more confidently approach a significant transition in health care.







Mom's Night Out

Attendees

Summer Family Picnic

Charlottesville Holiday Party

Attendees

,32

NAMES OF TAXABLE PARTY.

62 Guests Gifts Thank you SO much for your amazing gifts! We are blown away by your kindness and support and are so very grateful for these gifts, encouragement, and the Learning to Grow series!

- Ramsey family, Lynchburg, VA

Q Charlottesville Region

Williamsburg

Summer Picnic & Pool Party



SUM A

Williamsburg Holiday Party



World Down syndrome Day Picnic



Mom's Night Out



HIBER



Serin's Story

Erin Mathis, mom to Lily from the Virginia Beach area, shared what a difference the Learning Program made for their family. She said, "It taught me so much about the way my child will learn that is different than the way my other children learned and gave me really great tools and ideas to help her overcome these challenges. These are things I wouldn't have known without this class. Another wonderful benefit was that it helped me not feel so alone in this journey and gave me encouragement that we can make it through."

- The Mathis Family

Shenandoah Valley



\$9,735 Raised



100

Summer Family Picnic





Semmett's Story

When Emmett was born eight years ago, Kathie and Tripp Gibson started looking for support in their community and quickly realized there was not a local group of families in their area. For the first several years of Emmett's life, they became that group, with the encouragement and support of another local parent of a child with Ds, Kirstin. They reached out to find other families of children with Down syndrome and then hosted meetings and events for everyone. In 2017, they approached VDSA about officially joining the association. They have continued to serve as liaisons and leaders for local events in the area. In 2022, Tripp joined the VDSA Board of Directors. In 2022, the first Step UP for Down Syndrome Shenandoah Valley came to life under Kathie's vision and leadership. It was a huge success!

- The Gibson Family

VDSA launched a new service area in Fredericksburg



Summer Family Picnic



Mom's Night Out

Events

Hosted

"We are taken aback by the love and support VDSA has shown us from day one, NICU days."

-Blazek family, Fredericksburg, VA



XAiden's Story

Aiden was born 7.5 years ago with a birth diagnosis of Down syndrome. Knowing some about Down syndrome but not a lot, Dave and Christy Murphy started looking for support and organizations in their community and quickly realized there was not a local group of families in their area. The choices were Northern VA or Richmond. They reached out to VDSA for support and immediately felt welcomed and the love for the organization bloomed from there. The Murphys attended lots of activities, education dinners, and events in Richmond, but saw a need for their local community. In 2022, VDSA was able to start community activities in Fredericksburg, and Christy was an integral part of making this happen. We are looking forward to the future in Fredericksburg!

- The Murphy Family

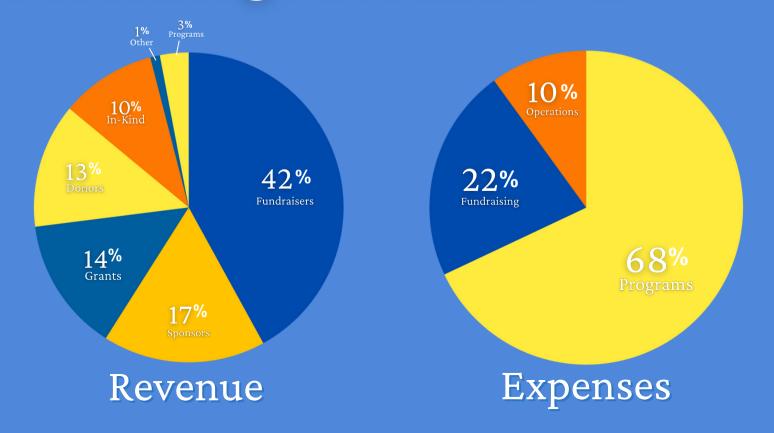
Partner Spotlight

Reyond Boundaries Outdoor and indoor adventures

- X Autism Society of Central Virginia
- Longwood University Speech Therapy Students Communication Classes for teens and Adults
- VCU School of Occupational Therapy OT Students volunteer with the Learning Program
- 🞗 ARC of Virginia

We work in partnership as a member of the DD Coalition for advocacy efforts.

Percentage Breakdown



Sponsors & Supporters

\$10,000+

- Atlantic Union Bank
- County of Henrico
- Estes Express Lines
- KOVAR
- Robins Foundation
- Virginia Sargeant Reynolds Foundation

\$2,500- \$4,999

- Allianz Worldwide Partners
- Best Version Media (in-kind)
- Causality (in-kind)
- Custom Creation Lightshow Inc. (in-kind)
- Dominion Energy
- Home Care Delivered
- KELLEHERHVAC
- Kroger
- Merck & Co
- On Three Photography (in-kind)
- Owens & Minor

\$1,000- \$2,499

- ABLENow
- All American Mobility
- An Evening of Music (in-kind)
- Anthem Healthkeepers Plus
- Blakemore Construction Corporation
- Blue Toad Hard Cider (in-kind)
- Capital Ale House
- Center for Family Involvement at VCU
- Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU
- Drucker + Falk
- Entwistle Company
- Greater Than Sparrows (in-kind)
- Keiter CPA
- Manchester Moose Lodge #699
- On the MIC with Mike RVA-Mike King (in-kind)

\$5,000- \$9,999

- Atlantic Constructors, Inc.
- Featherstone Foundation
- John Ledder Memorial Golf Tournament
- JR's Maintenance Services, Inc.
- 37th Parallel Properties
- Richmond Magazine (in-kind)
- West Charitable Trust
- REACH Magazine (in-kind)
- Richmond Family Magazine (in-kind)
- Rosie's Emporium
- Sentara
- Target
- T-Force Freight
- The Thrifty Quaker
- Titmus Foundation
- Top Golf
- Truist
- Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
- Virginia Business Systems
- Miller & Associates
- National Down Syndrome Society
- Noodles & Company (in-kind)
- Optima Health Medicaid
- Penn Station East Coast Subs
- PKS Dentistry
- Pot Belly Sandwich Shop
- Richmond Christmas Mother
- Richmond East Lodge #1947
- Sedona Taphouse
- Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators
- Travelers
- Virginia Capital Trail Foundation
- Virginia Premier
- Wawa Foundation

Fundraisers

Distinguished - \$7,500

- Tyler & Jocelyn Bradshaw
- Dan & Jennifer Case
- Angie Evans
- Ken & Cynthia Lantz
- Jeff & Kelly Mullen
- Greg & Mara Weeda
- Clarence & Carol Williams

Champion - \$5,000 - \$7,499

- Bobby & Debbie Abernathy
- Andrew & Amanda Bolton
- Margot Phillips
- Aundrea Smith
- Cary Outland & Tim Sadler
- SuperStar \$2,500 \$4,999
 - Jonathan & Amanda Arno
 - Michael & Laura Barker
 - Chris & Megan Blake
 - Stephen & Suzanne Burns
 - Luke & Laurie Davis
 - Eric & Mindy Director
 - Christian & Sandra Emery

- Christopher Fenlon
- Tom & Carly Gourley
- Billy & Teresa Hamm
- Tom & Kris Haskins
- David & Carole Ivey
- Tim & Kristy Jansen
- Ryan & Jennifer Krajewski

- Thomas & Sarah Moran
- John & Priscilla Nemetz
- David & Jamie Nicholls
- Vince & Kerensa Sheehan
- Kenyatta & Kalandra Smither
- Jason & Haley Spalding
- Carlton Wong

Premier - \$1,000 - \$2,499

- Paris Ball & Maria Guillickson
- Michael & Nikki Boisseau
- Joseph Bolick & Sarah Lang
- Mark & Vickie Boone
- Jacob & Stephanie Bostic
- Fred & Amy Bravo
- Kristen Briggs
- Scott & Kendall Bruington
- Sean & Stephanie Cattie
- William Davis
- Ty & Millie Denoncourt
- Jason & Kate Doctor
- Gordon Fox
- David & Stephanie Gilliard
- Brandon & Landynn Gulledge

- Pamela Harris
- Mike & Bobbi Jones
- Josh & Nicole Jorgensen
- James & Annette Ledder
- Richard & Josephine Lewis
- Matt & Nicole Lyons
- Jessi Meador
- Marco & Pam Mejias
- Chan & Deb Mohney
- David & Christy Murphy
- Adam & Mary Otero
- Mark & Kim Owens
- Kasie Privitera
- Jan Rychtar & Dewey Taylor
- Casey & Allison Seabolt

- Lois Schroeder
- Mike & Pat Smith
- Aaron Steelman & Tracy Robinson
- Al & Krista Stenger
- Barbara Stewart
- Jonathan & Molly Stover
- Tony & Suzanne Villani
- Chris & Julie Waskey
- Seth & Leigh Woods



- Jennifer Case, Executive Director
- Alison Markow, Director of Development and Events
- Bobbi Jones, Finance Director
- Dana Zedd, Program Director
- Sherry Klauer, Education Director
- Jasmine Samuel, Family Care Coordinator
- Nikida Cromartie-James, Outreach & Inclusion Specialist
- Allison Williamson, Operations & Events Coordinator

🞗 Leadership

- Mark Boone Sr., President
- Kim Boose
- Amy Bravo
- Carol Coffin
- Christian Emery

- Emmanuel Gayot
- Tripp Gibson
- Billy Hamm, Vice President
- Katie Haskins
- Valentina Intagliata



- Carole Ivey, Secretary
- Shelley Lantz
- Frances Rudd
- Mary Scott, Treasurer
- Clifford Twiggs
- Amanda Wheeler



Get Involved

Together we can accomplish so much more. You too can educate, empower, and engage with individuals with Down syndrome so they can reach their full potential.

VOLUNTEER

We are always looking for volunteers to work directly with individuals with Down syndrome at our education and social programming events. Email Dzedd@virginiadsa.org to learn more.

SPONSOR

You can sponsor a program or event hosted by the organization. Through sponsorship, you get brand visibility, recognition, and knowledge that you are making a tangible contribution. Email Amarkow@virginiadsa.org to learn about all our current opportunities.

2

PARTNER

You can partner with our team in many ways. Host a third-party fundraising event, speak at one of our events or programs, or become a mentor to one of our new families.

2

DONATE

Your gifts make a real impact on the lives of individuals with Down syndrome. We are grateful for your one-time and monthly donations to sustain the work we do.

Like us on Facebook and Instagram @downsyndromeva to stay up to date with our latest news, programs, photos, and activities.



