

# HAVANA NIGHTS

8TH ANNUAL  
LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION



Saturday, April 29, 2023    Phoenix Art Museum



## Welcome to Down Syndrome Network's 8th Annual LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION Havana Nights!

Tonight's event will celebrate and pay tribute to an outstanding group of honorees for their contributions made in our community toward the betterment of individuals with Down syndrome and their families. We hope you enjoy the evening.

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jennifer O'Connell, Executive Director

Brenda Quiñones, Family Resource & Enrichment Center Manager

Lori Matlock, Programs, Events & Volunteer Engagement Manager

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Officers

Cassie Laughrey, DPT, Chair

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#### Members-at-large

Gonzalo Catañeda

Chris Dietz

John Escobar

Rebeca Lopez

Betsy Lynch

Mandy Rivas

Emily Taylor

### EVENT COMMITTEE

Lori Hamman

Rebeca Lopez

Lori Matlock

Andrea O'Brien

Jennifer O'Connell

Brenda Quiñones



# PROGRAM

6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Entertainment

Buffet Dinner Served (6:30 pm)

Welcome & Awards Program (7:00 pm)

Break in Program - Entertainment Continued

Dinner Closes (8:00 pm)

Dessert & Coffee (7:30-9:00 pm)

Silent Auction Closes (8:30 pm)

Casino Closes (8:40 pm)

Live Auction (8:45 pm)

Raffle Drawings (9:20 pm)

**Master of Ceremonies** - Ty Brennan

**Music** - Carlos Rivas & Orchestra Mexsal

**Dancers** - Phoenix Salsa Dance Academy

**Presenters** - Jessica Avena, Samantha Derivan & Brendan Gersten

**Auctioneer** - John Payne

**AV & Tech** - Diego Miranda

**Photographers** - Randy & Sophia Bingham

**Vintage Vehicles** - Jason Hutman, Ernie Flores  
(Danny Lugo) with Guadalupe Klasic, Rudy Romero  
with Sophisticated Few & Bobby Gonzalez

## VOLUNTEERS

Angela Aguayo

Mark Allen

Jessica Avena

Gonzalo Catañeda

Veronica Castillo

Vanessa Chamberlain

Janae Chokey

Ally Collins

Jhon De Jesus

Laura De La Cruz

Teresa DeMasi

Samantha Derivan

Chris Dietz

Jacque Essex

Shane Farmer

Luisana Figueroa

Alejandro Fonseca

Mike Funk

Brendan Gersten

Jesus Yohana Gonzalez

Lori Hamman

Diana Kramer

Miriam Lopez

Josie Medina

Ramon Miranda

Kim Moore

Cynthia Nelson-Shadd

Jill Nico

Jonathan Nico

Celeste Nunez

Jackie Reyes-Cruz

Pamela Rodriguez

Oliver Shadd

Carley Teater

*Thank you!*

# Raffle



You may purchase raffle tickets or trade your casino chips for raffle tickets.

Put your raffle ticket in the vase next to the item for prize drawing of your choice.

**You must be present to win.**

## BUY TICKETS

**1 for \$20**

**3 for \$50**

**9 for \$100**

## GIFT CARD BOARD

Over \$500 of various gift cards and vouchers from local restaurants & retailers.

## HAVANA NIGHTS BASKET

Cocktail smoker kit, box of whiskey glasses, cigar ashtray, bottle of Johnny Walker red label, Tient silicone ice mold & cigar humidor.  
Value estimated at \$200.

## ASU FOOTBALL TICKETS

Four (4) reserved tickets to a regular season 2023 ASU Football home game and ASU swag.  
Value estimated at \$250.

## 50/50 RAFFLE

Take home half the money raised by tonight's raffle sales.

**Each 50/50 Ticket \$21  
(\$20 cash)**



## DINNER MENU

Catered by Creations in Cuisine

### **Cuban Salad (VG, GF)**

Watercress, Avocado, Pineapple, Lemon Lime Cuban Vinaigrette, Peppadew Peppers

### **Ropa Vieja (GF)**

Braised Pulled Short Rib  
Roasted Peppers &  
Onions, Olives & Capers

### **Mojo Chicken (GF)**

Orange-Cumin Glaze,  
Sweet Onion,  
Bell Pepper & Garlic

### **Cauliflower Paella - Vegetarian Option (GF)**

Peppers, Portobello Mushrooms, Sweet Peas & Corn

### **Cuban Saffron Scented Yellow Rice (VG, GF)**

### **Cuban Style Black Beans (VG, GF)**

## COMPLIMENTARY WINE

Imagery Cabernet

Terlato Pinot Grigio

## COCKTAILS

### **Havana Nights Mojito Cocktail & Mocktail Special**

Full bar available by ARTenders - cash or credit card

# Casino

Please see one of the dealers when you are ready to trade your chips in for raffle tickets.

**\$500 value in chips = 1 raffle ticket**



## CHIP VALUE

Minimum bet starts at

**\$25 value in chips**

**\$100 value in chips for \$20**

**\$300 value in chips for \$50**

**\$800 value in chips for \$100**





# SPARK OF AWESOME MOM AWARD

Karla Phillips-Krivickas is the founder of Inclusive Strategies, a national thought leader on education policy and reform, and—most importantly—the proud mother of a 19-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter with Down syndrome.

*Karla*  
PHILLIPS-KRIVICKAS

Hearing the words “Down syndrome” in the delivery room 15 years ago, changed Karla’s life and work. Today she uses her 20 years of experience in state and federal policy to bridge conversations between the general education community, policymakers, and the disability community to passionately advocate for all students.

As a member of the Arizona State Board of Education, Karla works to advance academic achievement for Arizona’s students, including those with disabilities. And as the founder of Inclusive Strategies, she partners with public and private education leaders to purposefully include students with disabilities in policy and investment agendas.

Karla previously served as the Senior Director of State Policy at KnowledgeWorks and helped states build education systems that support student-centered learning. Before this, she established ExcelinEd’s next generation learning portfolio. Her career in education began at the Goldwater Institute conducting research on charter schools and has included serving as the education policy advisor to the Arizona House of Representatives, the Arizona Governor’s Office, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.



Karla has also served on the National Down Syndrome Inclusive Education Task Force, Arizona’s ABLE Act Oversight Committee, the Arizona Special Education Advisory Panel, and as vice chair of the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Through it all, Karla has passionately advocated for all students - especially those with disabilities.

**Past recipients: Jo Ann Briseno, Vickie Herd, Jill Pearn**

# SPARK OF AWESOME DAD AWARD

**SAM**  
*Patel*

Sam is a loving husband and father of three children. His oldest daughter, Jasmine, is 14 years old and has Down syndrome. In receiving the Down syndrome diagnosis for Jasmine at birth, Sam didn't miss a beat.

His love and devotion to her has been unwavering since that moment, both in the day-to-day parenting tasks and in the pursuing big picture possibilities for her future. Sam aggressively researches medical advancements that might affect the future health and well-being of people with Down syndrome, and he keeps his finger on the political pulse, so that he can advocate appropriately toward laws that affect the rights of those with developmental disabilities.

Sam began and now acts as President and CEO of LifeTree, Inc. a company that provides Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) in Arizona to Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Members. Under his leadership, LifeTree has emerged as a well-respected, warm, and competent HCBS Vendor statewide. Providers, Parents, and DDD Support Coordinators seek him out specifically for guidance and assistance. He is a champion of the Parent Provider Program and has helped thousands of Caregivers become qualified as DDD Providers.

Sam is a stellar Article 9 Instructor, recognized repeatedly by attendees of all education levels and backgrounds. His relatable and intelligent way of presenting the course materials has helped caregivers to understand and internalize the psychological principles behind proactively and positively supporting appropriate interventions to deal with challenging behaviors.

Sam is ever-evolving and growing, learning all that he can to create the best possible life for Jasmine, his family, and others whose lives may have similarities to theirs. He will forever be her "Dada" and she is lucky to have such a champion in her court.



Past recipients: Enzo Fiorenza, Mike Funk, Michael Masks

# OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION AWARD

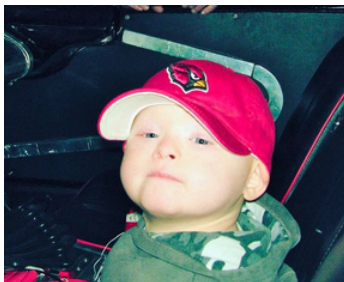


The Colten Cowell Foundation gives families one-of-a-kind experiences that are awe-inspiring and deeply meaningful. It's not about a comic book hero, there is only room for one superhero at their crime fighting events, and that is the nominated child.

Every part of the experience is tailor-made to make the child feel like the superhero they are, and for everyone involved to share in moments of great laughter, excitement and wonder without the distraction of the caped crusader.

The experience begins with a limo ride to the 5,000-square-foot Colten Cowell Memorial Crime Fighting Cave, where the superhero is greeted by up to 25 family members and friends. Then the child and family explore the cave - which is filled with blinking, electronic gadgets and gizmos that they are encouraged to touch, a dazzling vintage car collection, and surprises around every corner. But being a superhero isn't just about the fast cars and cool gadgets - it's also about helping those in need. That's why, at the conclusion of the evening, the nominated superhero receives a check to present to the charity of the child's choice.

In the process, children not only learn about the importance of giving, but also experience firsthand how rewarding and downright fun giving can be.





# OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD



*Stephanie*  
ANDERSON

*Rami*  
BURBAR

When studying at Ohio State University, Stephanie Anderson found a passion for those with different abilities, specifically Down syndrome. While caring for a young boy with Down syndrome, she began teaching him tennis and fitness. She quickly realized there was a real void in organized tennis and fitness programs dedicated to individuals with Down syndrome. Stephanie and two other leaders took the initiative to make their dreams a reality and held the first Buddy Up Tennis Clinic in December 2008 in Ohio. Since the launch of the program there are now an inspiring 25+ chapters of Buddy Up Tennis nationwide.

A few years after Stephanie moved to the valley, Buddy Up Tennis launched its Phoenix Chapter. Stephanie's husband, Rami Burbar, began as a volunteer. His energy and smile are contagious on and off the court. His passion for fitness and making others laugh proved himself a valuable member of the team. Rami discovered a love for those with all abilities. He serves as a regular Buddy and local leader of Buddy Up Tennis.

Stephanie's passion expanded beyond the tennis court. She now serves individuals with various abilities as a pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist as part of Phoenix Children's Down Syndrome Clinic and Outpatient Rehabilitation. While Stephanie brings the therapist's perspective to the tennis clinic, Rami brings laughter and energy. They are both honored to serve the Down syndrome community and have valued getting to know our amazing DSNetwork families.



Past recipients: Freedom Financial, Believe I Can Academy, ASU Exercise Program

# Fund a Program

DSNetwork offers an array of programs to serve all age groups in the Down syndrome community.



## SPONSOR 5 NEW PARENT PACKETS - \$500

New parent packets provide helpful information, resources, facts, and encouragement for families who first receive the news that their child has Down syndrome.



## SPONSOR 10 CLUB XTRA KIDS - \$200

Children play and interact with other children (up to age 7) while parents connect, share their knowledge and experiences and support each other.



## SPONSOR 15 TWEEN & TEENS TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ACTIVITY - \$300

Gives adolescents with Down syndrome opportunities and activities to socialize and meet friends in a supportive atmosphere.

## SPONSOR 5 ADULTS - \$121

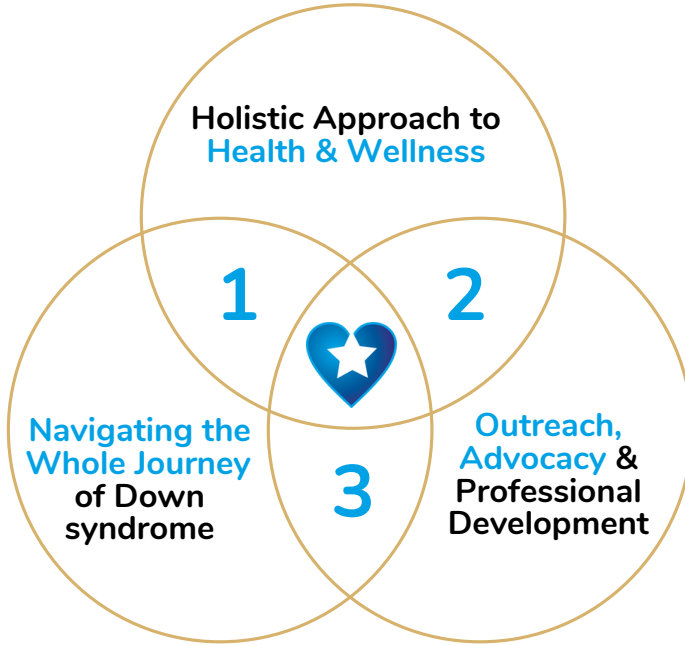


Helps navigate each stage of adulthood – from high school transition to older age and focus on providing inclusive community experiences that enhance quality of life and lead to self-fulfilled adulthoods.

We are grateful for your support.

# Initiatives

## 2023-25 STRATEGIC



### Caregivers

Parents, guardians, family members, respite & home care providers...

**1**

### Health Care Professionals

Obstetricians, pediatricians, primary care doctors, specialists, therapists, counselors & social workers...

**2**

### Community

Friends, neighbors, employers, schools, other Down syndrome service agencies & community members...

**3**

### Loved ones with Down syndrome

Serving people with Down syndrome from birth to adulthood across the state of Arizona



**DONATE**

**Your gift makes a difference!**

# LIVE AUCTION

Preview the items at the live-auction table during the event.

## DREW BREES JERSEY



Future Hall of Famer, Drew Brees, Autographed and Certified Authentic On Field Jersey with Accomplishments:

- 2008/2011 AP Offensive Player of the Year
- 2004 AP Comeback Player of the Year
- 2006 Walter Payton Man of the Year
- 13x Pro Bowl
- SB XLIV MVP

Value estimated at over \$1,500

Courtesy of Drew Brees and the O'Brien Family

## DREW BREES HELMET



Autographed and Certified Drew Brees New Orleans Saints Replica Helmet with 1st to 80,000+ Passing Yards in NFL history.

Value estimated at over \$1,000

Courtesy of Drew Brees and the O'Brien Family

## WINE COOLER STOCKED WITH FINE WINES



Insignia 29 Bottle Wine Stainless Steel Wine Cooler comes fully stocked with a variety of fine wines.

Value estimated at over \$800

Courtesy of John Escobar, Board Member, and DSNetwork Board members

# LIVE AUCTION

PICK YOUR PARADISE

**HAWAII**  
5 NIGHTS

OR

**MEXICO**  
7 NIGHTS



## 7 NIGHT LUXURY MEXICO RESORT OR 5 NIGHT HAWAII BEACH RESORT

A collection of beach front resorts to choose from. Select a 7 night Vidanta Luxury Resort at the paradise destination of your choice in Mexico (Cancun-Riviera Maya, Nuevo Vallarta, Puerto Vallarta, Acapulco, Puerto Peñasco)

OR

5 night Waikiki Beach Resort, Oahu at the Outrigger Beachcomber Resort

Valued at over \$4,000

Mexico accommodates 2 adults and 2 children (12 & under). Upgrades can be made at booking to accommodate larger parties. Hawaii accommodates up to 4 guests of any age. King bed or double beds upon request. 24 months to travel from event date. No blackout dates (based on availability). Concierge & booking services included. Additional details may apply. Airfare not included.

# Gratitude

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## PLATA SPONSORS



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# Donors

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sponsors and auction donors for their support.**

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Desert Botanical Garden  
Drew Brees  
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Golden Entertainment  
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Kale Chips Apparel  
Leidan Mitchell Salon & Spa  
LifeBrands.US  
Lotus Corporation  
Main Event  
Majestic Neighborhood Cinema  
McKay's Ace True Value  
Network Tours  
Phoenix Art Museum  
Rainbow Ryders  
Scottsdale Center for Performing Arts  
Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Arts  
Sole Sports Running Zone  
Total Wine & More  
Tucson Roadrunners  
Valley Youth Theater  
Village Health Clubs & Spas (Gainey and Ocotillo)  
Wildflower Bread Company  
Wines for Humanity  
Wok This Way  
Wonderspaces



# Silent Auction



**BID ON YOUR PHONE**

# Raffle & Casino



**BUY RAFFLE TICKETS & CASINO CASH  
OR FUND A PROGRAM**

**Use the QR code above &  
show the cashier your purchase.**

For the  
**LIVE AUCTION**  
use the Bid Card

**SILENT  
AUCTION**  
closes at  
8:30pm

**RAFFLE  
DRAWING**  
at 9:20pm  
Must be present  
to win