



DSNOCC News

Volume 1 Issue 1

DSNOCC a success at Resource and Information Fair

By Robin Mouton

Our Mission:

“Enhancing the lives of individuals with Down syndrome in our community by connecting families and by providing education, support, advocacy, and social opportunities.”

The DSNOCC had a booth at Onslow County’s Resource and Information Fair held on March 14, 2011. The fair is held annually to provide information to individuals with disabilities. It covered resource assistance to people of all ages and all disabilities. There were companies that dealt with OT, early childhood services, social security issues, independent living and much more. Hopefully we will be able to have some of the wonderful people I met come talk with our group. I was glad to be there representing DSNOCC. Some businesses took our information as well as some teachers that passed through with their classes. The fair was open to the public and, if you have any questions about resources for your child(ren), this was a great place to start. We will let you know when next year’s will be.

Down Syndrome Conference Scheduled

The National Down Syndrome Congress has scheduled their 40th Annual Convention. This year’s convention will be held July 19-22 in Washington, D.C. The added day this year includes a “Day On The Hill”, hosted by NDSC. You will have a chance to meet with U.S. Senators and Representatives. What a great opportunity on an election year!

For additional information go to: <http://convention.ndsccenter.org/>

Jennifer Wisner will be attending the conference and I look forward to hearing all the information she will undoubtedly bring back.

Coast Lines

When Jennifer Wisner sent out the news that our website was up I was thrilled. I told her about the Support group we were with in Hawaii and how we loved the newsletters. My favorite part was the "Profiles in Paradise" section where families took turns writing a story about their family. I would like to start that with our newsletter. I will start by using the story I wrote 20 years ago.

Miracles and Dreams

It began on January 1, 1991 when Georgia Tech won their bowl game which, in my book, made them the National Champions. During the next three weeks, my son would turn three times before landing in a transverse position causing him to be delivered via C-section on January 22, 1991. I suppose that was his way of celebrating.

In the recovery room the pediatrician came in and said that he believed that our son had Down Syndrome. It was hard to explain how I felt at the time. My husband, Ken, was in Saudi Arabia in a war that was then six days old. All I can remember was crying and saying, "How do I tell my husband? He's in Saudi Arabia and has no idea what to expect." I had seen Donovan and he was everything I had dreamed of. I knew if Ken could just see him everything would be fine.



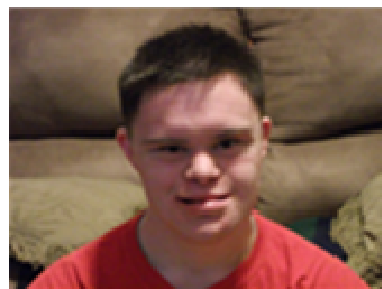
Through the pediatrician's recommendations and the help of the Red Cross, Ken was able to come home for a couple of weeks. He believed Donovan was his dream come true also.

Time went by and the NCAA road to the Final Four concluded with Duke winning the championship. Donovan would celebrate by turning over for the first time.

Donovan learned to smile as baseball season started. Each time I would say, "Go Braves," Donovan's face would light up. When Michal Jordan showed off in the NBA playoffs with his hand-to-hand pass in mid-air for a jump shot, it made news for days. During that time Donovan learned to pass objects from one hand to the other. What an exciting time that was!

Baseball season heated up and Donovan learned to tomahawk chop with his mom and dad. The Braves were having what is now referred to as their Miracle Season. I don't think I have ever been so sad at a ball game as I was when the Braves' Miracle Season ended with a loss in game seven of the World Series. It was a night I will never forget. But the next morning I went into Donovan's room and saw a true miracle looking back at me and smiling.

For our favorite ball teams, 1991 was full of miracles and dreams come true. Players never quit. There was no such thing as failing. In our home, nothing could have been more true. In 1992 the Duke Blue Devils won their second consecutive NCAA Basketball Championship and the Chicago Bulls won their second in a row also. During that time Donovan learned to put toys in a slot and even stand up. Now that baseball season has started again Donovan has learned the Braves' chant to go with the tomahawk chop.



As each season begins and ends players and fans reflect on dreams and miracles. Our family has a constant reminder of the dreams and miracles that come true each day. He is living in our house. His name is Donovan.

I would like to share a story with each newsletter. If you would like to share your story, email me at backgateembroidery@yahoo.com.

MOM'S NIGHT OUT

The next Mom's Night Out:

Thursday, April 19th, 2012

6:30 p.m.

O'Charley's

RSVP Jennifer Wisler by April
17th

Email: jrichwisler@yahoo.com

or phone: (910) 219-1174

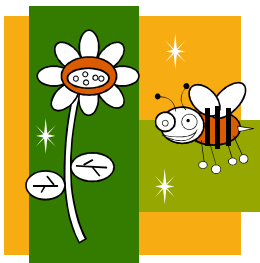
A special thanks to Pizzuti's Italian Restaurant for donating the appetizers for the WDSO moms' night out on March 20th.

Dad's Day Out??

We would like to see the Dads have their day out also. How about something in June? Celebrate Father's Day this year by getting to know some of the fathers that have the same lovely special children as you. We would like to have a volunteer to plan this.

Any takers?

Contact Jen Wisner if you have any ideas or plans.



Special Olympics Young Athletes Program

By: Shawn Reynolds

Did you know that Onslow County Special Olympics now has a Young Athletes Program? I was so excited to find out about this because I knew my son was too young to participate in Special Olympics; but, I really wanted to start getting involved and become familiar with the organization so when it was time, he could just jump right in. Seems a lot of people felt this way, because now the Young Athletes Program welcomes children ages two to seven years old into the Special Olympics family. Young Athletes serves as an introduction for new families to the resources and support available within Special Olympics while providing a vehicle for families to network with each other; and of course, the future athletes benefit by enhancing their skills, developing confidence, and increasing their readiness to compete when they reach the age of eight.

With emphasis on training and participation through activities and play, rather than competition, the Young Athletes Program provides children with gross motor skills training, group interaction and socialization opportunities. It is an inclusive sports opportunity for children with or without disabilities that helps to increase a young child's strength and coordination in preparation for future sports participation. It fosters family interaction while teaching "everyday" skills and introduces young children to group play, cooperation, and awareness of rules.

This year's Onslow County Special Olympics will be held on Friday 27 April at Northside High School. Opening ceremony begins promptly at 0915. We currently have approximately 119 Young Athletes registered. Some of the events include Obstacle Courses with tunnels, hula hoop hop, balance hemispheres, and kick ball. There are also stations for T-ball, basketball, hippity hop, and parachute. When the kiddos need a break from the "more structured" events, they can play freeze dance, chase bubbles, play in the sand, or even have their faces painted. We hope there will be something for everyone and look forward to seeing the smiles on the children's faces.

In the very short time I've been involved with Special Olympics, I have discovered there are so many people who want to welcome us into this community and share their experiences and knowledge in any way that might make things just a little easier for my own family as we begin our journey. It's a fabulous organization and I'm proud to say my family is now a part of it.

If you are interested in participation, volunteering, or just want to come out and support the athletes, please contact Shawn Reynolds (shawn-reynolds@live.com) or Samantha Eddleman (blue5@yahoo.com) for more information.

Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be on Saturday, May 5, 2012.

We do not have speaker scheduled but, since Mother's Day is in May, we are planning a potluck luncheon.

We would like to give a special thank you to The First Christian Church for allowing us to use their fellowship hall on the first Saturday of each month.

Special Thank You to our March Guest Speaker

DR. Matthew Bolinger
Onslow Ear Nose & Throat
55 Office Park Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28546
(910) 219-3376

World Down Syndrome Day Celebrated with Playdate



DSNOCC celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, 2012 with a playdate held at the New River Air Station marina playground. It looks like they had a great time!



Special Olympics Onslow County kicks off Spring/Summer sports with Swim Meet in Raleigh

The Onslow County Special Olympics swim team participated in their first swim meet of the season on March 23, 2012 at the 17th Annual Multi-State Invitational Swim Meet held by Special



Olympics Wake County. Of the fifteen athletes that traveled seven have Down Syndrome. Way to represent! These swimmers participated in events ranging from the 15m walk to the 50m butterfly. All swimmers received ribbons from first place to fourth. While the athletes cherished their ribbons, families and friends cherished and cheered the accomplishments. The next meet will be held in New Bern on April 14th where they will swim for qualifying times for the State Meet held in June.



Other sports teams training now for the Summer Games in June are Athletics (track and field), softball, volleyball, and weightlifting.

(pictured are Joseph Mowell - top left, Michael Walters - right, and Jessica Martinez - bottom left)

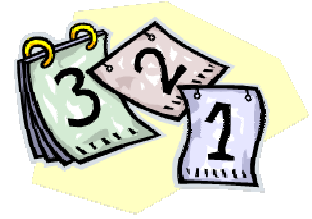
EXTRA! EXTRA! This Just In!

We have been approved for Onslow County's first Buddy Walk!

The event is currently scheduled for October 27th, 2012. What a grand finale it will be for Down Syndrome Awareness Month! Our first meeting will be at 6:30 on April 23, 2012 at office of The Family Support Network of the Crystal Coast. The address is 2444 Commerce Road, Suite 115, Jacksonville.

If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Robin Mouton at DSNOCCBuddyWalk@yahoo.com or her cell phone is (910) 330-0657.

Mark Your Calendars:



April 13 - Good Times Dance 6:30 - 9:00
 First Christian Church Fellowship Hall
 Dances are held the second Friday of each month.

April 15 - Parentss Support Group Bowling
 2:00-3:30 Bonnyman Bowling Center, Camp Lejeune.
 This event is open to the all Parentss families - just inform the office at front gate where you are going in order to get a pass. Parentss is a support group for individuals and families with physical and learning disabilities.

April 23 - Buddy Walk Meeting
 6:30 2444 Commerce Road, Suite 115, Jacksonville

April 27 - Special Olympics Onslow County Spring Games
 9:15 - 1:00 Northside High School

April 28 - Family Sensory-Free Movie Event - Dr. Suess' The Lorax
 10:00 am Carmike Cinemas in Jacksonville. Admission is \$5.
 Concessions will be open, but you can bring your own treats, as well. We are tri-sponsoring this event with the Autism Society of Onslow County and the Family Support Network.

Military Family Members: Be sure to check the base MCCS websites for EFMP events and workshops. Events are posted too frequently to list in our newsletter.

Websites are:

New River: MCCSNR.com/EFMP

Camp Lejeune: MCCSlejeune.com/EFMP

Newsworthy:

Occasionally you may run across an article or book that you would like to share. Please send me the information along with your synopsis and I will put it in our newsletter for all to see.

Article: ***"If People With Down Syndrome Ruled the World"*** By Dennis McGuire, Ph.D., taken from the National Association for Down Syndrome website, http://www.nads.org/pages_new/news/ruletheworld.html

This article was sent to me when my son was about 10. At that time I could relate. Now that he is 21 **oh boy** can I relate! If you haven't read it yet, check it out and see how much rings true to your child - no matter what age. (Robin Mouton)

Book: ***Bloom: Finding Beauty in the Unexpected- A Memoir***
By: Kelle Hampton

Kelle Hampton is a writer, photographer and the proud mommy of a two beautiful little girls. Her youngest daughter, Nella, was born with Down syndrome. This memoir chronicles the first year of Nella's life and takes us on the rollercoaster of emotional highs and lows that go along with this journey. "A gripping, hilarious, and intensely poignant trip of transformation in which a mother learns that perfection comes in all different shapes. It's a story about embracing life and really living it, of being fearless and accepting difference, of going beyond constricting definitions of beauty, and of the awesome power of perspective."
(Kim Mowell)

Special Note to all of our readers:

We would like *"Coast Lines"* to be in each newsletter. If you would like to share your stories, please submit your article with along with a picture or two of your child/family to Robin Mouton at backgateembroidery@yahoo.com. Since we don't know how to prioritize, it will be, as phone recordings say, "in the order in which it was received."