



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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MDSN
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ORGANIZATION PROFILE

MDSN | 02



Maine Down Syndrome Network 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 are privileged and proud to offer support, education and advocacy to our members and to our communities.

We all know what a difficult year 2020 was for everyone. Although that is true for MDSN as well, we're proud that we were still able to offer support, by reaching out to parents receiving a new diagnosis of Down syndrome. We've provided them books and materials to learn more about what to expect, as well as a few more typical new baby gifts, all enclosed in a custom LLBean tote to celebrate their new baby. But the support didn't stop there! We had Zoom events for families and parents that were both fun, and supportive!

Our social media presence has grown considerably this year, and our private facebook group has proved an invaluable resource. Our separate, public facebook page for friends and community members to learn more about us has increased it's followers as has our Instagram account. Our website has begun a long awaited overhaul as well, with the goal of providing crucial information to all who seek it. We were even able to hold a small, online Buddy Walk. We hope the following pages will give you a more indepth snapshot of our activities this year, and our plans for the future!

Jen Greslick
President

ORGANIZATION STATISTICS

MDSN | 02



MDSN is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization (EIN# 42-1539612) whose mission is to provide support, education and advocacy services to families, professionals and community members who care about people with Down syndrome. Our organization is entirely funded by donations and has no paid staff.

\$11,000

TOTAL REVENUE

These are funds on hand.

\$5750

2020 INCOME

This number is significantly lower than usual, owing to our small, online only Buddy Walk, and our Board of Directors decision to greatly reduce our fundraising efforts during a time when so many families are struggling. We look forward to this number being significantly higher as the pandemic lessens, and hopefully ends.

\$14,000

2020 EXPENSES

Because we shifted our 2019 Conference to 2020 for a more favorable rental fee, this number is higher than income for this year.

OUR TYPICAL COSTS

\$200 (EACH)

NEW BABY BAGS

MDSN's first call program distributes a New Baby Bag, full of information and baby gifts to families who contact us upon their child's birth. In 2020 we delivered 6 bags.

\$1500 (TOTAL)

CONFERENCE REIMBURSEMENT

We typically re-imburse conference registration fees for our members who attend the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress Conference. Occasionally, fees for other conferences are also re-imbursed.

\$14,000 (TOTAL)

OUR BUDDY WALKS

MDSN holds two Buddy Walks, one in Portland and one in Augusta. We work hard to keep expenses low by securing discounts and re-using materials between walks and from year to year.

Below you'll find a listing of many of our typical expenses throughout the year. Other expenses not listed below include "overhead" fees, such as our storage facility, website fees, etc.

\$100-800 (EACH)

GATHERINGS & OUTINGS

In a "normal" year, MDSN works to provide at least one gathering per month. We try to take advantage of Maine's weather by holding outdoor gatherings June-October, and indoor ones, for example the Children's Museum of Maine, during the colder months. Costs include facility fees, snacks/food/beverages, entertainment.

\$200 (EACH)

MOM'S NIGHT OUT

At least 4 times a year, MDSN organizes Mom's only nights at local restaurants. We pay for participants meals and soft drinks.

\$7,000 (TOTAL)

OUR CONFERENCE

MDSN holds an(almost) Annual Conference in Southern Maine for self-advocates, parents, families, siblings, educators and other providers. Costs include speaking fees, facility rental, food and drink, materials for workshops etc.

LOOKING AHEAD



MDSN is looking forward to the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic and a return to in-person visits and gatherings and conferences, and most of all, our Buddy Walks! If you've never been to a Buddy Walk, you're missing out! In our house, it's like Christmas and a family reunion all rolled into one! Joy is palpable in the air.

Our 2020 Buddy Walk Planning Team is already at work crafting plans, and alternate plans as the outlook for this fall is still so up in the air.

We're also growing our Board of Directors and looking toward expanding our First Call program, which currently serves new parents, to include outreach to families new to our state. We are looking forward to our first Self-Advocate serving on our Board this year.

All the "Zooming" this year has given us ideas at how to better serve our population all over the state and help to overcome some of the barriers that exist because of the great size of our state. Look for more online sessions, which will hopefully bring us all together even more, and provide support for everyone more equally.

As we spent a great deal of time advocating for Mainers with Down syndrome to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, we met many new friends, and identified areas in need of attention. We'll be reforming our Governmental Affairs Committee and reaching out to our local, state and federal representatives.

Thank you for all you've done to support Maine Down Syndrome Network! Most of all, we are looking forward to your continued participation and support.