



## Grand Marshall Brian

Brian Moede of New Berlin has been named the Grand Marshall of the 2017 Wisconsin Upside Down Buddy Walk presented by Dross Countryside and West Bend Insurance Companies.

Brian, a junior at Eisenhower High School, looks forward to this special honor. He will get to lead the walk, welcome participants and give out awards. Brian has participated in all 9 of the WIUSD Buddy Walks and has always been one of the top fund raisers. [WIUSD.ORG](http://WIUSD.ORG) is the local representative of the National Down Syndrome Society. Since 1995, the Buddy Walk® has become the premier advocacy event for Down syndrome in the United States. It is also the worlds most widely recognized public awareness program for the Down syndrome community.

Brian also participates in Special Olympics bowling and track. Brian states, "One very proud moment was when I qualified for state in Stevens Point for the softball throw." He received the first-place medal. Brian also likes to listen to and sing to pop music and to cheer on the Packers with his family.



## Junior Grand Marshall Brady

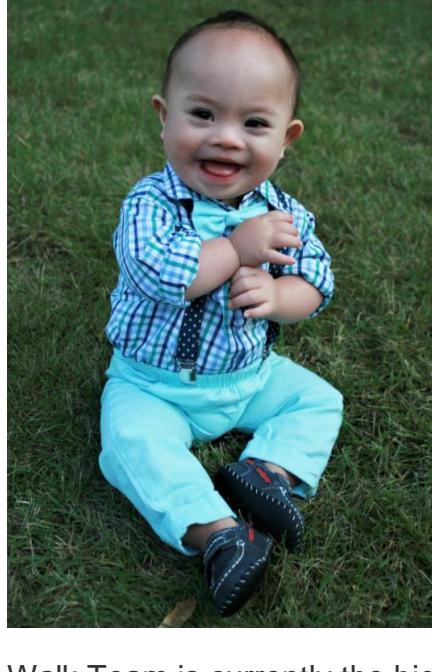
10-Year-old Brady Marmes has been named the Jr. Grand Marshall of the 2017 Wisconsin Upside Down Buddy Walk presented by Dross Countryside and West Bend Insurance Companies.

Brady's mother was referred to Wisconsin Upside Down, the local Down syndrome support group when she was pregnant with Brady. Brady has grown up with the support of the organization headquartered in downtown Hartland.

Brady participates in the walk with his team, "Brady's Bunch," each year and the team is almost always the biggest team at the walk.

He loves WWE wrestling, Nerf Guns, Music and dancing. He is the youngest of three boys. His two brothers Chris 18 and Bryce 16 are his biggest fans. Brady likes to be silly and entertain and will certainly "steal the show."

"It has been a joy to watch Brady and his family grow up with the support of Wisconsin Upside Down. Like most families today, Brady's family found out that he had Down syndrome before he was born. His mother Nicole came to me with many questions," said Robbin Lyons, president of WIUSD. "And, like so many young parents, she just needed to hear factual information about Down syndrome. We offer life-long support for individuals with Down syndrome, but probably none of it is as important as that first conversation. I remember the day Nicole came by. We have been friends ever since."



## Mini Grand Marshall Kai

Little Kai Reyes has been named the Mini-Grand Marshall of the 2017 Wisconsin Upside Down Buddy Walk presented by Dross Countryside and West Bend Insurance Companies.

Kai had a difficult arrival when he was born five and a half weeks prematurely and with a condition that damaged his kidneys before he was even born. Kai also has Down syndrome. While Kai grew stronger in the hospital, the social worker introduced his parents to Wisconsin Upside Down.

Today Kai is a spunky, happy-go-lucky 1yr old who loves, animals, stuffed animals and his sister (especially). He is doing well though doctors feel he may eventually need a kidney transplant. His mother, Ashley has thrown herself into helping the organization that helped her. Kai's Buddy

Walk Team is currently the highest fundraising team, bringing in close to the \$5000 goal they have set.

"Kai's family represents the type of family we serve. They sometimes have a bumpy start, but these children flourish and become important contributing members of our community.

That is why we decided to choose Kai as our first "Mini" Grand Marshall," said Kim Punsch, board secretary and Buddy Walk Co-chair.