

# MEMBERSHIP



Our members benefit from access to all services and events at free or discounted costs.

For more information on becoming a member, or a volunteer, please visit our website [www.ddsa.ca](http://www.ddsa.ca).




## GET IN TOUCH

[www.ddsa.ca](http://www.ddsa.ca)  
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289-275-3201

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Charity Number: 890144 4572 RR0001

 /durhamdownsyndrome

DDSA is a member of the following:  
Down Syndrome Association of Ontario  
[dsao.ca](http://dsao.ca)  
Canadian Down Syndrome Society  
[cdss.ca](http://cdss.ca)



*Annual Holiday Party & Dance*



"Building a Supportive Community"

[www.ddsa.ca](http://www.ddsa.ca)



## WHAT IS DOWN SYNDROME?

Down syndrome is a congenital condition caused by an extra copy of chromosome 21. This extra chromosome causes many of the distinctive facial and physical characteristics, and developmental delays seen in many people with Down syndrome. People with Down syndrome can live happy, healthy and productive lives. They can accomplish great things with support from their family, friends and the community, and can participate in all areas of life including education, employment, social, recreation and family life.



“There is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person as more.”  
Robert M. Hensel

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to continue building a supportive, inclusive community by providing social and active events for people with Down syndrome and their families.*



## WHAT WE DO?

- Offer meaningful opportunities for people with Down syndrome to be social and active with their peers.
- Organize family-centered events and networking opportunities for all our members.
- Provide support, information and resources for people of all ages with Down syndrome and their families.
- Promote awareness within the Durham Region community about Down syndrome and the value of inclusion.
- Contribute financial bursaries (through fund-raising) to assist our members with related expenses.
- Raise funds to support our mission and achieve our vision.

## DOWN SYNDROME FACTS:

1. Down syndrome was first described in 1866 by Dr. John Langdon Down. The definition was updated in 1959 by Professor Jerome Le Jeune.
2. There are 3 types of Down syndrome: translocation, mosaicism and, the most common, trisomy 21.
3. Down syndrome occurs in 1 in every 800 births in Canada.
4. Eighty per cent of babies born with Down syndrome are born to women under the age of 35.
5. People with Down syndrome have individual personalities that are as diverse as those in the larger population.
6. The life expectancy of someone with Down syndrome in the 1980s was in their 20s! Now with advocacy, inclusion and support, it is in their 60s!
7. People with Down syndrome have mild to moderate, and sometimes severe, cognitive delays. Some also have physical challenges.
8. People with Down syndrome are capable of living meaningful and productive lives!
9. World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated on March 21<sup>st</sup> every year and is recognized around the world through the United Nations.

