



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



Dear Corporate Friend,

One in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, making Down syndrome the most common chromosomal condition. While great advances have been made in the medical research and public policy arenas to enhance the lives of individuals with Down syndrome, there is much more that can be done to meet the needs of the Down syndrome community.

Family Resource Information & Education Network for Down Syndrome, "F.R.I.E.N.D.S.", was reformed in 1999 to be a support and resource group for expectant and new parents of children with Down syndrome. We have grown to provide many additional programs to support the claim that our children are more alike than different. It is the mission of F.R.I.E.N.D.S. to raise awareness and acceptance of Down syndrome in our communities through education in our schools, medical and business communities, and families.

This year F.R.I.E.N.D.S. is hosting our 14th annual Buddy Walk on September 19th 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 our 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
- Hosting our second "iCan Bike" camp to teach individuals with disabilities how to ride a two-wheel bicycle.
- Providing grants to families to assist in medical, therapeutic or educational expenses
- Hosting our second car show this August 8th at the FSK Mall parking lot to raise awareness within the business community
- Worked collaboratively with many Maryland Down syndrome affiliates to support the passage of the Able Act and the Ethan Saylor alliance for self-advocates as educators.

*To continue to fund these efforts and more, we need your generous support. **I ask that you please consider donating an item for our annual silent auction and basket raffle that will be held the day of our Buddy Walk.** The fundraising efforts associated with our annual Buddy Walk are the largest and most important of the year for F.R.I.E.N.D.S. All donations are tax deductible. **Can we count on your support?***

Please feel free to call me with any questions. I can be reached at 301-788-6806 or via email at eroutzahn@friendsoffredco.org. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Evan Routzahn
President

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. 501(c)3: 20-8286772