



Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

JULY 2006

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Fund Development Director hired!
- New Carpet for the DSOSN Building!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Buddy Walk Update	2
Katie Beckett Waiver/Option	2 & 4
Scholarships Available	3
Current Programs Offered by DSOSN	3
Speech Vouchers Still Available	4

NEW FUND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR HIRED

On Tuesday, May 30, 2006, Deann Cline became a staff member with the DSOSN. Deann comes to us with many years of fundraising experience. Her most recent position was with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Foundation, which is a national organization. We are so happy to have her aboard!

Her first day was filled

with getting her office organized and ready. She took right off exploring the many possibilities of fundraising for this organization. She is beginning to get the annual Buddy Walk organized as well as making preparations for the Festival of Trees and Lights. She is also exploring additional fundraisers such as a golf tournament to be held in the spring of

next year. She has also applied for several grants through local companies in Las Vegas, Henderson and North Las Vegas.

If you are in the neighborhood of the DSOSN building, please stop in, have a cold drink, and say hello to Deann. She will be happy to meet you and put a face with a name.

NEW CARPET FOR THE DSOSN BUILDING

On Wednesday, May 24th and Thursday, May 25th, new carpet was installed throughout the entire DSOSN building. Thanks to Bob and Kathy Treants for their hard work in securing the carpet for the organization. Bob gave me the name of a won-

derful carpet installer. It took the team of installers one full day to remove the old carpet and prepare the floors for the installation of the new carpet. The stairs were the biggest challenge for them, but the stairs turned out awesome!

The color Kathy picked out goes beautifully with the existing furniture throughout the building. If you haven't had an opportunity to stop by and see the difference new carpet can make, please do. Again, thanks to Bob and Kathy!



Buddy Walk
scheduled for
September 23, 2006

*In the past, a
parent's income
or assets
disqualified
many children
from the
Medicaid
program.*

BUDDY WALK UPDATE AND FESTIVAL MEETING SCHEDULED

The Buddy Walk is now in its final stages of planning! The Buddy Walk is going to be held on Saturday, September 23rd from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM, at the Community Park in Summerlin. We are scheduling a planning meeting at the DSOSN building on Saturday, July 8th at 11:00 AM. We will need Team Captains and volunteers to help us make this a great success. We are planning on having clowns, a D.J., cartoon characters, bounce for the kids, face painting, food and beverages, Kevin Janison from Channel 8, all types of

vendors, mission tent with crafts, games, etc., raffle, great incentives for the Team Captains and participants and other activities too numerous to mention. This year will be the best ever Buddy Walk in the history of the DSOSN. Please plan on attending the planning meeting scheduled for Saturday, July 8th at 11:00 AM, and find out all of the details as well as see the incentives being offered! If you have any questions regarding the Buddy Walk or upcoming planning meeting, please call the DSOSN office and speak with

Deann Cline. She will be able to answer any and all of your questions regarding this event. Please RSVP at 648-1990 and let us know if you will be attending the planning meeting.

Festival of Trees and Lights Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 8th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The meeting follows the Buddy Walk planning meeting. Please plan on spending this Saturday afternoon at the DSOSN building. Light refreshments will be served. We will see you there!

THE KATIE BECKETT WAIVER/OPTION

Under 143 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, (TEFRA), States are allowed to make Medicaid benefits available to certain children with disabilities who would not ordinarily be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits because of parents' income or resources. This law is commonly referred to as "The Katie Beckett Waiver" and additional information is available at: www.challengenet.comm/library/files/KatieBeckettWaiver. In the past a parent's income or assets disqualified many children from the Medicaid program. The parents often had little or no private insurance coverage for their child with special needs. Because of the parents assets or income, their child would "fall through the cracks" of the system. The Katie Beckett Waiver (or option), is helping solve this problem. Under this option, when determining a child's eligibility for Medicaid, a parent's income and

assets are counted. However, if a child is severely disabled and meets specific medical guidelines and standards, the child's income and assets are counted and those of the parents may be waived. If the child is then eligible, Medicaid will pay for the same services it does for other children with Medicaid. If your child qualifies for the Waiver/Option, he or she will get full Medicaid coverage which includes hospital care (in-patient and outpatient), physician care/services, most physician prescribed drugs, eye and dental care, and any other services provided in the home which would normally be provided in a hospital or nursing home. There is a limit of \$150,704.85 per year for psychiatric expenses. You apply for this program at your local Medicaid office.

Be sure you take school and medical records, verification of income for you and your child, and some verification of the severity of your child's disability to your appointment. Even if you think your child might not be eligible because of income or severity of need—apply. If your application is turned down—start the appeals process. This process is often successful in overturning a denial. At times the waiting list for this waiver is months or years long, so applying early is important.

What is my cost? Generally, if you make less than \$75,000.00 per year there is no co-payment for families. If your family income is more, then there will be a co-pay, however, if your income is high, other factors are considered such as the expenses of owning a business, large debts, and college funds.

(Continued on Page 4)

DSOSN DIRECTOR'S SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



The Board of Director's of the DSOSN are still offering college scholarships to our members and their families. This is a wonderful opportunity to

receive some relief for the high cost of a college education. The \$1,250.00 scholarships are given out during the spring and fall semesters, for a total of \$2,500.00 for the year. If you or a family member is interested in applying for this scholarship, please call Kathy Boyd at 648-1990. She will be available to answer any and all questions regarding the scholarship application process. The process is very simple. You need to provide the or-

ganization proof of enrollment and answer a few questions. It is as simple as 1-2-3! Please, if interested, please, please call the DSOSN office and speak with Kathy! Remember, this is available for families with children who have Down syndrome. The scholarship is available to both the individual who has Down syndrome and members of their families. Applications for the fall semester will be accepted until August 1, 2006.

The DSOSN has programs and activities in place we want all members to take advantage of. If you are a new member to the organization, or if you need a reminder of what is available, here is a list of the programs/activities we currently offer:

Speech—Voucher program to subsidize payments to your child's speech therapy program or therapist. Funds may also be used to purchase materials related to speech.

Music Therapy—Sessions with certified music therapist. Please call the DSOSN office for more information about this worthwhile, educational program.

Aktion Club— Social club sponsored by the Kiwanis Club on every other Monday. This club is held at the DSOSN building. Call to find out when the next club meeting is scheduled.

Dance Class—Dance classes held on alternate Mondays between Aktion Club meetings. These classes are held at the DSOSN building. Call to find out when the next dance class will be held.

Yoga—A certified Yoga instructor offers classes for children of all ages. The schedule for classes is: Wednesdays— 3:45 PM—4:40 PM—teens 14-17 years; 5:00—6:00 PM— young adults, ages 18 and up; Thursdays—4:00—5:00 PM—adolescents, 9-13 years of age. Call Linda Vandruff at 438-5668 to register for class or for any questions you may have.

College Scholarships for family members affected by Down syndrome are available. Please call the DSOSN office to express an interest or request an application.

SPEECH VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

MEMBERS— Please remember we have a speech voucher program. You can use the voucher system to pay for speech services with a certified therapist, or you can purchase materials recommended by a certified therapist, or you can do a combination of services and

materials. If your child has a need for this service, contact Kathy Boyd at the DSOSN . Also know that this can be in conjunction with, or an addition to, services provided by the school district's school speech therapist. Please do not miss out on this great

opportunity to benefit your child!

If you would like any additional information regarding this speech program, call Kathy at the DSOSN office, 648-1990, or e-mail her at kboyd@dsosn.org.





NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Las Vegas, NV
Permit No. 907

**Down Syndrome Organization of
Southern Nevada**

5300 Vegas Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89108
Phone—702-648-1990
Fax: 702-648-2020
E-Mail: bhall@dsosn.org

KATIE BECKETT WAIVER/OPTION (continued from page 2)

How to apply:

- Apply for SSI/Medicaid—when applying for Medicaid, be sure to complete the MABAD (Medical Assistance for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled) portion.
- When denied for SSI, get a written denial
- At your Medicaid interview ask to be referred to the Katie Beckett program and ask for an application.
- When filling out the application, **DO NOT LEAVE ANY BLANKS EMPTY.** Put “N/A” if necessary.
- Fill the application out as if your

child was completing the application.

- Make sure to tell the Medicaid worker that it is a Katie Beckett application.

Who qualifies for the Katie Beckett Waiver?

- Any child with a disability who does not qualify for SSI.
- Any child with a disability who does not have adequate medical coverage or has extra medical costs that a private insurance company does not cover.
- Children that cannot move around on their own.
- Tube-fed children.

- Children that need injections.
- A child that is over three years old and needs to be diapered.

Other Medicaid waivers may also be available for your child.