



Supporting & Celebrating
Down Syndrome in Northeast Ohio

Help individuals with Down syndrome achieve their potential!

The Up Side of Downs invites your organization to participate in **Dress Down for Down Syndrome Day**. This event raises awareness about Down syndrome within Northeast Ohio schools, businesses and organizations while raising much needed funds to support our programs. To participate in **Dress Down for Down Syndrome Day**, participants wear casual clothes and are encouraged to make a donation for this “privilege”.

While you can hold your event at anytime we suggest you consider holding your day in October to celebrate National Down Syndrome Awareness Month or on March 21st which is World Down Syndrome Day (3/21, is representative of having 3 copies, instead of two, of the 21st chromosome).

What does the Up Side of Downs do?

The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio provides programs, grants and services to improve the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. USOD serves over 900 families caring for a loved one with Down syndrome in Northeast Ohio. Additionally we provide resources and conferences for both educators and medical professionals.

...about our Disability Awareness Program presented to NEO teachers

I can't thank you enough for taking the time to educate me on some of the basics of Down syndrome in your Ds101 Presentation. Your training will help me to be a better teacher to my students with Down syndrome & just a better teacher to all of my students! **-School Teacher**

...about our Buddy Walk Event bringing together 4,000 people to celebrate Down syndrome

As soon as we stepped out of the garage, his grandmother just started crying because she was so overcome by the number of people there and the commitment of so many people from all over to our children! **-Mother of 4 month old with Down syndrome.**

...about our New & Expectant Parent Support Program

That first call to The Up Side of Downs made all the difference in the world. We realized that we were not alone & our baby would be just like any other and need all our support and love when he was born. The comfort knowing that everything else that would come in the future that we needed to know, question or worry about, we would have a partner & community to share and the families and staff of The Up Side of Downs to help us. **-Expectant Parent**

...about our Conferences for Educators and Medical Professionals

Although I'm about 60 miles west of Cleveland, I have made it to many of your educational conferences. USOD always brings in true experts in the area of education and children with disabilities and I have benefited from every conference I've attended over the years.

-Teacher

What will the money raised be used for?

The money raised will stay in Northeast Ohio providing resources, grants & programming to more than 900 families that support a loved one with Down syndrome. Additional information about our programs and volunteer opportunities can be found on our website www.usod.org.

How to administer your organization's Dress Down Day

The Up Side of Downs will support your organization by providing a number of colorful posters to be displayed throughout the building leading up to and on Dress Down Day. Each participant will get an "I Dressed Down for Down Syndrome" sticker to show their support. USOD will also provide a sign up sheet for tracking participants and a mailing envelope for donations collected.

Any funds collected can be mailed to The Up Side of Downs office at PO Box 31720, Independence, OH 44131 or call 216.447.8763 to schedule a time to hand deliver your donation. Checks should be made payable to The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio.

The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio would greatly appreciate your participation. Please complete and sign the Participation form if you are ready to participate. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 216.447.USOD (8763) or email at info@usod.org.

Thank you for helping our families & communities celebrate life with Down syndrome!

Yours sincerely,

The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio

