



# Fact Sheet

## What is Down Syndrome?

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs in 1 out of 691 babies everyday in our country. It affects people of all ages, races and economic levels and is the most frequently occurring chromosomal abnormality. Trisomy 21, the most common type of Down syndrome, occurs when there are three, rather than two, number 21 chromosomes present in every cell of the body. Instead of the usual 46 chromosomes, a person with Down syndrome has 47. It is this additional genetic material that alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with the syndrome.

Today, with early intervention, quality medical care, education programs and social acceptance, people with Down syndrome can live full, productive lives.

## What is the Down Syndrome Association of the Valley?

The Down Syndrome Association of the Valley is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2007, with a vision to help individuals with Down syndrome reach their full potential as active participants within an inclusive society which embraces and values their abilities. We provide our members and communities with education, resources and support. DSAV members include individuals with Down syndrome, their families and friends, healthcare professionals, educators and volunteers.

## What counties do we serve ?

Our service area is made up of 11 counties in Ohio including Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Mahoning, Monroe, Noble, Trumbull, Washington and 6 counties in Pennsylvania including Beaver, Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington. Please note that the services, programming and supports are not exclusive to the 17 counties highlighted. If you have an interest in becoming a DSAV member, a particular program or event that we offer, please do not hesitate to join us!

## What programs and services does DSAV offer?

DSAV is committed to providing enriching programs and services to our members including support, resources, educational lectures, advocacy, awareness events, age responsive programming, healthcare outreach, educational outreach, grants, and referral services.

## Where does DSAV get funds?

DSAV secures funding through fundraisers, foundation grants, corporate and personal donations. The Buddy Walk of the Valley is our largest fundraiser and awareness event providing roughly 80% funds needed to fulfill of our mission.

## Our Mission

The mission of the Down Syndrome Association of the Valley is to provide support, resources, education, advocacy and opportunity for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and communities in Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania.