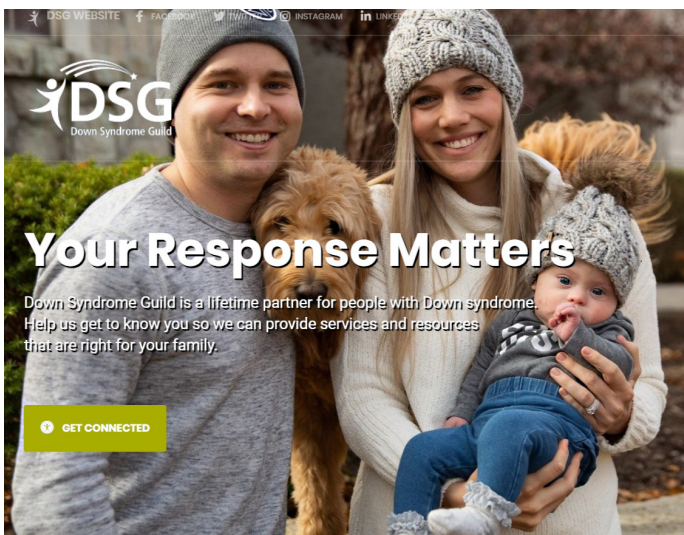




Your Input is Important: Designing Services and Support with Your Family's Future in Mind



At DSG, our highly-specialized team is not only delivering the services and support you need now (virtually), but they are also designing what your family will need in the future. *But we can't do this without YOU!*

Data Helps Us Understand Your Needs

Your family's needs are unique. As we design our services for the future—to take place within our Lifelong Learning Campus—we need your input! To do that, **please take a few minutes to let us know about your family**, so that we can give you the tools and resources to help your family thrive.

Help Shape Our Future Services by Visiting mykcdsg.org

By clicking "Get Connected" and filling out our brief (confidential) form, you will directly impact the services and support we design for the future!

Contest Alert: May 1st – 28th! As a "thank you" for taking a few minutes to fill out our form, we will have a drawing each Thursday (the first drawing is May 7th) for a \$100 Gift Card! The best part? The sooner you complete the form, the more chances you have to win! You will remain in the pool each week until the final drawing on Thursday, May 28th! Watch our Facebook and Twitter channels each Thursday for the announcement about our weekly winner!



Fields marked with an * are required

Person With Down Syndrome
Parents/Caregivers
Siblings
Preferences
Account Setup

Family Member With Down Syndrome

Welcome. Tell us about your family.

Your Help Matters

We are determined to be innovative as we create resources and services that we believe can improve the trajectory of life for people with Down syndrome. The more information we have about our community, the better our services become. *Thank you for your input!*

Growing to Provide...

DSG Awarded \$350,000 Challenge Grant from the Mabee Foundation

In support of our upcoming "Lifelong Learning Campus" capital project, the J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation Inc., located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, awarded DSG a \$350,000 challenge grant! This is the second largest gift in DSG's 36-year history.

In order to receive the funding, DSG must raise \$772,000 for the campaign by April 14, 2021.

"We are humbled by this investment from the Mabee Foundation and we are excited by the momentum this project is gaining," said Mike Frazier, President, DSG Board of Directors. "We are committed to meeting this challenge, so our vision of building a campus to better serve people with Down syndrome comes to fruition."

Including this challenge grant, DSG now has \$1,139,000 committed to the building project through philanthropic efforts.

"The fact that we have over \$1-million dollars committed to improving the future of individuals with Down syndrome is truly inspiring," said Jason Drummond, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer of DSG. "We have imagined a campus for people with Down syndrome to receive efficient, effective services and support throughout the entire lifespan. The support and generosity of our donors will help us to change the trajectory of the people we serve, now and for generations to come."



5916 Dearborn

(the building adjacent to current space)



Your support will impact the families we serve AND people with Down syndrome for generations to come!



#GivingTuesdayNow | May 5, 2020

Share DSG's Story on May 5th for #GivingTuesdayNow

On Tuesday, May 5th, there will be a groundbreaking global generosity movement called #GivingTuesdayNow as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. We hope you will consider sharing our story and encouraging others to invest in the future of people with Down Syndrome on this day!

To help meet the Mabee Foundation's challenge grant, all gifts received during #GivingTuesdayNow will be designated to our Lifelong Learning Campus.

For more information or to make a gift,

visit: <https://bit.ly/2Yg0A2C>

Lifespan Services

Meet Our Team: Betsy Sylvester, MS, CCC-SLP/L, Director of Speech and Language Services



What is your role at DSG?

As part of the Pathways team, I assist, coach, and facilitate speech and language therapy with our self-advocates and their families. This includes group and individual therapy. I also create and present materials to inform families, teachers, and the general public about Down syndrome; speech and language; and social skills.

What brought you to DSG?

I started volunteering with the DSG over a decade ago. I have loved this organization for many years. Eventually, I became the Down Syndrome Specialist for the school district I worked within to enrich the connection between home and school. Soon after, I was teaching social lessons at DSG to the STARS (teen) program in the evenings and that turned into a full-time job offer. My heart has always been drawn here and to our DSG members.

What's your favorite part about your job?

I absolutely love collaborating with the families and my co-workers to continue growth and enrichment in their self-advocate's life. The creativity, innovation, and trust that has developed with all of us has been inspiring. Together, we are creating a brighter, more hopeful future for all self-advocates.

What do you want our DSG families to know?

We can do hard things! Together, we can accomplish what may seem impossible. We may have to look through a different lens, think outside the box, work hard, and collaborate—but it can be done. We will be with you the entire time—difficult times and easy times. We are here to celebrate every accomplishment with you—and we cannot wait to do just that!

Anything else you would like to add?

Thank you for trusting us and letting us be a part of your lives! It is truly an honor to work with each of you!

New Parents (ages, 0 - 2)

- Register for Virtual Meeting: New Parent Gathering (Zoom) Saturday, May 9, 9 – 10:30 am

Central Missouri (Teens & Adults)

- Register for May 5, Zoom 4-5 pm
- Register for May 12, Zoom 4-5 pm
- Register for May 19, Zoom 4-5 pm
- Register for May 26, Zoom 4-5 pm

Teens (ages, 12 - 17)

- Register for May 6, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for May 6, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for May 7, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for May 7, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm

Teens—Continued (ages, 12 - 17)

- Register for May 13, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for May 13, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for May 14, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for May 14, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for May 20, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for May 20, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for May 21, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for May 21, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for May 27, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for May 27, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm
- Register for May 28, Zoom 6-6:30 pm
- Register for May 28, Zoom 6:45-7:15 pm

Adults (ages, 18 - 21+)

- Register for May 5, Zoom 7-8 pm
- Register for May 12, Zoom 7-8 pm
- Register for May 19, Zoom 7-8 pm
- Register for May 26, Zoom 7-8 pm

VIRTUAL INFORMATION MEETING: ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION (ACE) DAY PROGRAM

Online: Tuesday, June 2, 7 – 8:15 PM

Register>>

On the Horizon

Mission Moment

“One of our families reached out to us on our virtual chat line because their daughter, Addie, was sad after finding out that her favorite camp was going to be closed for the summer. She wanted to talk to her team at DSG, so we scheduled a video conference.

During the call, we had a natural opportunity to help Addie take turns in conversation, identify and process her emotions, and practice coping strategies. Not only did Addie feel better by the end of the call, her entire DSG team felt better, too!



Although we have all had to adapt to virtual communication, it has been wonderful to see how we can still have meaningful connections and make progress with the people we serve.”

~Megan DeBoom, MS, BCBA, LBA, DSG Director of Behavioral Services

Happy Mother's Day to Our DSG Moms!

At DSG, we have the honor of walking alongside your family through all the ups and downs—and we see the love, patience and guidance of our DSG moms. On this Mother's Day, we want to let you know how much we admire you—and that we honor you not only on Mother's Day, but also every day!



Fun Fact: last year, Hallmark executives consulted with DSG as they developed their Mother's Day campaign, featuring a daughter with Down syndrome and her mother. *Watch it here!* **Happy Mother's Day!**

“

“I am so grateful DSG offers seminars and that I was able to attend. I would be totally lost right now without the opportunity to learn from experts who know how to help me ensure my daughter becomes less stubborn and more independent.”

”

~Carol C., Mother of Ellie, 5 year old with Down syndrome