



Family Resource, Information & Education Network
for Down Syndrome • Frederick County, Maryland



Dear Corporate Friend,

Down syndrome...what does that mean to you? To the majority of the population, just to hear that brings thoughts like retardation, not capable, slow learning, handicap, different, and most of the time...not a perfect child.

Well, the F.R.I.E.N.D.S. group was formed and organized to dispel all of the myths and labels and replace them with...**everything is possible, imagine the possibilities and small steps... giant strides.**

Each and every one of these individuals can have a great influence on everyone one of us and always in the positive light. It is the mission of F.R.I.E.N.D.S. to raise the awareness of Down syndrome in our communities through education in our schools, medical communities, business communities and families.

This year F.R.I.E.N.D.S. is hosting our 13th annual Buddy Walk on September 20th and we are hoping for strong support from the business and medical communities to help us continue and expand our mission. Some of the key programs we have in place and have been very successful in influencing are:

- Sponsoring an annual teachers conference known as Techniques for Success giving our teachers at all grade levels new and better techniques to teach our children in the main stream classroom
- Providing scholarships to students who want to continue their education in fields that will benefit individuals with Down syndrome
- Providing grants to families to assist in medical, therapeutic or educational expenses
- Working closely with the Department of Justice and local enforcement to develop a training curriculum for law enforcement personnel and first responders pertaining to Down syndrome
- Hosted the areas' first bike camp for special needs individuals called **iCan Bike** with outstanding success!
- Hosting our first car show this October 5th at the Harry Grove Stadium to raise awareness within the business community
- Worked collaboratively with all Maryland Down syndrome affiliates to lobby and have passed and signed by the Gov. O'Malley SB654, the Down Syndrome Information Bill that now provides every medical practices in the state up to date information about Down syndrome to expectant parents, both pre and post natal

To continue to fund these efforts and more, we need your generous support. By choosing to join us, your company will be front and center to 1000 plus walkers who plan on attending the day of the event, exposure to the various media outlets and our website, which includes a Facebook following in the thousands! **Can we count on your support?**

Please feel free to call me with any questions. I can be reached at 301-676-4420 or via email at dweikert@friendsofredco.org . I will look forward to speaking with you soon.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Denny Weikert
President