



DOWN SOUTH



FEBRUARY 2008

A newsletter for members of the Down Syndrome Association of the Lowcountry

Stevie Betros and friends, Eddie Gregory and Georgie Ramsey, pictured above.

Meet Stevie Betros

Stevie Betros is the newest member of the Special Olympic South Carolina board of directors

Stevie Betros graduated from St. Andrews High School in 1994. He received an Eagle Scout Award in 1993 - his Eagle project was planting wild flowers along a walking trail in Charles Towne Landing.

Stevie is currently employed as a lab courier for the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and has worked in this position for 15 years.

When not working, you will find Stevie at Bishop England High School (BEHS) - where he has been the manager for BEHS basketball teams since 1995.

He has been a volunteer at MUSC and volunteered more than 2500 hours.

Stevie competes in Special Olympics swimming, bowling, tennis, bocce, and basketball events.

He won a gold medal in tennis at the 2006 National Games in Ames, Iowa.

Stevie Betros is a great asset to the Special Olympics South Carolina board of directors.

Congratulations Stevie!

Dear Friends,

DSAL closed out 2007 with a New Year's celebration at James Island County Park. Although the year is over, DSAL's commitment to provide awareness, inclusion and acceptance for our children and family members with Down syndrome continues. The 2008 DSAL board is busy making plans for the upcoming year, as well as carrying on initiatives that began in 2007.

Maggie Myatt is continuing the effort of providing baby packets to all area hospitals. The packets will soon contain a DVD created by DSAL. The DVD will provide information about our DSAL family and serve as a resource for information about Down syndrome for new parents. We hope to have the DVD in all area hospitals this spring.

Glenda Crain and her team are busy finding ways to improve the education and inclusion opportunities for our children in area schools. In support of this effort, the education committee will be hosting a workshop for teachers and parents on how to make inclusion work. Don't forget to check your local public library for additional resources! DSAL is donating a select set of books to each library that can serve as a resource for parents as well as educators. Look for more information in our upcoming newsletter and mailings.

Also, be sure to save the date for the 2008 Buddy Walk, Sunday, October 5, 2008. This year's walk is expected to be better than ever, with **Angie Clark** and **Erin Mach** leading the effort. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of **Dawn Durante** and **Christine Oxford**, the 2007 walk doubled in size providing multiple opportunities for our communities to be involved. This year will be no different. Erin and Angie will soon be asking for your help and support. Please make the decision now to volunteer. No amount of time is too small or task too large if multiple hands are committed. *continues...*

2008 Special Olympics

Sports Calendar

Young Athletes Program (ages 2 – 7)

Training and information meeting:
Sat., Feb. 23 at the R.L. Jones Center,
Mount Pleasant. **Contact:** Melissa King
at mking96@hometelecom.com

Basketball (Winter)

Big Dogs (adults): Every Sat. at 9 a.m. at
the Citadel. **Contact:** Corky Carnivale at
bensboy1@aol.com

**Mount Pleasant Unified (age 8 & young
adult):** Every Sat. at 1 p.m. at the R. L.
Jones Center, Mount Pleasant

**City of Charleston Unified (age 8 &
young adult):** Every Tues. 6 – 7 p.m. at
Ashley River Elementary. Charleston
Contact: Shelli Davis at 843-708-3651

Dorchester Dragons: Every Sat. at 10 a.m.
(adults) and 11 a.m. (youth) at the Coastal
Center Gym. **Contact:** Monette Dearing
at monetted@hotmail.com

Swimming (Spring)

Mount Pleasant Piranhas (ages 8–18):
Every Fri. at 5:30 p.m. at the R.L. Jones
Center. Mount Pleasant **Contact:** Jeff
Garrard at 843-884-2528

Dorchester Dragons: Every Wed.
6:30–7:30 p.m. at the Summerville
YMCA. **Contact:** Dave Jones at
trigator@bellsouth.net

City of Charleston: Starting Feb. 29
Contact: Shelli Davis at 843-708-3651

Smiling Sharks (ages 8–21):
Every Mon. at 6:30–7:30 p.m. at the
Citadel. **Contact:** Deas Hall or Cate
Cusick at 843-768-0862

Charleston (adults): TBA
Contact: Chrismitchell5@comcast.net

Special Event

DSAL Spring Fling with Easter Egg Hunt
Sun., March 16, 2008 at 2 p.m. located
at the Wannamaker County Park. Check
your mailbox soon for more details!

continued...

In addition to our Buddy Walk, DSAL will soon be sponsoring our Annual Easter Celebration. Plans are currently being made by our new social chair, **Kevin Carpenter**. Details coming soon, so don't forget to check your mailbox.

Our Youth Advocacy Group continues to impress DSAL and our communities with their many accomplishments. From working part-time jobs to making plans for high school graduation and college, they are forging a path never thought possible by some. **Rebecca and Trista Kutcher** will take over the leadership role of the Youth Advocacy Group. Many thanks to **Martha and Trampus Hoover** for the ground work they helped to lay over the past two years. Rebecca and Trista will be looking for ways our youth can contribute positively to the communities in which they live. Please keep them in mind for your upcoming events.



T Beck and her daughter Katie, age 6

I cannot tell you how excited I am about the 2008 DSAL board and the energy they have for our children and family members with Down syndrome. We are all committed to doing our best for DSAL and look forward to a rewarding two years together. We are only able to make these plans because of the past DSAL boards and the leadership provided by past presidents such as **Chad Vail** and **Gene Carpenter**. Their hard work and dedication helped provide DSAL with many tools that we will have the privilege of working with in 2008.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your family and our communities.

T Beck

Volunteer President

Down Syndrome Association of the Lowcountry

Finding a Four-Leaf Clover



I was walking by myself on an early spring day. What a beautiful day, indeed. As I walked across an open grassy area, I saw patches of green showing through in spots. Curiosity took me to one of these patches. With delight, I stopped in my tracks. This newly found clump of clover took my breath away.

Instinctively, I stooped down to closely examine the clover in hopes that I might find a four-leaf clover. And then the proverbial ton of bricks arrived! I have indeed found my four-leaf clover. His name is Henry and is 3 ½ years old at the time. Not only do I consider myself very lucky to have Henry for my son, but I also had a profound revelation during that walk. I thought that I recalled that four-leaf clovers, which are very rare, might be genetically enhanced three-leaf clovers. I consider my son genetically enhanced too, since he happens to have Down syndrome (*Trisomy 21*).

Any of us can remember our endless searches for a four-leaf clover. Finding a four-leaf clover bestows feelings of happiness and goodness. And yes, my son is my four-leaf clover!

2008 Special Olympics Sports Calendar

Bowling

Charleston Masters Bowling (adult):
Every Wed. at 5:30 p.m. at the AMF Bowling Center, West Ashley.

Contact: Chris Mitchell at
chrismitchell5@comcast.net

Charleston Masters Bowling (adult):
Every Wed. at 6–7:30 p.m. at the Ashley Lanes, West Ashley. **Contact:** Lynn Scott at LTHunt6969@bellsouth.net

Tennis

Daniel Island Family Circle Center:
Every Sun. at 4 p.m. (ongoing).

Contact: Kevin McFarland at
kemacf@yahoo.com

City of Charleston: Every Thurs. at 6–7 p.m. at the Charleston Tennis Center.
Contact: Shelli Davis at 843-708-3651

Ice Skating

Carolina Ice Palace: Starting Mon.,
March 3. **Contact:** Lynn Scott at
LTHunt6969@bellsouth.net

Holiday Happenings

DSAL was busy during the holiday season with two very special events.

First, DSAL joined Healing Farms Ministry for a Christmas celebration in the country including hayrides, bonfires and a live manger scene.

For New Year's, DSAL hosted a supper at James Island County Park to socialize and give everyone an opportunity to view the spectacular holiday lights while bringing 2007 to a close.



2008

Down Syndrome Association
of the Lowcountry

Board of Directors

President: T Beck

Baby Packets: Maggie Myatt

Buddy Walk: Angie Clark / Erin Mach

Education: Glenda Crain

Medical: Diane Andrews

Secretary: Barbara O'Grady

Social: Kevin Carpenter

Youth Advocacy: Rebecca &
Trista Kutcher

Treasurer & Past President: Chad Vail

DSAL Phone Lines: Carol Seavey

Save The Date

What: 2008 Lowcountry Buddy Walk

When: Sunday, October 5

Where: Etiwan Park, Daniel Island

How: Registration begins 12:30 p.m.
Walk begins 3 p.m.



Last year, more than 3,000 people joined the many children, teens and adults with Down syndrome who live in the Lowcountry to promote inclusion and acceptance!



Renew Your Membership

It is time to renew or begin your DSAL membership. Thank you for your support and we look forward to another successful year!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

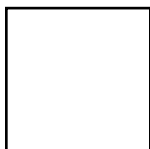
Phone: _____

If a parent, child's name: _____ Date of birth: _____

General \$25 **Sustaining** \$50 **Benefactor** \$100

I would like to give an additional gift \$ _____

295 Seven Farms Drive, Suite C-190
Daniel Island, SC 29494



Please mail contribution to:
DSAL
295 Seven Farms Drive, Suite C-190
Daniel Island, SC 29492