

Maine Down Syndrome Network

# 2016 BUDDY WALK

## Celebrating 16 Years!

2016 marks sixteen years of Buddy Walks in the state of Maine! This year we are proud to sponsor two Buddy Walks, one at Payson Park in Portland, and one at Capitol Park in Augusta.

There is nothing on earth like a Buddy Walk! It's a family reunion and a birthday party and a dance and a carnival all rolled into one! Everyone is happy - joy is actually palpable in the air. Hundreds of people come together to celebrate the Down syndrome community in Maine, and to raise money for Maine Down Syndrome Network.

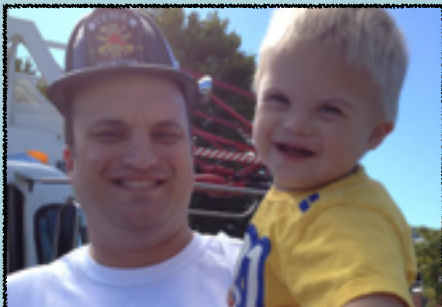
Both locations feature an easy, family friendly walk route, as well as lunch, live musicians and children's entertainers, games, bounce houses, raffles and more!

We'd love for you to join us! [Read on for ways you can help....](#)



## A little history...

The Buddy Walk was created in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society to promote awareness and acceptance of people with Down syndrome, and to raise funds for research, education and advocacy programs. This year, there will be more than 250 walks taking place all around the world!





## ABOUT US



**Founded:** 2001

**Members:** 500+

**501(c)(3):** Yes

**Mission:** MDSN is a network of families, professionals and community members living in the state of Maine who share the common goal of promoting awareness and acceptance of people with Down syndrome. We offer support, education and advocacy to our members and to our communities.

**FMI on MDSN:**  
info@dsmaine.org

## Get involved...



THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH MDSN'S BUDDY WALKS! CONSIDER:

- Organizing a company team to participate on September 25 and/or October 2! Registration and fundraising links can be found at [www.dsmaine.org](http://www.dsmaine.org)!
- Becoming a Buddy Walk Sponsor by offering a monetary donation. (see page 4-5 for details)
- Offering an in-kind donation of your products or services, or sponsor one of the many entertainment and awareness offerings of the day.

We look forward to your participation! We're sure that you'll find that a Buddy Walk is an amazing thing! If you have any questions about sponsorship or other ways to participate, please contact **Jen Greslick** at [jen@dsmaine.org](mailto:jen@dsmaine.org).

### Where does it go?

**Funds raised through the Buddy Walks are used for:**

**MDSN Annual Conference**

**First Call Program**

**Family Support**

**Social Gatherings**

**Mom's Night Outs**

**D.A.D.S.**

**Educator Training & Support**

## NUMBERS

**# of walkers, 2015  
Portland walk**

**575**

**# of walkers, 2015  
Augusta walk**

**125**

**Anticipated 2016  
walkers**

**800**



# In-Kind & Other Opportunities



...

In addition to our Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Blue Ribbon levels of sponsorship, MDSN can offer other opportunities for sponsorship. These include in-kind sponsorships as well as unique opportunities.

## IN-KIND SPONSORSHIPS

**Food** - fruit or pre-packaged snack foods (chips, granola bars, etc.) including gluten-free options.

**Water** - bottled water

**Media** - raising awareness is a key component of the Buddy Walk, and so any promotional opportunities in print media, radio, or television are welcome.

**Tents** - One large tent at each site, and multiple 10X10 tents at Portland site.

**Tables and chairs** - at each site for registration, promotional sales, games, food etc.

**Balloons** - balloon arch in Buddy Walk blue and yellow for each site, as well as several dozen helium balloons.

**Signs and Banners** - signage for each park and each walk route recognizing sponsors, teams, individuals, to label areas (parking, food, games, etc).

**Raffle Items** - past donations have included; gift cards, gift baskets, handmade items, game and concert tickets, season passes, resort stays, photography packages and more.

**Prizes** - small trinkets awarded to children who play carnival type games.

**Team Prizes** - promotional items donated to teams who fundraise for the Buddy Walk.

1. **Bounce House**
2. **Rock -climbing wall**
3. **Carnival Games**
4. **Children's entertainer**
5. **Registration tent**
6. **Cotton Candy Machine**
7. **Awareness Banners**
8. **T-shirts**
9. **Lunch**
10. **Volunteer Appreciation**

## SOMETHING ELSE?

We welcome your ideas! If you have another item you'd like to sponsor or donate to our Buddy Walk, let us know! For all sponsorship and donation opportunities, please contact Jen Greslick at [jen@dsmaine.org](mailto:jen@dsmaine.org).



# Sponsorship Levels

## PLATINUM LEVEL

\$10,000

- “Sponsored by” tagline on all promotional materials
- 20 free walk registrations (with t-shirts)
- First right of refusal for 2017 Buddy Walk
- Table for display in our main tent (materials provided by you)
- Representative may speak at podium
- Company banner displayed (provided by you)
- Corporate Mascot at event
- Group photo
- Company logo included on :
  - t-shirts
  - posters
  - brochures
  - reminder postcards
  - banners at events
  - MDSN Website
  - MDSN Firstgiving page
  - MDSN Facebook page
  - MDSN tweets about events
  - Other advertising/press coverage

## GOLD LEVEL

\$5,000

- 10 free walk registrations (with t-shirts)
- Table for display in our main tent (materials provided by you)
- Recognition from the podium
- Company banner displayed (provided by you)
- Group photo
- Company logo included on :
  - t-shirts
  - posters
  - brochures
  - reminder postcards
  - banners at events
  - MDSN Website
  - MDSN Firstgiving page

## SILVER LEVEL

\$1,000

- 3 free walk registrations (with t-shirts)
- Company banner displayed (provided by you)
- Group photo
- Company logo included on :
  - t-shirts
  - brochures
  - banners at events
  - MDSN Website



## BRONZE LEVEL

\$500

- Company banner displayed (provided by you)
- Company logo included on :
  - t-shirts
  - brochures
  - MDSN Website

## BLUE RIBBON LEVEL

\$250

- Company logo included on :
  - t-shirts
  - brochures
  - MDSN Website

## PLEASE NOTE!

**Deadline** for sponsorship is **September 1, 2016**. MDSN must receive funds and your logo in vector format (if appropriate) by the deadline.

FMI on all sponsorship opportunities, please contact

Jen Greslick, at

[jen@dsmaine.org](mailto:jen@dsmaine.org)





# We hope you'll join us!



For more information on  
Maine Down Syndrome  
Network, Down syndrome  
or the Buddy Walk  
program, please visit us at  
[www.dsmaine.org](http://www.dsmaine.org).



**MDSN**

P.O.Box 705

Windham, ME 04062