

## MAY 2012 Newsletter

Issue No 12

### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY- MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>

#### **PLEASE JOIN US TONIGHT- AT 6:15PM- FOR OUR MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION**

Dinner will be served; Mom's will be honored; we will also be having a guest speaker, Dr. Capone, at 7pm. There will be a movie playing for the children while Dr. Capone speaks to the group.

#### **VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED**

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. is actively looking for sincere and responsible individual's ages 18 to 80 to help throughout the year in various meetings and activities. Volunteer responsibilities would range from child activities (as mentioned above), helping with fundraising events and mailings, and/or providing various professional expertises that would benefit our families. For more information on being a volunteer, please contact Denny Weikert at 703-928-2494 or email [dweikert@friendsoffredco.org](mailto:dweikert@friendsoffredco.org)

#### **SAVE THE DATE: 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BUDDY WALK DATE SET FOR SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2012:**

Much preparation is going to be needed to accommodate our ever growing group and outreach programs, so PLEASE, if you have not been involved in previous years or are new to the group, we NEED YOU!!! There are many volunteer opportunities available and needed to make this day a HUGE success for our group and our Down syndrome awareness efforts. Committees are forming now, contact Denny for more information.

#### **KIDS CORNER**

Every month we strive to showcase a different child from our group in our Kids Corner. If your child has not yet been showcased, please send a picture and a bio to [holly.mohler@yahoo.com](mailto:holly.mohler@yahoo.com)

#### **NEWSLETTER**

This is our 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the newsletter- let us know how we are doing? Are there things you would like to see added to the newsletter? Send your suggestions and comments to [holly.mohler@yahoo.com](mailto:holly.mohler@yahoo.com)



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### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



A man came home from work and found his 3 children outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn around the garden. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house and no sign of the dog. Walking in the door, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over; the throw rug was against one wall. In the front room, the TV was on loudly, the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, the fridge door was open wide, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door. He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she might be ill, or that something seriously bad had happened. He was met with a small trickle of water as it made its way out the bathroom door. As he peered inside he found wet towels, scummy soap and more toys strewn over the floor. Miles of toilet paper lay in a heap in the toilet, and toothpaste had been smeared over the mirror and walls. As he rushed to the bedroom, he found his wife still curled up in the bed in her pajamas, reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled and asked how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked, 'What happened here today?' She again smiled and answered, 'You know how every day when you come home from work and you ask me 'What in the world do I do all day?' ...

"Yes," was his incredulous reply...

She answered, 'Well, today I didn't do it.'

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### SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AWARENESS

#### F.R.I.E.N.D.S SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Family Resource, Information & Education Network for Down Syndrome (F.R.I.E.N.D.S.) believes that our future lies in the hands of our teachers/instructors. The better we can assist them in achieving their goals and set them up for success, the better our kids have a chance for a brighter future. F.R.I.E.N.D.S. is offering scholarships of up to \$1000.00. To be considered by this organization you must be a legal resident of the United States, at least a full-time student in a public or a state government recognized private school to be considered for this scholarship. There are two further areas of qualification of this scholarship:

- a. You must be an individual with Down syndrome seeking higher education in any field of your choice;
- OR
- b. You are student that plans on at least a bachelor's degree in Special Education or a career in helping the needs of those individuals with Down syndrome.

Application forms are available online or contact us at the address below

All applications must be postmarked by **June 30, 2012**.

The scholarships will be awarded at our major fundraiser-11<sup>th</sup> Annual **Buddy Walk**, on **September 22, 2012**.

Recipients of the scholarships will be notified prior to the walk.

Please go to this link to download a copy. <http://friendsoffredco.org/2012/04/24/friends-scholarships/>

#### DOWN SYNDROME MARYLAND LICENSE PLATE

Show your advocacy on a daily basis by showing our "colors"- see attached flyer



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### SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AWARENESS (CON'T)

#### MISS AMAZING PAGEANT

We had several local F.R.I.E.N.D.S. girls participate in this year's Miss Amazing Pageant. The Frederick News Post printed an article about the event (see below). Pictures of some of the winners are posted in Our Kids Corner section.

#### **We are all SO PROUD of our girls!!!**

"Sammie Gibbons strutted across the stage during the evening wear portion of the Maryland Miss Amazing Pageant, stopped at center stage, spun around; put her right hand on her hip while staring at the audience, then exited the stage to a round of applause.

Her mother and sister stood in the second to last row of the audience giggling while taking as many pictures as possible.

Sammie, 14, was participating in her first pageant, but she isn't your typical beauty contestant.

Sammie has Down syndrome and was one of 11 girls with disabilities participating in Maryland's first Miss Amazing Pageant on Saturday at the International Community Church in Frederick.

The mission of the pageant is to provide an opportunity for girls and young women with disabilities to build confidence and self-esteem in a supportive environment.

"They're not judged on what they can or can't do," said Sammie's mother, Jean Harley. "Everybody wins."

The pageant was organized by 16-year-old Gov. Thomas Johnson High junior Kadija Bah, who heard about the pageant on Nickelodeon and contacted the organizers to bring a show to Maryland.

"It was amazing," Bah said after the nearly two-hour pageant. "All of these girls deserve trophies and sashes after tonight."

More than 80 people attended the pageant, which featured the girls introducing themselves, showcasing their evening wear and performing a talent such as dancing, playing an instrument or singing.

Bah said part of her inspiration came from baby-sitting her neighbor Gabriella Rodriguez, who has Down syndrome.

"She is just as special as everyone else," Bah said.

Rodriguez's mother, Dana Specht, said her daughter had been "so excited" in the weeks leading up to the pageant, especially trying on all the different dresses.

Although the pageant started at 5 p.m., the contestants arrived at the International Community Church at 9 a.m. to begin preparations. They had an opportunity to learn from current Miss Maryland, Miss Urbana and Miss Maryland Outstanding Teen pageant winners, and have their hair and makeup professionally done.

Contestants ranged from 7 years old to those in their 30s.

Bah said she was thankful for all the volunteer support, especially from the church, and she is hoping to make the pageant an annual event.

Standing onstage after being named first princess in her division, Brigitte King blew a kiss to her father, Rex, sitting in the second row. After the pageant, King said he was "incredibly proud" of his daughter for participating in her first pageant.

"It was something she was really looking forward to," he said." (Retrieved on April 28, 2012 from <http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?storyID=134794>)



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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

#### MAY

**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>- MOTHER'S DAY DINNER & F.R.I.E.N.D.S. MEETING- 6:15PM DINNER**

**SPECIAL SPEAKER- DR. CAPONE- 7pm**

**MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>- GOOD NEWS HAVEN EVENT- FROM 1-4PM AT THE MT AIRY FAIRGROUNDS**

"Good News" Event for special needs/disabilities families and friends. Everyone is welcome! Come and have fun! Be supported and encouraged. And meet new friends.

Join us for food, pony rides, games and prizes, moon bounces, water play, and live music.

This event takes place rain or shine ... and admission is FREE!

Event takes place from 1-4pm at the Mt. Airy Fairgrounds, 1008 Twin Arch drive, Mount Airy, MD 21771 (intersection of Twin Arch Drive and Route 27).

Sponsored by Damascus Road Community Church and the Haven Ministry (special needs/disabilities).

**MAY 15TH- RESPONSE NEEDED FOR SECAC- SEE ATTACHED FLYER**

#### JUNE

**JUNE 5TH- MONTHLY MEETING & SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**

**KELLY PRESNELL**

**FROM THE YMCA KIDS UNLIMITED PROGRAM**

**(We will also be voting on the movie to be seen in July\*)**

**FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION- KEYS GAME NIGHT**

**WELCOME PICNIC FOR NEW FAMILIES- location/time to follow**

**END OF SCHOOL YEAR DANCE- details to follow\*\*pending a location to hold the dance**

**\*\*DOES ANYONE HAVE A SOUND SYSTEM OR KNOW OF A DJ THAT COULD WORK OUR DANCE PARTY FOR A FEW HOURS? PLEASE CONTACT TRACY AT [tbarnard02@gmail.com](mailto:tbarnard02@gmail.com)**



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#### JULY

**JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>- MONTHLY MEETING- BUDDY WALK BRAINSTORMING/PLANNING**

**JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>- MOVIE NIGHT at MUMC- 7pm**

**JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>- 22<sup>ND</sup>- NDSC CONVENTION- F.R.I.E.N.D.S is offering the first 20 families to sign up a \$75 reimbursement check for the conference- sign up TODAY!**

#### AUGUST

**AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>- MONTHLY MEETING**

**FAMILY NIGHT OUT- BOWLING- Saturday in August**

#### SEPTEMBER

**WEEK PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>- STUFF THE BAG NIGHT- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>- BUDDY WALK**

#### OCTOBER

**OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>- MONTHLY MEETING- DRESS UP FOR HALLOWEEN PARTY**

**FAMILY DAY- HARVEST FARM- Saturday in October**

#### NOVEMBER

**NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>- THANKSGIVING DINNER**

**TECHNIQUES FOR SUCCESS CONFERENCE- details to follow**

#### DECEMBER

**DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>- CHRISTMAS PARTY**

#### MISC:

**F.R.I.E.N.D.S PHOTO SHARING- [HTTP://DOWNBUTUP.SHUTTERFLY.COM/](http://downbutup.shutterfly.com/)**

**SHARE PHOTOS OF THE GROUP AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SYNDROME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

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### **OUR KIDS CORNER- WINNERS OF THE MISS AMAZING PAGEANT**

#### **MISS SAMMIE GIBBONS**

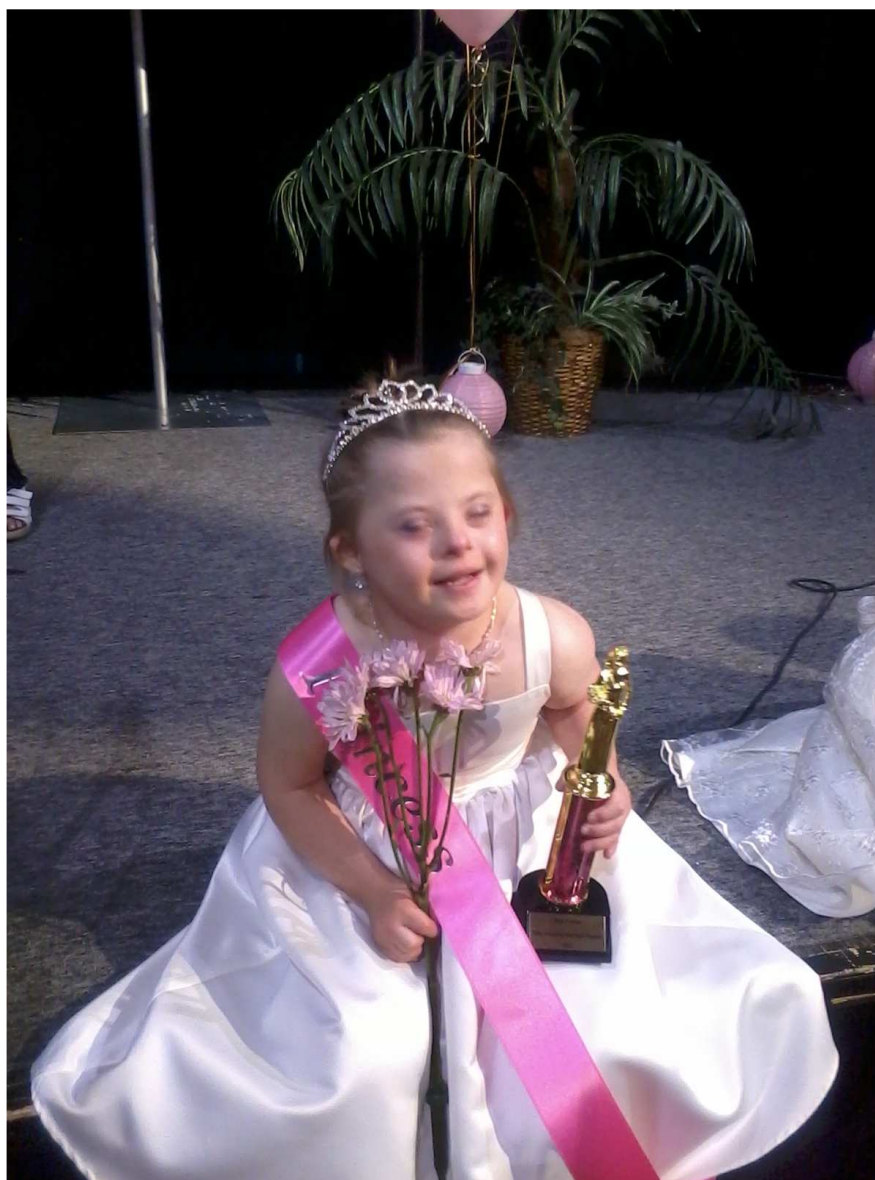


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#### **MISS SAMMIE RAY**





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### *AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS*



Newsletter Committee:

Holly Mohler ([holly.mohler@yahoo.com](mailto:holly.mohler@yahoo.com))