Over 285,000 Americans Across The Country Are Expected to Walk This Fall In Support of Down Syndrome Awareness

Event Announcement
West Chester, Pennsylvania (Newsbox) 12-Sep-2012
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Summary
12th Annual Chester County Buddy Walk Sunday, October 14, 2012 1-4 pm West Goshen Park- 5 Points and Fernhill Rds, West Chester, PA The Buddy Walk is sponsored by the non-profit Chester County Down Syndrome Interest Group and promotes awareness and inclusion for people with Down syndrome. Join hundreds of your neighbors in participating in this fun event with entertainment and crafts for kids! Register online at www.ccdsig.org to walk.

Message
The 12th Annual Chester County Buddy WalkÂ® will take place on Sunday, October 14, 2012 at West Goshen Community Park in West Chester, PA. On-site registration for the event will start at 12:30 p.m. on the day of the walk though organizers are encouraging early online registration for participants and sponsorships to make sure there are enough t-shirts to go around.

"â€œThe Buddy WalkÂ® is the CCDSIGâ€™s flagship event â€" it is our most important fundraiser. Every step we take and every dollar we raise at the Buddy WalkÂ® helps us to provide emotional, educational, and social support to people with Down syndrome, th" - CCDSIG Board member and event chairperson Colleen Brennan [Pre-Approved Quote]

In addition to raising awareness and funds needed to conduct education, advocacy and support services, the Buddy WalkÂ® is a great place to meet other families and learn about Down syndrome. Last year, more than 700 people from Chester County, PA and surrounding areas participated in this family friendly event which includes crafts and games for the kids, magic shows, and tasty and healthy low-cost meals and beverages. At this yearâ€™s event, walkers will also enjoy the rhythm and rhymes from Makinâ€™ Music, the excitement of the Pocono Raceway Pace Car and its kid friendly mascot Tricky the Fox and helpful information from community partners.
October is National Down Syndrome Awareness month and the Buddy WalkÂ® annually coincides with the national spotlight and represents an opportunity for the community to come together in support of and participation in a worthy cause. Last year, the Chester County Buddy WalkÂ® was able to raise $43,000, an astounding 23% increase over the previous year. The goal for the Buddy WalkÂ® this year is to raise at least $50,000.
â€œThe Buddy WalkÂ® is the CCDSIGâ€™s flagship event â€" it is our most important fundraiser,â€• noted CCDSIG Board member and event chairperson Colleen Brennan. â€œEvery step we take and every dollar we raise at the Buddy WalkÂ® helps us to provide emotional, educational, and social support to people with Down syndrome, their families, and the professionals who serve them. I am truly looking forward to another great Buddy Walk this year that brings our community together for a day of fun, inspiration, and celebration,â€• added Brennan.
The Buddy WalkÂ® was established by NDSS in 1995 and has grown to be the world's largest and most recognizable Down syndrome awareness program, with over 250 Walks taking place in 50 states and select international countries. Each year 285,000 walkers collectively raise approximately $11.5 million which is used to support local programs and services as well as national advocacy initiatives.
The Buddy Walk is supported by some great celebrities who lend their talent to the program by appearing in the PSA. These include TV Host Nancy O'Dell, TV Host Meredith Vieira, Actor John C. McGinley, Actor and NDSS Goodwill Ambassador Chris Burke, and Actress Andrea Friedman, among others. â€œItâ€™s very important to raise awareness and make a difference for people with Down syndrome by participating in a Buddy Walk. The focus is not on our disabilities, but on our abilities that count,â€• said Actor and NDSS Goodwill Ambassador Chris Burke. â€œAt the Buddy Walk, we all walk together.â€•
The National Buddy Walk Program welcomes participants of all ages and abilities. The goals of the program are to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome and to positively influence local and national policy and practice.
Chester County businesses see the value of the Buddy Walk. Local sponsors include West Chester Soft Pretzel Factory; Peteâ€™s Carwash; Judyâ€™s Healthy Kitchen; Mark Smaltzâ€™s Harley Davidson; Avante Salon and Stream Companies, among others.
The 2012 Buddy Walk National Partners are Regal Entertainment Group, Knology, Okobos, Signing Time, Imagination Movers, VacationRoost and Down Syndrome FootPrint.

Event Information
Event Dates: 14-Oct-2012 thru 15-Oct-2012
Event Time: 1 -4 p.m.
Event Location: West Goshen Community Park in West Chest

Company Statements
About CCDSIG The CCDSIG, founded in 1998, is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support, educate and advocate for people with Down syndrome and their families and, through those efforts help all people to see the â€œupsideâ€• of Down syndrome. To learn more, visit www.ccdsig.org or 610-889-0291. About NDSS The National Down Syndrome Society is a nonprofit organization representing the approximately 400,000 Americans who have this genetic condition. NDSS is committed to being the national advocate for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. To learn more about NDSS, visit www.ndss.org

Contact Information
Natalie Saenz
484-682-8354
natalie.saenz143@gmail.com

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Buddy Walk Down syndrome community event Chester County Down syndrome awareness fundraiser

Categories
Parenting Disability Family Philanthropy

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