



Dear CDSPG Family,

Happy New Year! Thank you for being a part of the CDSPG community. During the last thirty-plus years of our existence, we have built an energized network of families that continually provide each other critical support and information and, in the community, relentless advocacy for Down syndrome. Each year we grow in numbers and strength, and, with vigor, work together to provide more valuable opportunities for people with Down syndrome and the people who love and care for them.

We are so proud of what we accomplished in 2014. Indeed, it was an important year for our community: a year of beginnings.

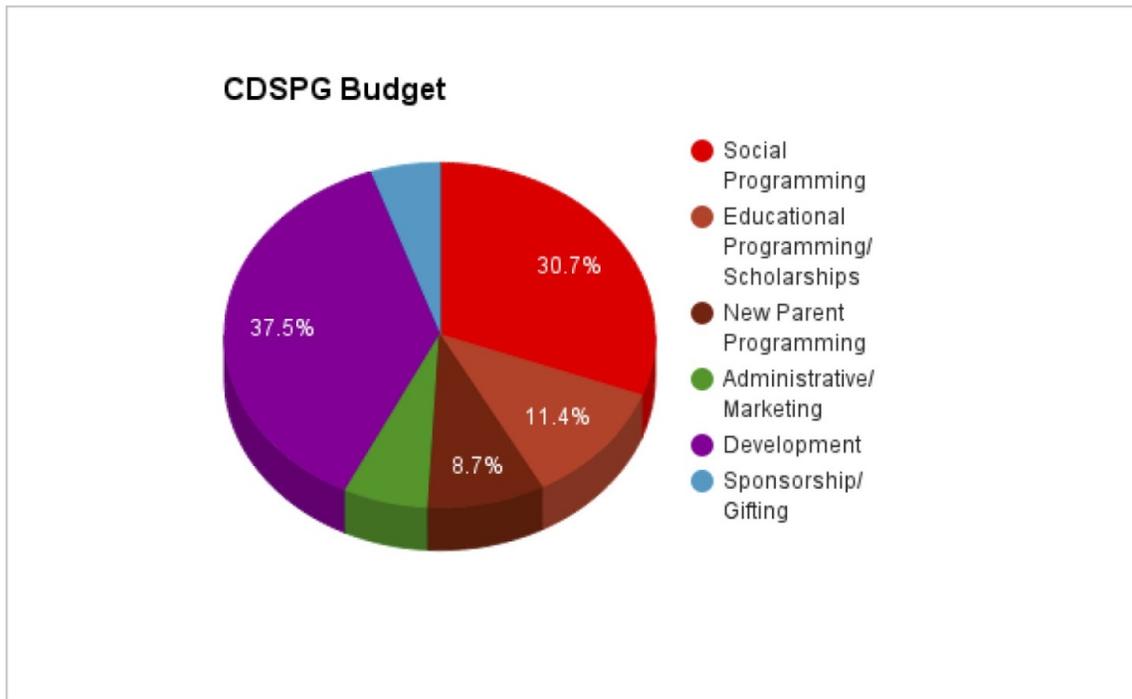
- We launched **Baltimore's first Buddy Walk**, bringing together more than 1,000 people and raising \$20,000 for our Down syndrome programs and services.
- The area's first **medical outreach program** made strides to educate physicians and other medical professionals on best diagnosis practices.
- We began the process for CDPSG's first **strategic plan** to address the changes in our environment and better position the organization for a bright future.
- Our families worked together with the Maryland Down syndrome community to successfully advocate for **two pieces of milestone legislation**: the longtime coming federal ABLE Act, and a statewide law mandating medical practitioners provide an accurate and evidenced-based Down syndrome diagnosis.
- CDSPG **partnered with the region's Down syndrome organizations** to launch the Race4Respect in Washington, D.C., and represent the DS community at the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists conference in Baltimore.

And as we enter 2015, there is much for our CDSPG community to look forward to, including:

- A **strategic plan** to ensure that the information and support provided by the organization is an accurate reflection of the community's needs.
- A new bi-monthly **education series** focusing on special education transitions.

- More **opportunities for teens and young adults with Down syndrome** to participate in experiences that build social and emotional-health skills, including a mentoring program, group counseling, and social activities.
- **Expanding medical outreach** to include formal meet-and-greet opportunities with physicians and getting best practices for delivering a Down syndrome diagnosis into the hands of as many medical practitioners as possible.

2015 CDSPG Budget



In addition to this annual update, please see that **we've enclosed in this mailer two important documents: 1. A list of CDSPG activities, seminars and social events for your 2015 calendar and 2. CDSPG's member survey, which is helping us create a meaningful strategic plan that will guide this organization's future.**

We will continue to touch base with you throughout the year to communicate key information, accomplishments and changes, and help us all stay connected. You can

also find out what's happening with CDSPG on our Web site at our www.cdpsg.org, on our Facebook page, and through the CDSPG listserv. And If you ever have any questions, suggestions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me at courtneydunevant@gmail.com or 443-718-8217.

Best Wishes to You and Your Family,

Courtney Reiter Dunevant

Vice President and President-elect, Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Group