ANNUAL REPORT
2019

Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

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Capacity Building

In 2019, the Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization embarked on a Capacity Building Project, funded by a $50,000 grant from the Children’s Services Council. The project results include:

- Adoption of Vision 2020, a strategic plan, based on the input of our families, which will add more stand-alone educational workshops and social opportunities to our programming
- Creation of a Fundraising Plan, designed to increase our revenues for expanded programming
- Development of a new logo, website, videos and p.r. campaigns to build awareness about people with Down syndrome and the Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization
- Centralization of all Gold Coast records and billing in a single database
- Upgrades in computers and phone systems

Social Programs

Hosted Over 500 Guests At Our
- Valentine’s Day Party (donated by the WPB Elks Lodge 1352)
- Uncorked Wine Tasting
- Annual Holiday Party
- Monthly Nights Out

Best Start

- Served 20 families of diverse backgrounds with music therapy, advocacy and early education support
- Designed a new program with an occupational therapy component called Child’s Play to roll out in 2021

Support & Information

- Supplied support and information to 1300 people via phone or in-person meetings
- Provided assistance to 50 Spanish speaking families
- Served 20 families through our Up & Down Support Group on Behaviors
Educational Advocacy

- Served 135 families, advocating for appropriate school placements, goals and services and/or empowering them to successfully advocate on their own for their children
- Provided representation at 75 meetings
- Provided support to an additional 40 families by speaking on the phone, reviewing IEP drafts, and answering questions through email
- Helped 100% of the families served receive the placement they wanted, 97% of which were inclusive placements
- Worked with the School District of Palm Beach County on creating inclusive Preschool models.

The Learning Program

- Provided instruction and materials for 55 parents and 55 children
- Added a session for Spanish speaking families
- Impacted 100% of participating families, who said that the program greatly improved their children's education
- Resulted in
  - 91% of children being placed in general education classes
  - 92% of families completing the class with an average to high growth in knowledge
  - 92% of families are using the class materials and techniques once or multiple times a week

Exceptional Educators

- Trained 46 educators on how to be effective teachers for children with Down syndrome.
- To date have trained 577 educators
- Resulted in a 430% growth in knowledge for participants from pre to post-test levels

Thank you to our partner, the School District of Palm Beach.
25th Annual Walk for Down Syndrome

The DownRight ExtraOrdinary Walk grossed over $207,000 and had nearly 2,000 attendees. It was one of our most successful and best attended walks ever. There have been many positive changes for people with Down syndrome since we began building awareness a quarter of a century ago. But there is still a long path ahead.

Adult Enrichment

Adult Enrichment Programs (Theater, Art, Fitness with Friends, Joyful Dance (new in 2019), SAIL and the Next Chapter Book Club)

- Provided nearly 300 hours of programming for nearly 40 adults.

Past theater class member Zach Gottsagen starred in the movie *The Peanut Butter Falcon* and became the first person with Down syndrome to be an Oscar presenter! He is pictured with co-star Shia LaBeouf.

Community Partners

Extraordinary Charities
Global Down Syndrome Foundation
Down Syndrome Foundation CA
Boca Regional Hospital
Clinical Genetics DiMaggio Hospital
Palm Beach Gardens Medical Ctr
Good Samaritan Medical Ctr
Palms West Hospital
Nikolaus Children’s Hospital
Bethesda Hospital
Lakeside Medical Ctr

School District PBC
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Down Syndrome Society
Florida Atlantic University
Junior League Boca Raton
Easter Seals/Early Steps
Special Needs Advisory Council
Wellington Medical Ctr
Right on Q Theater
Joyful Dance
United Spectrum Center

Nisonger Center Ohio State
DIS
Children’s Services Council
Diversity & Equity Committee
FL Department of Education
Council for In-Transition Youth
APD
Spirit of Giving
Lake Worth High FFEA
Funders

Palm Beach Sheriff Employees  
Children’s Services Council  
Better World Books Foundation  
Honda Classic Cares Foundation  
4 Ocean  
IBMSECU  
Badcock Home Furniture  
Delray Beach Elks # 1770  
Royal Palm Properties  
Family Care Council # 9  
Therma Seal Roof Systems  
Palm Beach Mortgage Group  
MVP Sports  
Kimley-Horn Foundation  
Palm Beach Kennel Club  
Get Out Front Media  
The Marino Family Foundation  
Batchelor Foundation  
Walmart Foundation  
Dollar General Foundation  
Greenberg Traurig, P.A.  
Synovus Bank  
Cohen & Son Wealth Management  
West Palm Beach Elks #1352  
Allergy & Asthma Specialists  
IFS Corporation of S. Florida  
Plastridge Insurance Company  
City Furniture  
All Saints Catholic School  
Englert Inc.  
Two Men and A Truck  
PODS  
The Royal DJs  
G4S  
Cruise Industry Foundation  
IECA Foundation  
Soroptomist Club  
AT&T  
Publix  
Southern Dance Company  
Searcy Law  
Douglas Elliman Real Estate  
Tuscany 3PL  
Applebee’s  
FPL  
Cemex  
Palm Beach Podiatry  
Starbucks  
Earth Fare

Income and Expenses

$ Income

- Contributions: $257,106.91
- Grants: $133,594.54
- Walk: $10,851.38
- Earned Revenue: $129,647.66

$ Expenses

- Program: $233,220.46
- Administration: $27,337.83
- Fund Development: $27,427.43
- Misc.: $7,200