On March 23, 2019, Down Syndrome Association for Families of Nebraska Board of Directors put their heads together for their yearly strategic planning session. Thanks to valuable responses from the DSAF Member Feedback Survey, the board revised and created new strategic priorities for 2019.

Even though Member Feedback Survey showed very positive member engagement results, twice as high as other similarly-sized nonprofit organizations throughout the country, DSAF is committed to continuously improving the member experience.

We feel confident that focusing on these key priorities throughout 2019 will help to elevate the professionalism and capacity of DSAF to impact the lives of our members in Lincoln and beyond. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at dean@fuelberth.com.

Thank you for your trust and confidence in DSAF and us as a collective board. We feel honored to represent you.

Sincerely,

DEan Fuelberth
DSAFA Past President
new program director
meet dawna daily, DSAF’s newest staff member

“I am most excited as I join this DSAF family to see the critical daily interactions between the board, committee members, families, and community.”

This is no April Fool’s Joke! DSAF is excited to announce that on April 1, 2019, Dawna Daily started with the organization as the new Program Director.

Dawna is a motivated and experienced program developer, presenter and educator with over fifteen years of experience serving in one of the best communities in the nation.

She excels at building and maintaining collaborative community relationships and bridging communities of all abilities. She has a history of executive-level decision-making, analyzing problems and finding solutions, and working within all levels of local, state, and national guidelines to deliver the best programming while maintaining policy, procedure, and documentation.

Dawna received her master’s degree in Special Education from the University of Nebraska Lincoln, and she holds teaching endorsements in Work-Based Learning and Transition. She comes to DSAF with experience working within the University Centers of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and previously taught resource and transition at the Elkhorn Public Schools.

“I am most excited as I join this DSAF family to see the critical daily interactions between the board, committee members, families, and community. I can’t wait to be a part of helping it to grow and flourish to provide mutually beneficial opportunities throughout the organization,” Dawna said.

Dawna is the owner of Daily Yaymaker, LLC., a newly formed company, that works to bridge communities of abilities through community and travel experiences for individuals with unique and diverse needs. In her free time, Dawna enjoys spending time with her family, which includes her husband, Kevin, and their dog, Abby (a golden retriever mix), her two grown children and two beautiful grandchildren.

Please feel free to reach out to Dawna to welcome her to the organization. She can be contacted at 402-206-3092 or director@dsafnebraska.org.
March 21 was World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD). A day to celebrate our friends and loved ones across the globe who have Down syndrome and raise awareness about the vital role they play in society. Why March 21? Because March 21, or 3/21, represents the three copies of the 21st chromosome that all individuals with Down syndrome have.

DSAF couldn’t pass up the opportunity to join with members in celebrating and educating the community at large about the VIPs they have living right in their own backyard. Special visits were made by our Medical Outreach team and self-advocates to deliver cookies to DSAF partners and supporters. Crazy socks were worn. Even a conference was hosted for medical staff and social workers. And LOTS of celebrating was to be had at the massive World Down Syndrome Day celebration at the National Guard Armory. Thanks to our generous sponsors and donors, all event festivities remained free and open to the public.

It’s not always an easy journey, but together, little by little, we walk the road to a bright and beautiful future for all. And boy does it look promising. Cheers to all the achievements, little or big, that you celebrate in the lives of your loved ones with Down Syndrome.
THANK YOU!
KELSIE PRANGE, TREVOR HOWE, AND HENRY SWEENEY FOR VOLUNTEERING TO DELIVER COOKIES TO OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS

Happy D Klown LLC Services
The Cookie Company
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Super Saver
TerraSumoto
Theatre Arts for Kids
Valentino's
Hold on to your pants Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk attendees and Team Captains. The Walk website is getting a facelift!

As of June 2019, registration will open on a new website hosted through DS-Connex's Stride Solution. This platform is designed specifically for Down syndrome walks to encourage participation, raise more funds, and engage the community in a day of celebration.

In addition to the change to the website, veteran Team Captains, Walkers, and Donors will notice other exciting changes as well, like a reduced registration rate, easy-to-find Team Captain resources, brand new t-shirt design, and expanded high quality apparel options for purchase. These include adorable onesies and toddler t-shirts, soft racerback tanks for women, soft short-sleeved and long-sleeved t-shirts, and hooded sweatshirts to keep you warm while walking.

Registration and fundraising begin June 1 so start spreading the word. Any Team Captain that signs up and has at least $50 raised by the Swim Party in July will receive a special DSAF beach ball!

For questions, contact Walk Co-Chair, Mary Sweeney at mary@dsafnebraska.org.
On February 15, 2017, sweet Libby Louise Hobelman was born into a whirlwind of a new life with each initial moment being touch and go. Diagnosed with Down syndrome and an extremely rare heart condition, this little fighter has endured countless surgeries and will likely have to endure several more. Despite all the odds stacked against her, though, Libby is thriving! We sat down with her mom, Nikki, to get her perspective on life as a parent of this inspiring sweet baby girl.

**What would you like people to know about Libby?**
Even though Libby has limited speech (for right now), she has so much understanding. She is one of the brightest little girls I know, and she is amazing at problem solving!

**What are some of Libby’s best qualities?**
Libby is the strongest, most determined girl I know. Her doctors and therapists are always so shocked when they see how much progress she makes from one visit to the next.

**What are your hopes and dreams for your child?**
My hopes and dreams for Libby are the same as they are for my other kids. I expect her to do her best through high school and graduate. I would like her to go to college. I hope she dates, but never has a broken heart. I would also like her to live independently in a nice apartment. I hope that she finds a career that she likes to go to every day. And one day, I hope she finds the love of her life, gets married, and lives happily ever after. First and foremost, though, throughout her entire life, I expect her to have the confidence to respect and advocate for herself.

“Your support ensures Libby and others like her have the confidence and respect to advocate for themselves.”
upcoming events

be on the lookout for future member opportunities

**May**
- 30: Give to Lincoln Day

**June**
- 1: Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk
  - NEW Website Launches - Fundraising Begins
- 13: Young Adult Social Book Club
  - Summer Session Begins
  - @ Barkley Center, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- 29: Teen/Young Adult Group Tours
  - Memorial Stadium, 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

**July**
- 12: Lil’ Stars Story and Craft Time
  - @ Indigo Bridge Books, 6:30 p.m.
- TBD: DSAF Swim Party
- TBD: Teen/Young Adult Group Goes Baking
  - @ Cookie Company

**August**
- 1: Young Adult Social Book Club, Last Summer Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- 4: Teen/Young Adult Group Cheers on Lincoln Salt Dogs, 5:05 p.m.

**September**
- TBD: Teen/Young Adult Group Goes Bowling

**October**
- 5: Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk
- TBD: Teen/Young Adult Group @ Roca Berry Farm

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Support a VIP with Down syndrome this Give to Lincoln Day

Go to: GiveToLincoln.com/nonprofits/DSAF to make your online donation by May 30th!

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have questions or want to get involved?
402.421.1338 or info@dsafnebraska.org