

BUDDY WALK FACT SHEET

The Buddy Walk program was established by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome. The Buddy Walk has grown from 17 walks, in 1995, to over more than 250 walks worldwide, raising over \$17 Million dollars nationwide to support local Down syndrome organizations raise funds for their programs and services, as well as the national advocacy and public awareness initiatives of NDSS.

The Buddy Walk is nationally ranked as one of the top 30 Walks events in the U.S. The Buddy Walk is usually a one-mile walk (some locations vary) in which anyone can participate without special training. It is an inspirational and educational event that celebrates the many abilities and accomplishments of people with Down syndrome and special needs.



Buddy Walk events are open to participants of all ages and abilities.

The Buddy Walk has three primary goals:

1. To promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome and Special Needs.
2. To raise funds for F.R.I.E.N.D.S.
3. To enhance the position of the Down syndrome community, enabling us to positively influence local and national policy and practice.

Buddy Walks events are a great place to come together and network with families and Special needs resource vendors to learn more about support services that are available.

Registration fees and donation requirements are set at the local level. No one will be turned away from the Buddy Walk due to the inability to pay. Please contact us if you need a scholarship to attend the Buddy Walk.

The 5th F.R.I.E.N.D.S. BUDDY WALK will take place Saturday, October 16, 2021 at Largo Central Park from 10am-3pm, 101 Central Park Dr. Largo FL 33771. Join us as we promote Advocacy and Inclusion, while Celebrating and Honoring our Down Syndrome & Special Needs community. Our Fundraising Goal for 2021 is \$50,000 to benefit our local programs and services, plus support all the NDSS's national programs.

**F.R.I.E.N.D.S. DOWN SYNDROME SPECIAL NEEDS WEST FL. FED TAX ID #65-1261646
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