



October 14th, 2023

Help Us Raise Awareness & Funds for Our Loved Ones with Down syndrome

The Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville is excited to host our Annual Buddy Walk®. This year, Buddy Walk is heading back to the beach! Our walk will be held on Saturday, October 14, at the Jacksonville Beach SeaWalk Pavilion.

Last year, the Buddy Walk raised more than \$400,000 thanks to countless generous contributions from our community! As we look toward 2023's event, we plan to host more than 3,500 participants from across Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia, which will provide great exposure and recognition for our sponsors. As always, the day will be centered on celebrating individuals with Down syndrome as well as their families and friends. The walk is one mile down beautiful Jacksonville Beach and back. Our Buddy Walk celebration promises good times, great food, local bands, carnival games and attractions, and much more!

THE 21st ANNUAL DSAJ BUDDY WALK!

A special thank you to this year's Title Sponsor:

DUVAL
MOTOR COMPANY

Since 1916



MEET MALACHI

Malachi has a smile that will light up a room and determination like no other! He is a great big and little brother to his two awesome sisters!! Malachi was diagnosed with Down syndrome at ten days old in the NICU at Wolfson's Children's Hospital. The diagnosis came as a complete shock to our family after a birth diagnosis of an Imperforate Anus which required immediate surgery. His

will to live and fight began on day one!

It has now been three years since our lives were changed and we were abruptly thrown into the Down syndrome community. But WOW, what those three years have taught us! Malachi has had many medical challenges which he has overcome with great perseverance and strength. A colostomy, complete colorectal reconstruction, heart cath, complete deafness in his right ear, g-tube, laryngomalacia, gastroparesis, slow motility of the esophagus, tonsils and adenoids removed as well as a laryngeal cleft repaired, obstructive sleep apnea, glasses and more hospital visits/procedures already scheduled. We often travel out of state for expert medical care but Malachi is a great travel companion. None of this has slowed Malachi down!

He is a crawling machine and can throw a ball with skill! Malachi loves to dance and is working hard on independent walking. He has participated in many therapies since infancy and recently completed an intensive therapy program which he thrived in! Malachi is quick to forgive, quick to love and quick to hug! Recently fist bumping has become his go to when greeting people!

The Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville has assisted us since the day we got his diagnosis, and I called their number. We have attended countless workshops to further gain knowledge about Down syndrome, special needs programs and the like. Our entire family enjoys the lil stars playgroups hosted at difference places around town and at the DSAJ office. The DSAJ generously provides therapy support for our kids. Lots of therapies a week sometimes multiple times really adds up as an expense but is completely necessary for our children to thrive! Our kids can reach their full potential with a little extra support in the areas of speech, feeding, fine and gross motor. Through the inclusion solutions program the financial burden of the extra our kids need is offset. This can include IEP support for school, swim lessons and so much more!

The DSAJ partners with families to be a support, resource, outlet and help no matter what step of the journey they are on! From birth to death and all in between the DSAJ is there for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. We are so thankful to the DSAJ for the assistance, knowledge and community they give our family. We are three years into this journey and couldn't have asked for a better tour guide (Malachi) or better support system (DSAJ) along the way! We are very excited to see the strong, smart, capable young man that Malachi grows into with the DSAJ along his side!

HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES AN IMPACT

All of the net proceeds from the 2023 Buddy Walk will go directly back to the critical programs operated by the Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville. DSAJ is the only agency in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia that assists families of those with Down syndrome from prenatal diagnosis, early intervention, the school-aged years, and throughout adulthood. The association now has more than 2,000 individuals, families and community members who call the DSAJ family.

Our programs range from providing new parents with support and funded therapies to organizing social/fitness groups and life skills workshops. We also operate Career Solutions Academy that connects adults with Down syndrome to job training and placement so that they can pursue their career aspirations.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Help Us Meet Our \$400,000 Goal!

You can be a part of helping the DSAJ shine a light on the incredible abilities of our loved ones with Down syndrome while raising funds that are critical to continuing programs that have become essential for our families.

If you are interested in supporting the 2023 Buddy Walk, please check your desired sponsorship level and complete the information below. The deadline for sponsorships is Friday, September 22, 2023.

Please send your logo via email in vector (.eps) or .jpg format to buddywalk@dsaj.org. Checks should be made out to DSAJ and mailed to: 8011 Philips Highway, Ste. 7, Jacksonville, FL 32256. You can also pay via credit card at DSAJ.org. Please contact Brooke Hays at brooke.hays@dsaj.org or 904.353.6300 with any questions.

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ ext: _____

Fax: () _____

E-mail: _____

Submitted by: _____

Authorized Signature

Print Name/Title: _____

TITLE SPONSOR - \$10,000

- Company logo featured prominently on more than 3,000 Buddy Walk T-shirts
- Personal Tent at the 2023 Buddy Walk
- Company inclusion on ALL event-related social media posts up to Buddy Walk (Logo and tagging on these posts)
- Company logo included in ONE pre-event e-blast and the post-event thank you e-blast
- Company logo & link on DSAJ website
- Sponsor Award

PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$7,500

- Company logo featured on more than 3,000 Buddy Walk T-shirts
- Company inclusion in your choice of ONE event-related social media series leading up to Buddy Walk (Logo and tagging on these posts)

♦ #WhyWeWalkWednesday Series

~ 8 posts in total, highest engagement

This hashtag will be used on Wednesdays to feature participants, Buddies or families who share the reason behind their involvement. Content will include anything from a quote from a family to a short video explaining their participation.

♦ Countdown Posts

2 month, 1 month, 3 weeks, 2 weeks, 1-7 days

These are posts dedicated to building excitement and counting down the months, weeks, and days until the 2023 Buddy Walk.

- Company logo included in ONE pre-event e-blast and the post-event thank you e-blast
- Company logo & link on DSAJ website
- Sponsor Award

GOLD SPONSOR - \$5,000

- Company logo featured on more than 3,000 Buddy Walk T-shirts
- Company logo included in one pre-event e-blast and the post-event thank you e-blast
- Company inclusion in ONE social media post dedicated to recognizing company as a sponsor
- Company logo & link on DSAJ website
- Sponsor Award

SILVER SPONSOR - \$2,500

- Company name on more than 3,000 Buddy Walk t-shirts
- Company logo on DSAJ website

Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville

8011 Philips Hwy |, Ste. 7 Jacksonville, FL 32256 (904) 353-6300 | DSAJ.org

