



North Carolina
Down Syndrome Alliance
empower • connect • support

20
25



Annual
Impact
Report

TOGETHER WE CAN.

Norah, 2, Greenville

About the **NCDSA**

Mission

To empower, connect, and support the lifespan of individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community through outreach, advocacy, and education in North Carolina.

Meet the 2025 Team

AMY NAVEJAS	Executive Director
CHRISTY COOPER	Assistant Director
MICAH ROCHA	Program Coordinator
LIZA NARDUCCI/ LINDSEY BRINN LANIER	Operations Coordinator
BETSYJOHN LANE	Family Support Specialist
EMMA WISSINK	Family Support Assistant
STEFANI MERGEN	Family Navigator
COURTNEY DOZIER	Bookkeeper
ALYSSA JACOBS	Marketing & Social Media Coordinator

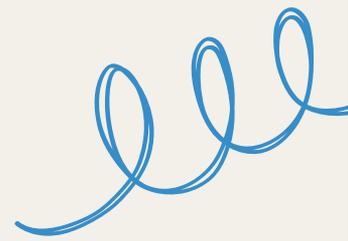


2025 Board of Directors

JEFF LINEBERRY	President	ADAM CATO	Treasurer
SANTO CAIVANO	Vice President	HEATHER HARRELL	Secretary
DIANE CAVANAGH		PRIYANSH PATEL	
BETH COSGROVE		AMBER SCUTT-BROWN	
JESSE FOWLER		DAVID TRAN	
DR. JENNIFER GREEN		VICKI WRIGLEY	
BRYAN KING			



A letter from our 2025 outgoing President



Dear Friends of the NC Down Syndrome Alliance,

It has been a true honor to serve as Board President of the NC Down Syndrome Alliance over the past two years. This role has given me the opportunity to meet so many incredible families, volunteers, partners, and supporters from across our state, and I am deeply grateful for each of you. NCDSA's impact is only possible because of the collective commitment of people who believe in our mission and show up in countless ways to support it.

I am especially proud of and thankful for our Executive Director, Amy Navejas, and the entire NCDSA staff. Their dedication, compassion, and tireless work are the heartbeat of this organization. I am also deeply grateful for the members of our Board of Directors and our volunteers, whose time, leadership, and unwavering commitment help guide and strengthen NCDSA's work across the state. It has been an absolute privilege to work alongside such a talented and mission-driven group of people, and I am continually inspired by the care they bring to every family and individual we serve.

One of the highlights of this past year was the launch of Camp SHINE, which exceeded all expectations. Hearing from families whose children were able to attend their very first summer camp—something many never thought possible—was incredibly moving.



FOR SO MANY INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SYNDROME, TRADITIONAL CAMPS ARE NOT AN OPTION, AND CAMP SHINE OPENED THE DOOR TO JOY, CONFIDENCE, FRIENDSHIP, AND BELONGING IN A POWERFUL WAY.

At the core of our work is supporting families from the very beginning. When a family receives a diagnosis of Down syndrome, NCDSA is there to walk alongside them—helping them navigate the medical world, understand educational options, and access the resources and community they need to thrive. This support continues throughout every stage of life, and it is a responsibility we carry with great care and purpose.

As I reflect on my time as Board President, I am filled with gratitude and hope. The work we do matters deeply, and the impact reaches far beyond what any one person or group could accomplish alone. Thank you for being part of this community and for helping NCDSA continue to serve individuals with Down syndrome and their families across North Carolina.

With sincere appreciation,

Jeff Lineberry
Board President (2024–2025)



Hanna, 7, Raleigh

Our mission in *action*

IN 2025, **EMPOWERMENT** LOOKED LIKE:

- Teens and adults in the **T-21 Club** sharing their skills by serving others and preparing meals for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House
- Families leaving the **IEP Binder Workshop** equipped with new tools to teach, advocate, and plan for success

CONNECT GROWING COMMUNITY ACROSS NC:

NEW IN 2025

- Added monthly play dates in the Triangle area (Bumble Brews) and Greenville (Sprouts Play Gym)
- Monthly Squad Program for tweens
- Introduced the NCDSA World Down Syndrome Day Classroom Kits
- Hosted Summer Camp SHINE, where campers explored dance, art, science, and astronomy in a safe and inclusive environment

ONGOING FAVORITES

- Mom's Retreat
- Regional play dates
- Weekly T-21 virtual events
- Mom's Nights Out
- Annual Summer Family Picnic

SUPPORT

NOT JUST FOR FAMILIES, BUT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

- Expanded **First Call** program for new and expectant parents by adding newly-trained mentors across the state and a coordination team to ensure every parent gets a timely personal touch
- Continued **Parents' Night Out** respite event for caregivers to enjoy a night out in time for Valentine's Day



Providing support across the *lifespan*



EDUCATION LEARNING AT EVERY STAGE

The **Learning Program**, offered September through June, teaches parents how to reinforce school curriculum at home in a way that's tailored for their learner with Down syndrome.



*We couldn't make it work without the support from NCDSA. His team has never dealt with a child with Down syndrome. They consistently ask us for advice on accommodations and we are not teachers. Luckily, the **Learning Program** through NCDSA has given us a baseline. We can **confidently participate** in these conversations, as well as try new strategies at home to prepare Henry for lessons. And the **advocacy tools** have been essential as we fight to ensure our kindergartner has the same opportunities as his peers. – Lauren O.*

ADVOCACY EVERY VOICE SHAPES THE FUTURE

- NCDSA Families testified at the NC General Assembly to **advocate** for more **Home and Community-Based Services Waivers**
- Assistant Director Christy Cooper joined self-advocates and families at **Capitol Hill** to raise key issues affecting people with Down syndrome



SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES BY STRENGTHENING THEIR VILLAGE

OUTREACH

- Presented to **NC Department of Health and Human Services** family support groups
- Connected with **military families** and providers at Womack Maternity Fair (Fort Bragg)
- Distributed **Medical Provider Packets** statewide to guide accurate diagnosis and care



COMMUNITY IMPACT

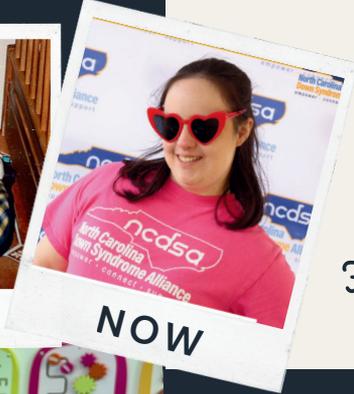


38 Years serving North Carolina

27 Years as an established nonprofit



THEN

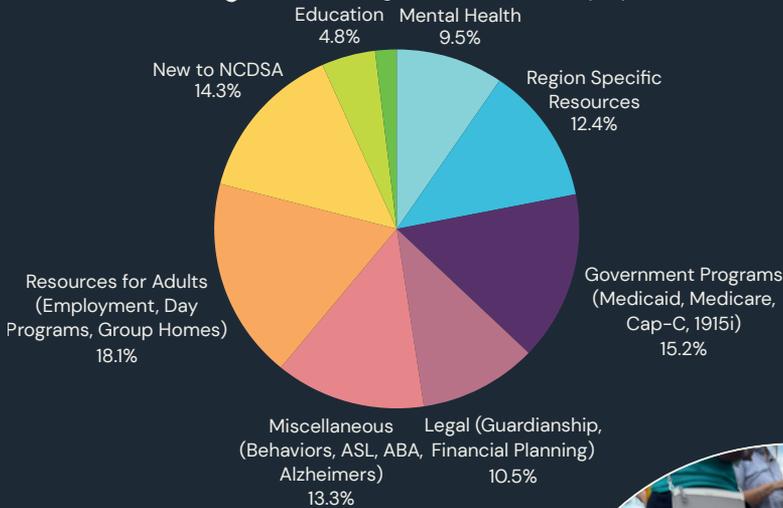


NOW

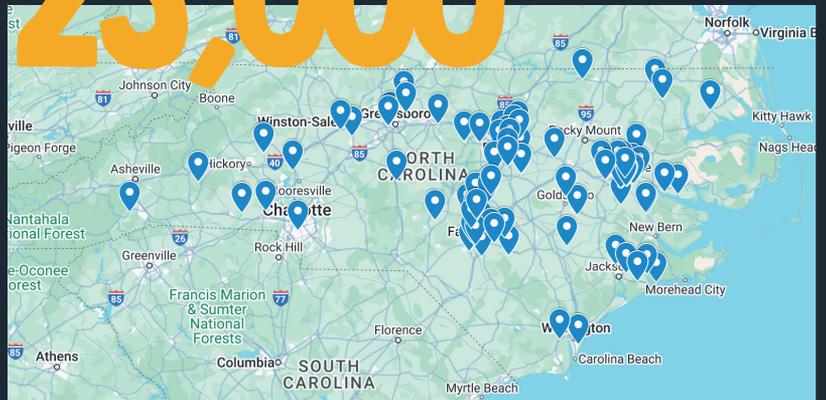
Welcome Baby/New Family bags distributed



Family Navigator Support



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY
23,000 STUDENTS USED SCHOOL KITS



\$328,000

RAISED

NCDSA BUDDYWALK®

national down syndrome society®

EDUCATE | ADVOCATE | CELEBRATE

161

Visits to UNC Down Syndrome Clinic — made possible by the NCDSA





90 Campers
Volunteers 59
2 Week-long sessions



Family Playdates

GREENVILLE • FAYETTEVILLE • RALEIGH



50+

MEALS PREPPED FOR THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

T21 Club Participants
203: VIRTUAL EVENTS
73: IN PERSON EVENTS

“ Play dates through the NCDSA have been such a blessing! Connecting to other families and being able to share resources and ideas was something I didn't even know we needed. We look forward to seeing everyone at play date and letting the kids get much needed energy out. Both of my kids enjoy it immensely! - Lindsey W.



DEBUTED A NEW SANTA & MRS. CLAUS
AT THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY



North Carolina Down Syndrome Alliance

empower • connect • support

Let's connect

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