

President  
 Mary Fischer  
[President@mvdsa.org](mailto:President@mvdsa.org)

Vice President  
 Erin Hannan  
[Vice.President@mvdsa.org](mailto:Vice.President@mvdsa.org)

Treasurer  
 Mike Lee  
[Treasurer@mvdsa.org](mailto:Treasurer@mvdsa.org)

Recording Secretary  
 Jennifer Bridenbaugh  
[Recording.Secretary@mvdsa.org](mailto:Recording.Secretary@mvdsa.org)

Historian  
 Amber Thomas  
[Historian@mvdsa.org](mailto:Historian@mvdsa.org)

Newsletter Editor  
 Jim Shane  
[Editor@mvdsa.org](mailto:Editor@mvdsa.org)

Office Administrator  
 Cathy Shane  
[Office@mvdsa.org](mailto:Office@mvdsa.org)

Buddy Walk Chair  
 Amber Thomas  
[BuddyWalk@mvdsa.org](mailto:BuddyWalk@mvdsa.org)

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## MVDSA ANNUAL EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 11, 2006 from 6:00  
 pm—11:00 pm



(Doors open at 6:00, Dinner at 6:30,

Play begins at 7:30)



The Union Hall, 1675 Woodman Dr., Kettering, OH

\$25 per person, tickets will also be available at the door.



Raffle drawings for prizes!



\*\*\*\*\*

Please call the office for details—(937) 222-0744

It's that time of year again- we're gearing up for our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Euchre Tournament. If you love to play Euchre, then this is the event for you! It will be a night of food, prizes and lots of fun.

Why do we have a Euchre Tournament? The Miami Valley Down Syndrome Association is a large group composed of many people who have been touched by Down syndrome in some way or another. It may be it a family with a child, sibling, or other relative, friends or someone in their family who have Down syndrome, or professionals who work with Down syndrome individuals. The one thing we all have in common is the desire to help those with Down syndrome reach their full potential, hence our mission "to provide resources and support for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and community." That takes a lot of hard work, dedication, empathy, a sense of humor, community awareness and, money. So while we as families and friends can help with the hard work and dedication, empathize and be a friend to laugh and cry with, and be there for the celebrations, it's harder for us as individuals to promote community awareness and raise money to help pay for therapies, summer camps, reading programs, and educational resources. Thus, 16 years ago, before Buddy Walks, when our individuals were still struggling to be allowed into the school systems and the work force, the members of the MVDSA came up with a fun-filled way to both promote awareness and acceptance of individuals with Down syndrome and raise money to help with expenses. The Annual MVDSA Euchre Tournament.

The Euchre Tournament is a way to raise community awareness as well as raise funds for scholarships, camperships, and resources. We have made great strides with regards to community awareness, inclusion, and education, but we still have a long way to go.

The funding allows individuals with Down syndrome to take advantage of additional therapies, and it allows us to provide picnics, Christmas parties, and various other programs throughout the year. With the government and state programs cutting back resources and programs our families depend on, the proceeds raised help fill the gaps.

We hope that you'll make some time in your schedule for an evening of dinner and Euchre. Whether you're able to participate or not, we hope you'll spread the word, and maybe your neighbor or co-worker can also join us. And we hope that the community-at-large will see what delightful, wonderful, and capable people they truly are.

**Editor's Corner March 2006**

I've seen a lot of great things take place in this organization in my 2 years as the Newsletter Editor. I've been able to take a look into the lives of some of our members and see the great things they have accomplished. I know that when I read stories like Robin's, Laurie's, Walter's, and Jeff's, from previous newsletters, it gives me a sense of renewed hope. When I read the story about Joe and what he has accomplished, it is far more than I could have done. Granted, not everyone of us can be a superstar, but we can all strive to be the best that our abilities allow. I know there are a lot of others out there – Ray, Allen, Jessica, Kim -- who have their own stories to tell. Keep working on them. And parents, don't get discouraged. We and our kids should both strive to be our best. I also know there are younger ones out there who are going to have great stories of their own when they get older.

As I get ready to step down from the Newsletter Editors position and turn the reins over to the next person, my hope is that they will see beyond the effort it takes to put together a newsletter, and see the fruit on the tree, and realize that they have a part in that. As I mentioned in my first newsletter, I am not a writer nor editor. I simply had a desire to make information available that would help, encourage and lift us up. I remember what it was like when I first found out our daughter had Ds. I was lost, and in shock -- I didn't know what this meant, other than this

was something that happened to other people and now here we were. Since then I have found understanding and encouragement through MVDSA, through seeing the kids and realizing they have hopes and dreams just as I do and how they are willing "to keep on keeping on". Sure, some had bigger challenges, but I can't remember one of them ready to give up. There have been several times I wanted to give up this Editor business but when I thought about the kids, I knew I must keep moving forward.

As with any family, the MVDSA family has had some moments we wish we could forget about. However, we have an organization that has a huge, caring heart and wants to do the best that can be done for our kids.

Join and get involved. If you had a big back yard and you had to mow it by yourself, it would take some amount of time, but with 2 people mowing the lawn, maybe half the time, and with 4 people mowing the lawn, well, you get the idea. If you look at an automobile moving down the road, you will see some parts that are flashy, some, just slightly noticeable, and some you don't see at all, yet all are needed to make it work and work efficiently. When more people get involved and move in the same direction, a lot can be done. Don't forget -- our kids are the biggest beneficiary.

Jim



**Shall we Dance?** This is a survey type question. We want to find out if there is interest in learning different styles of ballroom dance. Terry Cavanaugh of 'Elegance In Dance', a certified dance instructor, is considering the possibility of putting together an 8 week instructional class finishing with a formal dance for individuals with Down syndrome. Please call the office at (937) 222-0744 or email at [office@mvdsa.org](mailto:office@mvdsa.org) and let us know your thoughts.

Information and/or representatives from various **Campership and Scholarship** providers will be available during the Thursday, April 20 general meeting.

If you know of an organization that would be helpful, please let us know so we can have their information available as well.



**Spotlight Night is May 18.** We're looking forward to all the great talent that will be on display. Be thinking about what you can do.

**D.A.D.S. SPONSORS an MVDSA KIDS "Pump It Up Party"!** A maximum of 80 kids can be accommodated so RSVP to Cathy Shane at the MVDSA office (937) 222-0744. Drinks and snacks will be provided by the DADS group. The cost is \$3.00 per child. We will be sending invitations out and remember to RSVP by phone so we can have a head count!

So come jump, slide and play on all the inflatable stuff and oh yeah, parents can play too! If you want to check the place out go to- [www.pumpitupparty.com](http://www.pumpitupparty.com).

What – Pump it up Party  
Where - Pump It Up, 685 Precision Court,  
Miamisburg, OH 45342  
(937)-866-0680  
When – Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 9 pm



Joseph Nartker has accomplished a lot in his first 20 years. Our job as his parents has been, not to push him ahead, but to hold him back.



He has three older brothers that he loves.

Joe attended St Luke Grade School where he played soccer, basketball and in the summers, softball with his classmates and friends.

He graduated from Chaminade Julianne in 2004 where he earned reserve letters in track for shot put and discus. He was also the manager of the varsity football team and a power lifter.

Joe placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in a state competition in golf and loves to bowl.

He had a paper route during his junior high years.

Joe had his own lawn care business with several customers in high school. He loved the riding lawn mower the best.

Community service was a big part of Joe's life also.

Joe was an Alter Boy when he was younger and now is proud to be a Eucharistic Minister at his Church.

He is a full time employee of Kroger and loves it.

- ◆ 1996 Voted one of 25 "Top Models" in the nation from the EXCEPTIONAL PARENT Magazine.
- ◆ 2000 HONOR PAPER CARRIER
- ◆ 2003 THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD for his work at Heartland and Friendship Village Nursing Homes.
- ◆ 2004 EAGLE SCOUT in Boy Scouts
- ◆ 2004 THE COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD for his work for the Daybreak Center.

### A message from the newly formed D.A.D.S.\* group coordinator, Stefan Bridenbaugh

Thursday, February 23, 2006, meeting of the Miami Valley D.A.D.S.



The guys met for our 2<sup>nd</sup> official meeting at Max and Erma's Restaurant on Miller Lane. All ate well as usual with cheese fries and nachos as appetizers to shrimp, garbage burgers and Philly cheese steak sandwiches for the main course. Next Paul Sutter rolled out the new DADS logo of scarlet and grey, GO BUCKS! Yes folks, we planned it that way. Most of us are Buckeye fans so we felt this would work well. We are now called the Greater Miami Valley DADS which was suggested at the meeting and agreed to. Next we accepted the funds raised by the Scrap Booking party held by Rebecca Schinaman in Sidney for our DADS group. They raised \$1405.00 for our group. Thank you from all of us! Rebecca you are a very special lady! The group will be going to visit the Indy DADS on March the 14<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis at the Loon Lake Lodge. We then decided to follow a great suggestion by Kevin McGovern to sponsor a KIDS OF MVDSA NIGHT OUT at the PUMP IT UP facility in Miamisburg. This will take place Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7-9 pm. Our next meeting will be held the second Tuesday of April at Max and Erma's on Miller Lane at 7 pm.

\* Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome

MIAMI VALLEY DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION  
2006 SCHOLARSHIPS

Once again, it is time to start thinking about MVDSA scholarships for 2006. Last year, over 30 MVDSA members benefited from scholarships. Take time **NOW** to start thinking about what kind of summer camp or therapy your child would benefit from. Please read the Guidelines for the 2006 MVDSA Scholarships below.

GUIDELINES FOR THE 2006 MVDSA SCHOLARSHIPS

Must be a member of the MVDSA for one year.

Scholarships will be awarded to **ONE** provider.

Scholarship money will be paid **DIRECTLY TO THE PROVIDER.** (Members will not be reimbursed).

Services must take place by December 31, 2006.

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL 30, 2006.** No applications will be accepted after this date.

Applications will be mailed to all MVDSA members by April 1, 2006. We are having a Camp Fair at the General Meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2006. **Applications must be completed and received by April 30, 2006.** Scholarships will be awarded at the May General Meeting, Thursday, May 18, 2006. If you have any questions about scholarships, please contact Louann Lee, Scholarship Committee Chairman at (937) 222-0744 or (937) 848-8607.

A very late addition to the newsletter—my apologies.

John Ambuske, Sarah Brooks, Alex Short and Tom Luna recently won the gold for their division at the Special Olympics State Bowling Tournament held on October 29, 2005 at Sawmills Bowling Lanes in Columbus, OH.



I am pleased to announce that James Brixey of James Brixey Photography has offered to donate his services photographing our kids at the various activities through the year. James can be reached at (937) 848-4120, Bellbrook, Ohio

<p><b>Calendar of events</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><u><b>Euchre Tournament</b></u></p> <p>See page 1 for details</p>	<p><b>Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Dinner at 6:30 p.m. General Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Aging Issues with Dr. Webb</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>St. Patrick's Day Dance.</b></p> <p><b>Cancelled.</b></p> <p>Look for an early summer dance, details later.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><u><b>Pump it up Party</b></u></p> <p>7 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>See page 2 for details</p>	<p><b>Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Dinner at 6:30 p.m. General Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Camp-fair</b></p> <p>See page 2 &amp; 4 (above) for details</p>

Miami Valley Down Syndrome  
Association  
Your local support group

# CLASSIFIED

937-222-0744  
www.mvdsa.org

## Elections are coming up in May. How can you get involved ?

2505 Job Market

### Officer Positions and Duties

**Seeking eager candidates for 1 year term beginning in May 2006. All positions listed are volunteer. Elections held at May General meeting.**

**President.** A President shall preside over all meetings of MVDSA and shall appoint the chairpersons of all committees with the approval of the other officers and supervise directly, or indirectly, in their work. Appoint special committees as required. Present an annual report to the membership immediately preceding the close of his term.

**Vice President.** A Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

**Recording Secretary.** A Recording Secretary shall take minutes of the Board meetings and they are responsible for ensuring that the minutes are available at all meetings for the general membership also. See that written reports are available to the current and incoming officers and committee chairpersons.

**Newsletter Editor.** Newsletter editor is responsible for publishing and mailing a bi-monthly newsletter, as well as maintaining an accurate mailing list.

**Treasurer.** A Treasurer shall collect all dues and fees of the organization. Maintain the bank account (s) and keep accurate records of the finances. Disperse funds on the order of the vote of the officers and maintain receipts. Report receipts, expenditures, and any outstanding bills.

**Librarian.** A Librarian shall keep in file books on Down syndrome and related topics, along with tapes, videos, articles, etc. also responsible for purchasing books for library (\$2000 budget! Keep accurate records as to who has borrowed library materials.

2506 Job Market

### Standing Committees

**Seeking eager VIPs for all the following categories. Chair persons are Board elected from VIP volunteers. Chair persons will submit written reports at each Board meeting. Abbreviated descriptions of committees follow.**

**Finance.** Prepare annual budget, and monitors compliance, prepare reports required by outside agencies, audit treasurer records.

**Hospitality.** Assist in soliciting new members, help inform parents and professionals about organization/activities, greet members/new people, in charge of refreshments for functions.

**Nominating.** Seek willing/qualified candidates for elected/appointed positions, maintain list, and present candidates of officers positions to membership. Conduct officer elections.

**Publicity.** Responsible for promoting good public awareness of the MVDSA through various media outlets.

**Parent Support.** Responsible for preparing and distributing packet for area hospitals. Maintain list of all parents willing to interface with new parents, or parents experiencing trouble that request help.

### Fund-Raising

**Telephone.** Responsible for maintaining list of "callers", responsible for calling members when needed.

**Sunshine.** Responsible for buying birthday, get-well, and sympathy cards and sending them out.

**Camperships/Scholarships.** Responsible for recommending the number/type of camperships to be awarded, maintains list of recipients.

**Teen/Adult.** Responsible for planning/organizing teen/adult dances or other activities.

**Computer.** Responsible for obtaining/maintaining computers and software necessary to carry out work of organization. Maintenance/direction for website.

**Long-range Goals.** Responsible for developing a list of long-range goals for organization, meet periodically to re-assess progress toward same.

**Advocacy.** Responsible for representing parents, if possible, when request is made. Responsible for advocating for parents/individuals with Down syndrome through keeping up w/ current issues, writing letters to political leaders/newspapers.

2507 Job Market

### Other Committees

**By-Laws.** Evaluate by-laws and recommend needed changes as necessary but at least once every three years.

**Play Group.** Planners/facilitators of meetings/outing of parents and children w/ Down syndrome, birth—5 years.

**Euchre Tournament.** Planners/facilitators of this annual fun, fund-raising event.

**Buddy Walk.** Planners/facilitators of this annual awareness, fund-raising event.

**Volunteers.** Though not an actual committee, these are needed for each event in terms of being an advocate for MVDSA and in helping w/ monthly meetings.

### Note: Standing Committees

Each committee should be comprised of a chairperson and its members. We find that committees comprised of "one", even in the case of a Superman or Wonder Woman candidate, are less effective.

The Cincinnati Children's Hospital Parent Update is available by email. The publication covers various general topics to help with the well being of our kids. Visit Cincinnati Children's on the World Wide Web at <http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org>

World Down Syndrome Day 2006, which is hosted by Down Syndrome Association of Singapore will be commemorating the occasion on Tuesday, 21 March 2006 with a series of events and activities. For more information, please look at the following website.

<http://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/>

## Ohio's Changing Waivers

*Sponsored by*



Welcome to  
The Arc of Ohio!

Friday, March 24, 2006

9:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

What's up with the ODDP and my IO Waiver?

Is the Home Care Waiver changing? I hear they may adjust my funding?

My child's on the Transitions Waiver. Am I still in Transition?

So what's the status of the Independence Plus and Autism Waivers?

What's Prior Authorization?

What are my Rights?

**Representatives from the Ohio Departments of MR/DD and Job and Family Services will provide information and answers to your questions.**

Radisson Hotel Columbus/Worthington

7007 North High Street

Worthington, Ohio 43085

(614) 436-0700

(Just south of the intersection of Rt. 23 and I-270 north of Columbus.)

**COST:**

Individuals with disabilities and their families are **free** with advance registration.

Professionals: \$75.00

Lunch will be provided.

Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) from the Ohio Department of MR/DD are pending.

# 2006 KABC EXPLORER LEAGUE REGISTRATION



The KABC Explorer League is designed for players who are physically and/or mentally challenged. The player, boy or girl is required to be between 5 to 22 years of age. Practice and games are played at Indian Riffle Park in Kettering, off of East Stroop Road on Saturday mornings. Practice begins in April and the season will start in mid May, ending in mid July.

Registration fee will cover full uniform for the player, which includes hat, shirt, pants, and one pair of socks. At the end of the season **player's return only the pants**. KABC also supplies the bats, ball (rag ball), batting tee, and batting helmet. There will be an end of the year participation award for each player.

Player can participate in KABC's mid season Activity Day. This is an annual event held for players to show case their talents. There are stations set up for players for a run, hit, pitch and throw contest. The winners of this contest are broken down into divisions by their sex and age. There is also a division for players who require a wheel chair or walker to participate. All players can participate in an All Star game and receive a participation award.

**Registration Fee is \$30.00.** Please sign-up early, with these reduced prices we are expecting teams to fill up quickly. Our goal is to have four teams this year. If you have any questions or are interested in Managing a team or Sponsoring a team please contact:

KABC Commissioner of the Explorer League  
Alfredo Gutierrez at (937) 864-5804



Look for the Polar Bear Basketball Team pictures in the next newsletter.

## Happy Birthday!

March Birthdays	Date
Bobichanae Mosley	5
Ian Evans	5
Allen Coles	14
Rachel Willoughby	21
Emma Cartwright	27
Katie Wilson	27



April Birthdays	Date
Benjamin Barbour	4
Michael Aguayo	5
Renee Walker	8
Shelby Rae Dietz	9
Zane Bier	10
Timothy McCleese	15
Nathan Westfall	19
Stuart Barker	30



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### March Happenings

- ◆ Euchre Tournament—Saturday, March 11  
See page 1 for details
- ◆ Explorer League signup, Page 7
- ◆ March 16, General meeting—Aging Issues
- ◆ Play groups

### April Happenings

- ◆ Pump It Up Party, page 2
- ◆ April 20, General meeting, Camp Fair
- ◆ Play groups

**Editor:** Jim Shane — Editor@mvdsa.org — 937.222.0744  
www.mvdsa.org — MVDSA, 1133 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd,  
Suite 190, Dayton Ohio 45408-2071

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of people with a common goal to provide information,  
support, and resources to individuals with Down syndrome,  
their families, and their communities.

**Policy Statement:** The MVDSA does not endorse,  
recommend, or support any particular regime, therapy, or  
treatment.

**Areas Served:** Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami,  
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