



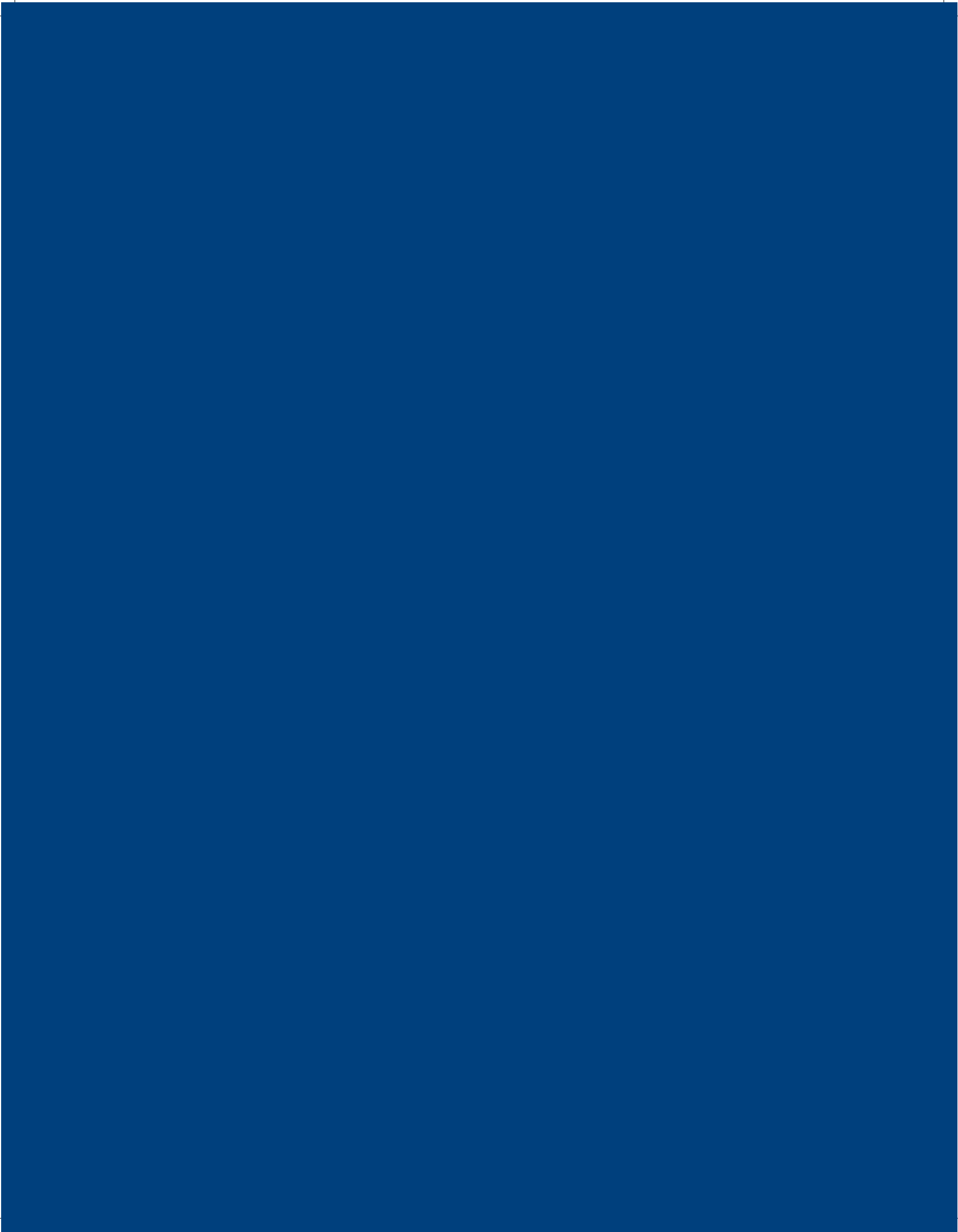
DSAWM

Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan

2018 Annual Report



Nicole Corder
PHOTOGRAPHY





At the **Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan** we advocate for and provide services and programming through all stages of life to individuals with Down syndrome and their families. We are committed to creating communities that embrace Down syndrome, empower individuals, and promote opportunities for meaningful lives.



www.dsawm.org

  /DownSyndromeAssociationofWestMichigan

  @DSAWM



DSAWM is 501(c)(3) nonprofit and an accredited charity with the Better Business Bureau.



OUR TEAM



As we celebrate 2018, we reflect on all the great things that have happened because of the relationships that the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan have helped facilitate. We have welcomed three new board members, partnered with 23 local organizations, and offered five new programs to members in the past year. Over 2,300 people participated in and were impacted by our programs and events in 2018 and every week over 3,500 people receive our Weekly Update to read about all the great things that are available to our families and members.

Yet, we know that we can do more! There are many families impacted by Down syndrome that we can be serving, but they simply don't know about the DSAWM. I urge you to talk to the families of children and adults with Down syndrome when you meet them in your community and ask if they are members of the Association. We offer programs, support, and financial assistance to our families. Most importantly, we offer the village that it takes to raise a child with Down syndrome, including the friendships and social structure of people who understand the unique experience of loving someone with Down syndrome.

In 2019, the DSAWM Foundation is kicking off our endowment campaign to raise \$6,000,000 over the next 5 years so that the Association will forever be sustainable. We are planning now so that families in fifty years will still be served. Please watch for opportunities to get involved and help make this campaign a success now and for our future.

"Society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."
-Anonymous Greek proverb

Jennifer DeVault
Executive Director, DSAWM

YOUR BOARD & STAFF

Staff

Jennifer DeVault, Executive Director

Nate Clark, Program Director

Victoria Hart, Administrative Assistant

Board Leadership

Tom Hackett, Board President

Brad Rivard, Vice President

David Wood, Treasurer

Erica Bode, Secretary

Roshelle Seals, Secretary
(through May 2018)

Board Members At Large

Lisa Glover

Patty Langlois

Maria Nykerk

Maureen O'Brien

Florine Paul

Mike Wolff



FINANCIAL REPORT



Revenue	Dollars	Percentage of Total Revenue
<i>Fundraising Events</i>	\$133,446	47.3%
<i>Public Support</i>	\$78,962	28%
<i>Grants</i>	\$59,700	21.1%
<i>Member Dues</i>	\$8,614	3.1%
<i>Program Revenue</i>	\$1,577	0.5%
Total Revenue	\$282,299	

Expenses	Dollars	Percentage of Total Expenditures
<i>Programs & Services</i>	\$173,851	65.2%
<i>Administrative & Management</i>	\$58,201	21.8%
<i>Fundraising Costs</i>	\$34,724	13%
Total Expenses	\$266,776	



In 2018, the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan Foundation donated **\$48,000** to DSAWM. An additional **\$1,000** was gifted in community giving to Arts in Motion's Chair Affair.



2018 IN F

A YEAR OF



Programming for Our Youngest Members...

Collaboration is an important programming strategy for DSAWM. In 2018, we worked with several members and community partners to provide new engagement opportunities for our service area. Grand Valley State University's Occupational Therapy (GVSU OT) students collaborated with us on a series of playgroups for our youngest members. These monthly gatherings encouraged socialization in a playful environment with activities promoting fine and gross motor skill development and sensory integration. Hazel's Hangout, a summer playgroup created in partnership with DSAWM parent Sarah Szuminski, focused on similar goals for members under 5 years old. In the spring and fall, we enlisted the instruction of therapist and DSAWM parent Sarah Feaster for Baby Sign Language. During the 4-week program, parents and their young children learned signs from American Sign Language to improve communication before the development of speech.

...And for Our Oldest

Members aged 14 and older make up almost half of DSAWM's service population of individuals with Down syndrome. The transition into young adulthood is an important time for families as they begin preparing their loved ones with Down syndrome for a more independent life. Disability Advocates of Kent County (DAKC) is a fantastic resource for families entering this period of transition. Last spring, we partnered with DAKC to offer a self-advocacy and employment skills series for our members. The interactive program equipped 12 members with the skills to speak up, make decisions, problem solve, understand their rights and responsibilities, and prepare for employment. A supplemental series in collaboration with GVSU's OT program was then offered during the summer to introduce further skills for independent living. Participants focused on cooking and meal preparation, grocery shopping, exercise, cleaning and chores, socialization, and community mobility.

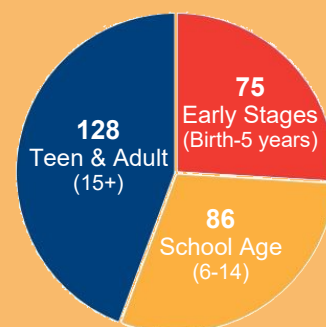


Stepping Up to the Plate

DSAWM's Step Up for Down Syndrome fundraiser and celebration has grown over the past 22 years from only a handful of participants to now the largest Down syndrome awareness event in Michigan! On September 22nd, 1,255 walkers gathered at Fifth Third Ballpark to celebrate their loved ones with Down syndrome and support DSAWM. We also welcomed longtime donor Dan Vos Construction as our first title sponsor for the event. Together, our walkers, donors, and sponsors helped us hit a home run and raise \$138,000 to fund the many programs and services that DSAWM offers our members. This year's Step Up for Down Syndrome event will be Saturday, September 21, 2019. We will be returning to Fifth Third Ballpark and look forward to turning it up to 11 with our theme "Rockin' an Extra Chromosome!"

- In 2018, DSAWM served 285 member families across 12 West Michigan counties.
- Including individuals with Down syndrome and their relatives, our service population was nearly 1,000 people.
- In addition to our membership base, DSAWM also partnered with 23 local organizations for programming and events throughout the year.

Members with Down Syndrome by Age Group



REVIEW

OF GROWTH



iCan Bike!

Learning to ride a bike is a milestone in a child's life, but for kids with Down syndrome that skill may take a bit longer to achieve. Last summer, DSAWM once again partnered with iCan Shine, a national organization that provides recreational activities for individuals with disabilities, to offer iCan Bike Camp to our members. In July, staff and 300 volunteers assisted 40 children in learning to ride a bike. The camp, held at East Kentwood High School, welcomes dozens of riders every summer and we are proud to offer it free of charge to our members. As we continue to expand our programming outreach and offer new opportunities across our service area, we have decided to make Bike Camp a bi-annual program. The next camp will be held in summer 2020.



New Programs

We were excited to offer 5 new programs to members in 2018: Springtime OT Playgroup, Hazel's Hangout, Skill Building Series: Self Advocacy & Employment, Summer OT Teen Group, and Music Therapy.

Music Therapy

Every year, DSAWM looks for new and exciting ways to engage and support our members. We were incredibly excited when a local music therapy student reached out interested in working with our members. Music therapy integrates music and therapy to address the physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of an individual. By offering sessions in a one-on-one setting, therapist Leah Brown, MT-BC was able to focus on the unique needs of each member. Improvement goals she emphasized through therapeutic song and instrument intervention included speech, fine and gross motor skills, and maintaining attention. The program was beneficial for members of all ages, attracting those as young as 1 all the way to 48 years old.



Program & Event Attendance

16 unique programs and 8 events were offered in 2018 and attendance was outstanding! 279 members participated in at least one program and 2,342 people attended events during the year.



New Members

In 2017, we welcomed 29 new member families. In 2018, we saw a 168% increase as we welcomed 49 new member families!

THE FOUNDATION

The Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan Foundation (DSAWMF) provides a permanent source of principal to ensure funds will be available in the future to support individuals with Down syndrome and their families. DSAWMF is a not-for-profit organization funded by cash, securities, and assets, and is independent from DSAWM. Though a separate entity, the Foundation supports the Association's mission of empowering individuals with Down syndrome and supporting their communities.



Annually, DSAWMF hosts The Winners Cup Benefit, a Kentucky Derby themed party and auction to benefit the Foundation. The event has consistently raised over \$100,000 for the Foundation every year it has been held. One of the event's live auction items is a paddle raise in direct support of the services DSAWM provides. In 2018, proceeds from the auction amounting to \$19,750 directly supported DSAWM programming for all ages. Over \$117,000 was raised overall, making the 2018 Winners Cup Benefit the second highest grossing in the event's history!



DSAWMF Board

Board Leadership

Bob Boylen, Board President

Jennifer DeVault, Executive Director, DSAWM

Thomas DeVault, Fund Development Director

David Wood, Treasurer

Members At Large

Bill Blanton (through May 2018)

James Cook

Cameron Dolbow

Jaimie Lomonaco

Jim Scarlett

Robin Zondervan



 /WinnersCupBenefit

6 IN 5 ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN



ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

FOR THE DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION
OF WEST MICHIGAN FOUNDATION



The 6 in 5 Endowment Campaign aims to raise \$6,000,000 over the next 5 years in a permanent endowment. At the end of 2018, our endowment totaled \$1,125,322. As we continue to grow this account, the interest will provide the financial resources to ensure that the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan will remain operational forever. To learn more, visit foundation.dsawm.org.

Give online at foundation.dsawm.org

Gifts may be mailed to
DSAWMF

233 Fulton St. E, Ste. 124
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

LOOKING AHEAD



Fishing For Talent

DSAWM is thrilled to be offering several new events and experiences for our members in 2019. On June 9th we hope to see members and their families at our Fishing Derby on Gun Lake. Veteran anglers will be on site to educate on fishing etiquette and teach lessons. Members are then encouraged to join us the following week for the Member Talent Show on June 13th at Cornerstone University's Matthews Performing Arts Center. Thanks to a generous grant from and partnership with Kapable, Kellogg's Business Employee Resource Group dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities and their caregivers, the talent show is sure to be a highlight of summer 2019.

Santa Claus is Coming to Downtown

The DSAWM Member Holiday Party is one of our favorite and most popular annual events. Every December hundreds of members and their families gather at Frederik Meijer Gardens to mingle, take photos with Santa, and celebrate the season. This year, we want to give members a new experience. The 2019 Holiday Party is moving to the Grand Rapids Public Museum! Not only will members have free access to the museum's exciting exhibits, but they will also be given exclusive access to the iconic Spillman Carousel and a private holiday-themed planetarium show! And don't worry—Santa already has our new location in his GPS and will be joining us for festive photos and to hear everyone's holiday wishes. More details will be shared with members later in the year.



Step Up to the Beat

Are you ready to rock? Our annual Step Up For Down Syndrome Walk will be held on Saturday, September 21st at Fifth Third Ballpark and we look forward to turning it up to 11 with all of you for this year's theme, Rockin' an Extra Chromosome! Now in it's 23rd year, Step Up continues to be Michigan's largest Down syndrome awareness event. The walk also funds nearly half of DSAWM's annual budget, so be sure to spread the word and invite your friends, neighbors, and coworkers to this fun, family-friendly celebration. Start forming your teams and fundraising now! Registration will open at dsawm.org in June.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 9 – Fishing Derby at Yankee Springs Recreation Area

June 13 – Member Talent Show at Matthews Performing Arts Center at Cornerstone University

July 28 – Member Picnic at Tunnel Park

August 10 – Oh Baby at Grand Rapids Children's Museum

September 21 – Step Up For Down Syndrome at Fifth Third Ballpark

December 8 – Member Holiday Party at Grand Rapids Public Museum

A complete list of our 2019 programming and event schedule can be found at dsawm.org/calendar.

WE APPRECIATE YOU

DSAWM thanks the generous donors who made contributions in 2018. Over the past three decades, the organization has grown from just six couples meeting in a Grand Rapids basement to now serving almost 300 families across West Michigan. Your financial gifts have allowed DSAWM to continue to grow and make a real and lasting impact in the West Michigan Down syndrome community. Thank you for your support. We simply could not do it without you!

A special thanks to the following donors who made gifts of \$1,000 or more in 2018.

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John R. Bertsch
Best Financial Credit Union
Bissell, Inc.
Bob Boylen
Robert Bytwerk
Cadillac Jeepers
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Dan Vos Construction Company
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Gazelle Sports Foundation
Goldfish Swim School of Farmington Hills

Steve and Brenda Heacock
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Silver Bullet Firearms and Training
Spectrum Health
Steel Systems, Inc.
Varnum
Aaron and Jodi Veldheer
West Michigan Eyecare Associates

WAYS TO GIVE

Financial Giving

Interested in making a personal contribution to DSAWM? Maybe you would like to donate in honor or memory of a loved one. Or perhaps you want to get everyone involved by hosting a fundraiser to benefit DSAWM. Every dollar is appreciated and supports the vital programs and services offered to members.

Give online at dsawm.org/donate

Gifts may be mailed to

DSAWM
233 Fulton St. E, Ste. 124
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Volunteer

With dozens of programs offered year-round, there is always a need for an extra set of hands. Whether it's checking in participants at the Step Up For Down Syndrome Walk, serving cookies at our Holiday Party, or swinging a racket with members at our Buddy Up Tennis program, DSAWM can always use your enthusiasm! **Visit dsawm.org/volunteer to join our volunteer roster.**

Become a Member

Do you have a loved one with Down syndrome? Join DSAWM! Becoming a member of the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan connects you with Michigan's largest Down syndrome support network, programs for individuals of all ages, and resources for families and professionals.

Visit dsawm.org/membership or call 616-956-3488 for more information.







DSAWM

Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan

233 Fulton Street E, Ste 124, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616.956.3488

www.dsawm.org