



Community 2025

IMPACT REPORT

Down Syndrome Network Arizona



Education



Advocacy



Support

IMPACT

DSNetwork has been supporting people touched by Down syndrome since 2002. From the initial diagnosis through school-aged years and beyond, individuals with Down syndrome and their families face a wide range of challenges and find themselves immersed in an ever-changing, often complicated journey to learn how to best support and nurture their loved ones. We are action-oriented – always striving to improve the options and opportunities available for people with Down syndrome. We are committed to ensuring that all individuals with Down syndrome have the opportunity to fully participate in society. Down Syndrome Network helps every step of the way.

MISSION

Our mission at DSNetwork is to educate, support, and advocate for those in our community touched by Down syndrome. DSNetwork achieves this goal through an open, supportive, and collaborative network that connects individuals and families with needed resources and information.

VISION

A community that embraces, supports and inspires individuals with Down syndrome to live healthy, self-determined and fulfilling lives.



2025 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jennifer O'Connell, Executive Director

Brenda Quiñones, Manager of Family Resources
& Enrichment Center

Lori Matlock, Manager of Programs, Events &
Volunteer Engagement

Brendan Gersten, Enrichment Center Assistant

Hector Bonilla, Garden Coordinator

Teresa DeMasi, Garden

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Cassie Laughrey, DPT, Chair

Andrea O'Brien, Vice Chair

Rebeca Lopez, Treasurer

Dr. Dannah Raz, Secretary

Members-at-Large

Gonzalo Castaneda

John Escobar

Betsy Lynch

Mandy Rivas

Emily Taylor

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Michele Fiorenza

Jill Nico

Liz Perez





3,177

Individuals with Down syndrome and their families were reached with essential services

Enrichment Center

- Provided a myriad of resources for families, educators, service providers, and health care professionals.
- Over 150 people have viewed the informative quarterly webinars on important topics. DSNetwork offered professional development to dozens of educators and doctors on Down syndrome.
- Over 125 families reached out for information and support, including 28 parents who learned their baby has Down syndrome.

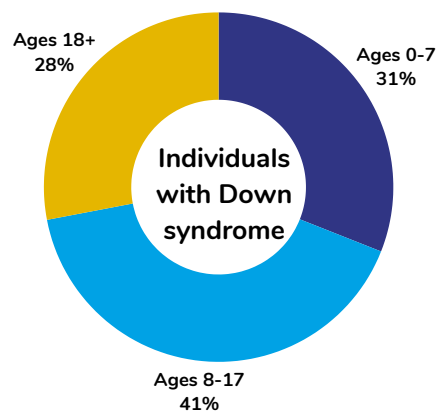
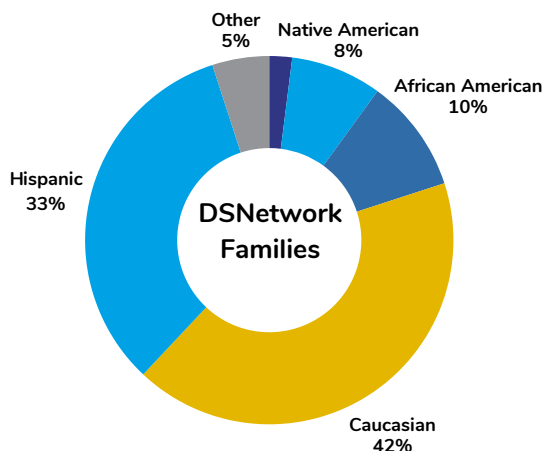
Volunteer Engagement

2,089

Volunteer hours valued at \$69,960

- Close to 200 generous volunteers played a crucial role in programs and events, supporting every aspect from planning, organization, setup, cheering on participants to assisting and cleaning up afterward.

DEMOGRAPHICS





28

resource packets were provided to parents who learned their baby has Down syndrome

161

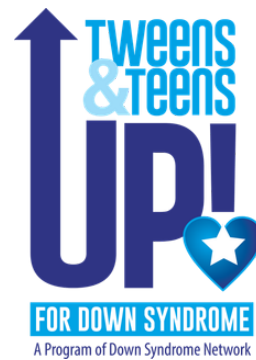
babies a year are born in the state of Arizona

Programs for all ages

0 - 7 YEARS



8 - 17 YEARS



18+ YEARS



- Over 250 children, youth, and adults with Down syndrome participated in Club Xtra, Tweens & Teen UP, DSConnex, and XCell program activities, and community outings, which included adaptive swim lessons, tickets to local events, fitness classes, and Buddy Up Tennis
- Spring Prom Night & Fall Costume Ball - 142 individuals with Down syndrome dressed up and danced in each of the themed dance socials
- DSConnex West Valley Families - Over 150 participants from the West Valley gathered to connect on the west side of the Valley of the Sun

Awareness Calendar



Over 90 individuals with Down syndrome of all ages had their photos taken for the 2026 calendar, the 321 Rodeo. The annual DSNetwork calendar has been a treasured tradition for over 20 years.



Unduplicated Programming



Down to Earth
COMMUNITY & THERAPEUTIC
GARDENING PROGRAM



People with Down syndrome are living longer lives! Due to better medical understanding and increased consideration for treatable chronic health conditions, life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades, from 25 years in 1983 to 60 years today. There is an excellent opportunity for significant strides toward improving the overall quality of life.

Physical activity and quality nutrition are vital for people with Down syndrome to improve physical, mental, and social health and overall functional ability.

DOWN SYNDROME WALK ARIZONA

- ASU Homecoming Parade & Block Party held in the fall of 2025
- 23rd annual Down Syndrome Walk Arizona was a record success with nearly 1,000 walkers and 55 volunteers
- Raised nearly \$72,000 benefiting the programs and services for individuals with Down syndrome and their families
- Annual theme in 2025: Saddle Up for Down syndrome



Connecting Families

SPRING FLING



SPRING FAMILY PICNIC

Over 150 people connected at the family picnic and enjoyed a fun egg hunt, outdoor games, and lunch together in the park.

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY



KINDNESS, ACCEPTANCE, AND INCLUSION!

In collaboration with GiGi's Playhouse, over 550 people gathered in Peoria to celebrate this important global awareness day. In the state of Arizona and many local cities officially named March 21st as World Down Syndrome Day.

HOLIDAY PARTY

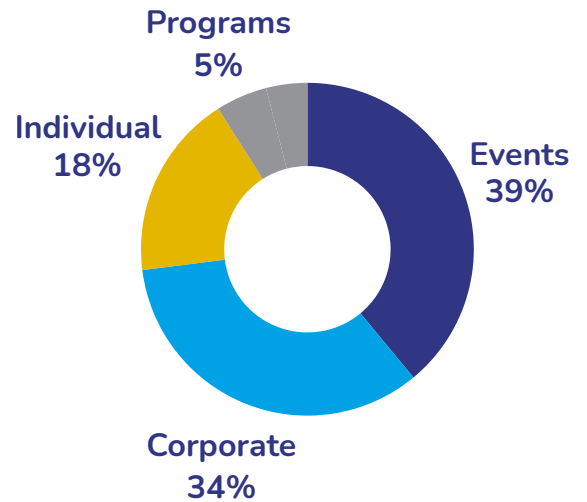


WINTER WONDERLAND

Over 450 people gathered to celebrate the holiday season with a catered brunch, gifts, crafts, market, photos with Santa and much holiday cheer at the gorgeous Ashley Castle in Chandler.

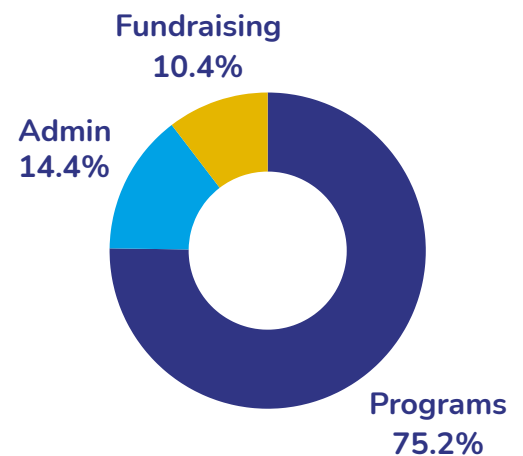
Revenue & Support

Corporate & Foundation	\$ 125,082
Special Events & Sponsorships	\$ 141,944
Individual Contributions	\$ 65,966
Program Revenue	\$ 18,094
In-Kind Donations	\$ 14,401
Interest Earned	\$ 2,679
Total Revenue	\$ 368,166



Total Operating Expenses

Program Services	\$ 265,741
Administrative	\$ 50,818
Fundraising	\$ 36,671
Total Expenses	\$ 353,231



Total Net Assets

Beginning	\$ 108,660
Ending	\$ 125,061

2025 Top Contributors

Virginia Piper Trust, AZ Financial Credit Union, Waymo, Hastings & Hastings, Absolute HCBS, Phoenix Children's, Emily Taylor Law, Essential Therapy Solutions, Step Stone Family Services, Rise Services, Consumer Advisory Projects, SRP, Mercy Care, Sprouts Foundation and Rivers & Moorehead



LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION AWARDS GALA

With a swanky Roaring 20's Golden Ticket theme, the gala for its 10th annual Spark of Awesome awards ceremony at the Phoenix Zoo, was a successful fundraiser, with silent and live auctions, and a casino night.



250

Individuals with Down syndrome joined our wellness programs: Down to Earth Garden, Buddy Up Tennis, Down to Box, Swim & Pickleball



3,177

Individuals with Down syndrome their families & community members received meaningful & impactful services from DSNetwork in 2025



142

Youth & Adults with Down syndrome danced in the 2025 Spring Prom & Fall Costume Ball



1,396

Family members participated in meaningful seasonal celebrations throughout the 2025 year: WDSO, Spring Picnic, Fall Fest & Winter Wonderland



2,182

Volunteer hours in 2025 valued at \$78,857 supported programming, events and activities

65

Moms, dads and other caregivers connected at Mom's Night Out & D.A.D.S. meetings



28

28 New Parents received welcome packets and opportunities to meet other new & expecting parents

