



Rendering by Tevis Architects:
5916 Dearborn Street, Mission KS

EXPANDING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR FAMILY

DSG to Build Lifelong Learning Campus to Provide Lifespan Services in Mission, KS.

In 2020, the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City (DSG) will continue to expand our services, programs—and our campus—to better serve people with Down syndrome. We are not only diversifying and expanding our innovative, comprehensive therapy program that serves ages 4 – 20, but also launching new programs. Our goal is to serve all ages, from birth to late adulthood. With the expansion of our services, programs and staff (we now have 11 full-time employees), we have outgrown our current space in our office at 5960 Dearborn Street.

In July 2019, we acquired 5916 Dearborn St., the building adjacent to our office, and began fundraising in support of our project. **In fact, DSG was recently awarded a \$400,000 grant from The Sunderland Foundation in support of the project. This is the largest gift in DSG's 35+ year history! [READ MORE >>](#)**

“DSG is facing a critical milestone: we’ve reached capacity in our current space as we expand our services and launch new programming to better serve people with Down syndrome, from birth to late adulthood,” said Jason Drummond, Ed.D., DSG’s Chief Executive Officer. “Our goal is to maximize the potential for a meaningful and productive life that includes employment, daily life independence, community integration, and social inclusion—and our new, Lifelong Learning Campus is the next step in this journey.”

With the goal of creating a world-class, 11,000-square-foot Lifelong Learning Campus, DSG will renovate our current space and the building next door. Construction is slated to begin this spring with our goal for the project to be completed by August.

Stay tuned for more updates on these exciting advancements that will enable us to better serve our DSG families!

Growing to Provide...

Lifespan Services

Meet Our Team: Megan DeBoom, MS, BCBA, LBA



Director of Behavioral Services

- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
- Licensed behavior analyst in the State of Kansas

[Learn more about Pathways >>](#)

What brought you to DSG?

I learned about DSG through my work in a public school setting. I attended one of the Seminar Series, where I learned about Pathways. DSG was looking for a BCBA to round out the team—and I knew that I wanted to be a part of such an innovative program.

What's your favorite part about your job?

My favorite part of my job is getting to be a part of each family's successes. I get to see self-advocates learn and grow, while also watching the parents/caregivers learn and grow. I love that we are giving families tools for their self-advocates' entire lives.

What do you want our DSG families to know?

I want families to know that the Pathways team is dedicated to helping families through every-day struggles. I also want families to know that the Pathways team understands that Down syndrome brings with it a spectrum of abilities, emotions, behaviors, and strengths. There is no "one-size-fits-all," because our self-advocates are all incredibly unique individuals.

Anything else you would like to add?

I really enjoy getting to be a part of the DSG family. This is the role I have been seeking for my entire professional career. I am so fortunate that I get to walk alongside our families—and experience the highs and the lows with them.

What is your role at DSG?

I am on the Pathways (therapy) team as the BCBA. Primarily, I provide behavior coaching to families in our comprehensive program and within my single-behavior program. In that role, I work with families to develop strategies to decrease inappropriate behavior and increase appropriate behavior. I use a lot of visuals that are created specifically for each self-advocate (participant). I also provide foundational behavior knowledge to help families and caregivers see behavior through a behavior-analytic lens.

In addition, I help support STARS (teen programming) and PALS (children programming) by helping create strategies to promote appropriate behavior during each event.

I also help create and present the content for our Seminar Series, which provides information and strategies to families, educators, and other related service providers.

Making an Impact

PALS Event Features Winter Sensory Activities...

In December, DSG hosted a Winter-Themed Multisensory Learning Night! Designed by our Pathways (therapy) team, our event included visual supports to help with on-task learning, transitions, and vocabulary; developmental activities that were child-directed; fine and gross motor activities; experiences with percussion instruments; and variety of sensory experiences! Don't miss our PALS events in 2020, which occur twice a month!

To sign up for March events or to learn more, visit our PALS page on our website >>



“Pathways has given Tate a sense of identity. They accept him 100% as he is and they encourage him to be the best version of himself, and us to be the best version of ourselves as parents. Pathways has literally put us back into being able to function in the community, not just in our home. It's lonely, and it's a hard journey, and they help when things are really hard. They are 100% on your side, on your team, cheering you on.”

~Mother of Tate, a 5-year old with Down syndrome and Cortical Visual Impairment

[WATCH TATE'S STORY >>](#)

Early Childhood (birth - 2 years)

- **New Parent & Extended Family Gathering** / Sat, February 22 at 9 AM

[Register>>](#)

Young Children (ages, 3-6)

- **Seminar Series: Transitions Within the School Age Years** (ages, 3-21) / Thurs, March 5 at 8:30 AM

[Register>>](#)

- **Smart Start Session 4: Fostering Friendships** / Thurs, March 5 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **World Down Syndrome Day at CoCo Keys Water Park** (ages 0 - 21+) / Wed, March 18 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

Children (ages, 7 - 11)

- **PALS Stay and Play at DSG** / Mon, March 9 at 5:30 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **World Down Syndrome Day at CoCo Keys Water Park** (ages 0 - 21+) / Wed, March 18 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **PALS Night Out at Superkidz** / Mon, March 23 at 5:30 PM

[Register>>](#)

Teens (ages, 12 - 17)

- **Good Life Series: Job Fair at Sylvester Powell** / Thurs, February 20 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **STARS-Topeka: Stepping Up Our Social Skills** / Tues, March 3 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **STARS: Bowling at Park Lanes** / Wed, March 4 at 6PM

[Register>>](#)

- **STARS: Give Back at Harvester's** / Wed, March 11 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **STARS Spring Break Camp: Step Up Your Skills** / Mon, March 16 at 9 AM

[Register>>](#)

- **STARS Spring Break Camp: Step Up Your Social Skills** / Wed, March 18 at 9 AM

[Register>>](#)

- **STARS Spring Break Camp: Step Up Your Social Skills** / Fri, March 20 at 9 AM

[Register>>](#)

- **STARS: Social Media - What is it and How Should I Use it?** / Wed, March 25 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **Sexuality Seminar: Bodies, Boundaries and Behavior Seminar** / Sat, March 28 at 9 AM

[Register>>](#)

Adults (ages, 18 - 21+)

- **Good Life Series: Job Fair at Sylvester Powell** / Thurs, February 20 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **Adult Continuing Education (ACE) Program Information Meeting** / Tues, March 10 at 6:15 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **Club 3-21 Social Media - What is it and How Should I use it?** / Tues, March 10 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **Club 3-21 Volunteering at Harvesters** / Tues, March 24 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **Sexuality Seminar: Bodies, Boundaries and Behavior Seminar** / Sat, March 28 at 9 AM

[Register>>](#)

Central Missouri

- **Building Healthy Relationships** (parents of 0 - 5 year olds) / Fri, March 13 at 6 PM

[Register>>](#)

- **New Parent & Extended Family Support Breakfast** (parents of 0 - 5 year olds) / Sat, March 14 at 9 AM

[Register>>](#)

On the Horizon

DSG to Launch Adult Day Program in August

Based on a significant need expressed by the families we serve, DSG will launch our new Adult Continuing Education (ACE) Program on August 3rd! Our goal is to equip adults with Down syndrome with the skills that will help them to live a meaningful life by maximizing their independence and productive participation within their community.

ACE is a fee-for-service, learning program for adults with Down syndrome that will take place, Monday-Friday, 9 am to 3:30 pm. Supports are individualized, goal driven, technologically integrated, community-based, and expertly designed for lifelong learning.

Our specialized program staff will actively teach and embed the following lifelong learning skills throughout the program:

- Daily Living
- Social & Communication Skills
- Community Engagement
- Health, Wellness & Safety
- Self-Advocacy
- Vocational Development

ACE INFORMATION MEETING

March 10 at 6:15 pm

Join us and find out more about the program!

[Register here >>](#)

To find out more, visit the [ACE page on our website >>](#)

Mission Moment

Katie, a member of STARS, our teen programming that helps explore employment skills, had a goal to work at KFC when she turned 16.

Last fall at our Golf Tournament, DSG Board member Mike Kulp, President and CEO of KBP Foods (which operates nearly 800 KFC and YUM! Brands restaurants across the country) heard about Katie's goal. He found Katie, who was volunteering at our event, and put her in touch with the right people to help her achieve her goal!

We caught up with Katie in December and she loves her job and is thrilled she reached her employment goal!

Mark Your Calendar!

MAR.

5

**SEMINAR SERIES:
TRANSITIONS WITHIN
THE SCHOOL AGE YEARS**

[Register here >>](#)

MAR.

18

**WORLD DOWN SYNDROME
DAY CELEBRATION AT
COCO KEYS WATER PARK**

[Register here >>](#)

MAR.

28

**SEXUALITY SEMINAR:
BODIES, BOUNDARIES
AND BEHAVIOR**

[Register here >>](#)

APR.

11

**DSG PROM (ages, 15+)
Overland Park Convention
Center**

[Register here >>](#)

[Check out all of our events on our website >>](#)

