



GET CONNECTED

August | 2020



Program Manager

Lauren Bingham



- Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst
- Bachelor of Science: Applied Behavioral Sciences, University of Kansas
- Concentration in Psychology

10 years of experience

ACE Highlights

- Supports adults (18+)
- Fee-for-service program
- Monday through Friday: 9 am - 3:30pm
- Half Day Schedules: 9 am - 12 pm | 12:30 - 3:30 pm
- Minimum enrollment: 2 days per week or 3 half-days

DSG Launches Adult Continuing Education Program!

For the last two years, the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City (DSG) has been designing our Adult Continuing Education (ACE) program. Yesterday, this much-awaited program launched with 11 participants enrolled! Due to COVID-19, DSG is taking a phased approach to enrollment to ensure social distancing precautions are in place.

“Our vision for ACE is a community where individuals with Down syndrome are included and achieving their highest potential,” said Jason Drummond, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer.

Designed by our multi-disciplinary team of professionals who specialize in Down syndrome, ACE utilizes evidence-based practices to equip adults with the skills necessary to live, love, work, play, and pursue their life aspirations in their community. ACE aims to accomplish this by:

- beginning services with an in-depth assessment period
- creating individualized goals with each self-advocate and their supporting team
- monitoring the progress of each goal through data collection and analysis



ACE supports adults from various backgrounds, which includes supplementing 18-21 school programs; complementing part-time paid or volunteer schedules; and providing a supported environment to encourage growth and better quality of life.

For more information about the ACE Program, please visit our website, check out the brochure or email us at ACE@kcdsg.org

Growing to Provide...

DSG Creates Virtual “Step UP Challenge” for Fall Fundraisers



No Matter Where You Are in the World...You Can Step Up for Down Syndrome!

Since the arrival of COVID-19, DSG has been evaluating how to safely host our fundraising events while trying to navigate so many uncertainties. To allow for people to participate (at all comfort levels), we created a Virtual #StepUpChallenge this year for those who do not wish to attend an in-person Walk!

This is the “Choose Your Own Adventure” event that anyone can enjoy!

The Virtual #StepUpChallenge is your opportunity to Step Up For Down Syndrome—through whatever activity you enjoy most, from any location! In fact, your cousin in Colorado can “Step Up” to the Challenge through a 1-hour hike in the mountains, while your family “Steps Up” by taking a 30-minute walk through your neighborhood—all while sporting your 2020 Walk shirts, of course!

Virtual Event Day Celebration!

On event day, we will have an online celebration to kick off the Challenge for you to enjoy from the comfort of your own home! Then when we get started, we will share your #StepUpChallenge photos to show the world how you are Stepping Up for your loved one!

To sign up, visit our website: <https://p2p.onecause.com/stepupchallenge>

DSG Hosts Virtual Summer Camp for Teens



DSG’s STARS (teen) program successfully hosted a virtual week-long Summer Camp! Run by Tyler Goevert, School Age Program Manager, Camp included a book club, virtual tours, cooking classes, and a themed group activity.

“The cooking class and our virtual zoo trip were big hits with the teens that attended,” explains Tyler. “In our first cooking class, the group followed a guided video to make BLT wraps, fruit salad, and a single-serving chocolate cake in a mug. We paused the video after each step to give

everyone a chance to independently add, cut, or mix their ingredients before moving on to the next steps.”

The zoo tours brought participants to the Berlin and Central Park Zoos, where they used video walkthroughs and stopped to talk about the animals and discuss questions prepared for the group. “The monkeys, penguins, hippos, and panda bears were the stand-out exhibits of our zoo trips,” says Tyler. “Virtual Summer Camp was a great way for us to get together and explore safely!”

We have been very, very happy with the experience. It has certainly been educational for us to see how it works and how interactive it can be—despite not physically being in the same space. Specifically, I like how she has personalized the experiences for Mea. She has taken the time to ask about Mea’s likes, dislikes, etc. and has used that information in her approach.

~Mother of Mea, a 4 year old with Down syndrome participating in our pilot teletherapy program

Lifespan Services

DSG Welcomes Taneshia Pearl, Skills Specialist



DSG is thrilled to welcome Taneshia Pearl as ACE Skills Specialist, with a focus on Diversity and Inclusivity.

Taneshia will serve as a lead ACE Coach providing instruction to participants, while also serving in a thought leadership role that drives DSG’s culture of inclusion and diversity. She will have a critical role in outreach and recruitment and provide strategic counsel to DSG’s leadership on diversity-related issues.

“Taneshia was hand-picked because of her passion and gifts in teaching independence and social skills; her experience working with a diverse population of individuals with disabilities; and her professionalism and natural ability to collaborate,” explains Sarah Mai, OTR/L, Vice President of Lifespan Services. “She is enthusiastically committed to contributing to the growth of our organization.”

Taneshia has nearly 10 years of experience working in Department of Corrections. She studied Criminal Justice and Child Psychology at Missouri Western State University. She has extensive training in Motivational Interviewing, Evidence-Based Practices, Positive Behavior Support and Conflict Resolution.

DSG Welcomes Scott Quaife, Skills Specialist

DSG is excited to welcome Scott Quaife as ACE Skills Specialist, with a focus on Health and Wellness. He will serve as a lead ACE Coach providing instruction to participants, while also serving to grow DSG’s wellness initiatives.



“Scott’s expertise in health and wellness, combined with his passion to help adults with developmental disabilities reach their full potential, make him perfect for this role within DSG,” says Sarah Mai, OTR/L, Vice President of Lifespan Services. “He will be critical in developing our wellness initiatives from which all participants will benefit.”

Scott has six years of experience working with youth in the foster care system at KidsTLC. He also has experience working with individuals with Down syndrome through his work with the Mission Project’s MPower Health program, where he created individualized workouts for the participants.

He studied Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas. He is also a National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Certified Personal Trainer.

Please join us in welcoming Taneshia and Scott!

On the Horizon

New Parents (Birth - 2)

- New Parent Gathering (Zoom): Saturday, Aug 8, 9–11 am >>

Young Children (ages, 4 - 6)

- Smart Start Pre-K Sessions: beginning this fall >>

Teens (ages, 12 - 17)

- Weekly Zoom Gatherings on Wednesdays >>

Adults (ages, 18 - 21+)

- Weekly Zoom Gatherings on Tuesdays >>

Central Missouri

- Weekly Teen/Adults Zoom Gatherings on Tuesdays >>

All Caregivers

- 2020 - 2021 DSG Seminar Series: beginning this fall >>

2019 Annual Report: In 2019, DSG experienced several exciting milestones and monumental growth. We are excited to share the highlights with you in our 2019 Annual Report.

[Read it here >>](#)

SAVE THE DATE...

OCT.

11

CENTRAL MO STEP UP WALK

Join us at Cosmopolitan Park to celebrate our families in this region!

OCT.

24

KC STEP UP WALK

Join us at Arrowhead Stadium for our largest fundraiser of the year!

OCT.

24

VIRTUAL STEP UP CHALLENGE

"Step Up" through whatever activity you enjoy most, from any location!

Please note: all events subject to change and/or cancellation due to unforeseen COVID-19 restrictions.

For more information, visit our website at kcdsg.org

Mission Moment



Mike Frazier, DSG Board President, kicks off our Virtual Groundbreaking with some inspiring remarks! [Watch the video here >>](#)

Celebrating a Milestone for the Lifelong Learning Campus

During this time of social distancing, we didn't want to let this significant milestone in the history of our organization pass us by! So, we joined together in the creation of this "virtual groundbreaking" video for our capital project that will allow us to expand and provide services to people with Down syndrome of all ages.

[Watch it here >>](#)

Support the Lifelong Learning Campus