



2023 GCDSS BUDDYWALK®

national down syndrome society®

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Dear Sponsors and Friends,

The **Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society's (GCDSS) Buddy Walk®** has provided a fun-filled day for local families and friends all along the coast of Mississippi for over 20 years. This is a One Coast event for all persons supporting our mission. As an affiliate of the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), the Buddy Walk® was developed in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and promote acceptance and inclusion of all individuals with Down syndrome.

This year's Buddy Walk® will be held on **Saturday, October 21st**. There will be over 2,000 shirts distributed for the Buddy Walk® this year. Title and Platinum sponsors will have their logo added to the back of our shirts. For all Gold and Silver sponsors, your corporate name will be listed on the back of our shirts. Our sponsorships are due by Monday, September 25th in order to meet the deadline for shirt orders. We can always accept sponsorships after this date, however we won't be able to guarantee that your name will be listed on the shirts. In addition, all sponsors will be listed on any signage we have at the event.

The proceeds from this phenomenal event benefit our individuals with Down syndrome as well as their families. Funding is critical to our mission. We currently use the funding and proceeds from the Buddy Walk® for scholarship programs to support family education, post-secondary courses and community enrichment such as summer camps and other extra-curricular activities.

We also have family/new parent outreach teams where funding is used to support new parent baskets and families of individuals with Down syndrome who may have a specific need. Our walk also funds literature to assist new parents in their arrival of their child with Down syndrome.

The Buddy Walk® is coordinated each year completely by volunteers and **100% of the proceeds go directly to support our families**. Additionally, GCDSS is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, making your contribution **100% tax deductible**.

Our Buddy Walk® achieves its goals with the assistance of generous donations from our sponsors. **To maximize your advertising exposure, we request your commitment no later than September 25th.** For more information on our organization and Buddy Walk® please visit our website at www.gcdss.org.

Join us and together we will make this event the best **Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society Buddy Walk®**! We also encourage you to come out for the walk and see what our organization and our families can offer to you. We can guarantee it will be many smiles and a multitude of hugs for everyone!

We have enclosed a sponsorship form for your review. The sponsorship form can be completed and mailed to us or you can visit our website and complete electronically. We certainly hope you will consider being a sponsor today!

Kindest Regards,

2022 Buddy Walk Committee
Tax ID: 32-0125762

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