

DSAOC's **Mission** is to create a place for connection, information and hope for people with Down syndrome and their families throughout greater Orange County, to promote Down syndrome awareness through community outreach, and to offer programs, services and support that aim to empower individuals with Down syndrome to reach their full potential. Our **Vision** is to be a one-stop-shop for all things Down syndrome related, and to be a model organization for community collaboration and Down syndrome awareness, to change perceptions and change lives.

<p>Looking Forward in 2019</p> <p> Circle of Friends – Thursday, May 2 DSAOC Jr Dance – Saturday, May 4 Empowering Possibilities – Thursday, May 30 Golf Tournament – Monday, June 10, Los Coyotes CC Orange Elks Picnic – Sunday, June 23, Irvine Park SUMMER PROGRAMS – See Reverse </p> <p> <i>For more information about DSAOC activities/events visit:</i> www.dsaoc.org or call 714-540-5794 </p>	<p>Support and Networking Groups</p> <p> <u>Circle of Friends Support & Networking Group</u> Thursday, May 2 from 7:00—9:00 p.m. at the DSAOC Center </p> <p> Circle of Friends: Make friends, and share the challenges, milestones, and triumphs as you raise your child. Expectant parents are also welcome. Child care is not provided, but your little one with Down syndrome is welcome to accompany you. </p> <p> Please RSVP to Ali at admin@dsaoc.org or (714) 540-5794 </p>
<p>Teen/Adult Activities</p> <p> <u>Teen and Adult Bowling League</u> Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. </p> <p> This activity is for teens and adults with Down syndrome ages 12 and up. Join us for this FUN & social activity! Takes place on the 2nd Saturday of each month from September to May. </p> <p> Location: Irvine Lanes – 3415 Michelson Dr. Irvine, CA Cost: \$6 per session (includes 2 games and shoe rental) </p> <p> <i>Please RSVP to Ali at admin@dsaoc.org</i> </p>	<p> <u>Homeschool Friends</u> Mondays, beginning May 6 – Schedule Varies – Please call our center for info. Starts at noon at the DSAOC Center </p> <p> The Homeschool children in this group are participating in a special Speech program. Parents are still welcome to join for discussion and networking with the other parents, however, we cannot accommodate additional children in the program at this time. </p> <p> Questions? Email Ali at admin@dsaoc.org </p>
<p>DSAOC Jr. Dance</p> <p> <u>DSAOC Jr. “Just Dance” Party</u> Saturday, May 4 from 4:00—6:00 p.m. at Mater Dei High School 1202 W. Edinger, Santa Ana, CA </p> <p> Does your child love to dance and meet new friends, but is too young for the Boo Bash or Red Carpet Ball? Then the DSAOC Junior Dance is for them! This dance will help transition younger participants by teaching them dance etiquette in preparation for school dances and DSAOC teen/adult dances. Parents are welcome to drop off their child or stay during the event. Parents are encouraged to take this opportunity to network with other parents. This event does NOT include dinner. We will have light snacks and water available. Once we receive your RSVP we will email you the ‘Independence Assessment Form’ (IAF) for you to fill out. If they have a food allergy, are known to elope, or require one-on-one volunteer support please indicate that on the form. The Participants MUST be able to use the restroom independently, or a parent/caregiver must remain on site at all times. </p> <p> If you have any questions, please email Mackenzie at programs@dsaoc.org or Call (714) 540-5794. </p>	<p>Educator of the Year Award & Recognition Program</p> <p> Join DSAOC as our “Educator of the Year” Award & Recognition Program enters its 19th year of celebrating teachers, therapists, aides and administrators who have made a difference for our loved ones with Down syndrome. </p> <p> Nomination Deadline is Wednesday, May 8 </p> <p> All nominees receive recognition from DSAOC. The winner receives a plaque, special celebration, and additional recognition at the OC Buddy Walk. With your nomination, DSAOC can continue to highlight, affirm and celebrate those in education whose outstanding efforts and innovations have helped a student to grow and learn. Help us continue to Change Perceptions and Change Lives. Thank you! </p> <p> DOWNLOAD THE NOMINATION FORM & MORE DETAILS: https://www.dsaoc.org/pdfs/2019-educator-of-the-year-nomination-form-for-years-2018-2019.pdf </p>

Interested in donating to DSAOC, but want opportunities for your donation dollars to be matched? Then GIVING DAY on **Thursday, May 30** is the day to make your donation to DSAOC count for DOUBLE!

24 HOURS ----- 8 ORGANIZATIONS ----- 1 CAUSE

All donors will be recognized for their support of DSAOC on GIVING DAY, sponsored by the *Orange County Community Foundation*. Make your donation online during the **24 hours of giving on Thursday, May 30**, and then spread the word to family and friends to make a donation that will help make a positive impact on individuals with Down syndrome and their families throughout greater Orange County.

DSAOC is proud to have been chosen to participate in a fundraising collaborative that features 8 organizations that share a common Mission.

Thank you in advance for noting this day on your calendar, holding aside your contribution for DSAOC, and then showing your support on **Thursday, May 30** with your online donation.

If you have questions, please contact the DSAOC Center 714-540-5794.

For information on where your donor dollars go, please visit <https://www.dsaoc.org/pdfs/dsaoc-programs-services-2017-06.pdf> You can also 'LIKE' our Facebook page and stay updated on all that we do on a weekly basis <https://www.facebook.com/DSAOC/>.

With gratitude,

DSAOC Staff, Board of Directors and the families and individuals we serve.

