DSAWM

Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan

People. Relationships. Possibilities.

2025 Annual Report



DSAWM
DOWN SYNDROME
ASSOCIATION
OF WEST MICHIGAN

2025
ANNUAL REPORT



Executive Director Letter

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on my first year as Executive Director, I'm grateful for the opportunity to get to know the incredible individuals and families who make up our DSAWM community.

Our members with Down syndrome are at the heart of everything we do. This year, we celebrated milestones, strengthened partnerships, and created opportunities for learning, independence, and connection.

As you read this report, I hope you see more than programs and numbers. I hope you see the people, relationships, and possibilities behind them.

Thank you for being part of this incredible community and helping create a West Michigan where individuals with Down syndrome and their families can thrive.

With gratitude,

BROOKE VAN PROOYEN, MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 Impact at a Glance

Programs & Participation

26 Programs Offered

254 Program Sessions

1,995 Program Visits



Family Support

58 New Families Registered

46 Welcome & Celebration Bags

33 Oh, Baby! Participants

Community

728 Step Up Participants

283 Volunteers

16 Resource Fair Partners

Opportunity

$3,850
in Direct Member Support

12 Assistance Awards

Partnerships

22 Community Partners

Welcoming New Families

OUR PROGRAMS OPEN DOORS

- Oh, Baby!
- First Call
- Welcome & Celebration Bags
- First Steps Kent partnership





2025 Welcome Box Redesign



Growing Through Programs

Our programs nurture confidence, build skills, and create belonging—together.



Summer STARS

A summer experience that encourages discovery, friendship, and fun in a supportive environment.

Rapid Runners

An active program that celebrates movement, teamwork, and personal pursuits.

Buddy Up Tennis

Tennis and connection come together to build skills, confidence, and lasting partnerships.

Shape Up

A wellness-focused program that supports healthy habits and lifelong well-being.

Building Belonging



21 Shades **creates space for connection, representation, and belonging for multicultural families in our Down syndrome community.**

Builds friendships

Connects families

Celebrates diversity

Opening Doors to Opportunity

Facing Fears, Finding Confidence



"I can face my fears."
— Sutton

When Sutton received a DSAWM scholarship to attend therapeutic riding camp, his family hoped it would provide a fun summer experience. What followed was much more. Over the past three years, therapeutic riding has helped Sutton build confidence, embrace new experiences, and face challenges that once felt overwhelming.

"It's been so rewarding seeing Sutton find his own passion and the excitement and joy build up in him as his riding day approaches."
— Amber Guinan

12 scholarship & assistance awards

$3,850 distributed

Community in Action

TOGETHER, WE THRIVE.

From our local Step Up for Down Syndrome solidarity walk to global awareness, our programs bring people together, build connections, and celebrate every ability.



WE COME TOGETHER THROUGH:

- Step Up for Down Syndrome
- Community events
- World Down Syndrome Day Dance
- Member picnics
- Holiday celebrations

728
Step Up Participants

50
Step Up Volunteers

16
Community Resource Partners

The Power of Partnership



22 Community Programming Partners in 2025

Arts, Creativity & Self-Expression

- Arts in Motion Studio
- Artists Creating Together (ACT)
- Kalamazoo Civic Theatre
- Heart for the Arts
- MSU Community Music School

Recreation, Wellness & Confidence

- Special Olympics of Michigan
- Buddy Up Tennis
- Surf & Turf Therapy
- iCAN Shine
- Renew Therapeutic Riding Center
- Michigan Horse Driving School
- Fuzion Martial Arts

Education & Life Skills

- Western Michigan University Dietetics Program
- Grand Valley State University Dietetics Program
- Building Blocks Therapy Services
- Bank of America
- Disability Network Southwest Michigan

Community Connections

- PLAY Muskegon
- Ripple Effects
- Fellin Love Farm
- Grand Rapids Children's Museum
- Grand Fun



Board & Staff Leadership



DSAWM Board of Directors

Adam Burzynski, President

Sheena Vogel, Vice President

Andy Rusnell, Treasurer

Megan Zars, Secretary

Diane Estrella, Board Member

Patty Heffeman, Board Member

Jimmy Leach, Board Member

Erin Purdy, Board Member

DSAWM Foundation Board of Directors

Robert Boylen, President

Robin Zondervan, Treasurer

Soraida Cunningham, Secretary

William Blanton, Board Member

Cameron Rios, Board Member

Jim Scarlett, Board Member

DSAWM Staff

Brooke Van Prooyen, Executive Director

Maria Goosen, Program Coordinator

Kylie Zimmerman, Admin & Marketing Coordinator

Molly Vandewater, Dance Instructor

Jane Standal, Self-Advocate Intern

Alex Hill, Self-Advocate Intern

Ana Zaragoza, Self-Advocate Intern

DSAWM is grateful for our board members, staff, self-advocate interns, and volunteers who make our work and impact possible.

283 Volunteers in 2025



2025

Financial Snapshot

DSAWM's work is funded through a combination of Foundation support, individual and corporate giving, and community support.

REVENUE SOURCES

Foundation Support	$224,741
Contributions	$88,032
Special Events	$80,793
Grants	$59,683
Memberships & Program Fees	$7,181
Other Revenue	$4,764

2025 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Total Revenue	Total Expenses	Increase in Net Assets
$437,966	$424,648	$13,318

EXPENSE ALLOCATION



Program Services	60%
Management & General	26%
Fundraising	14%

60 cents of every dollar spent directly supports programs for individuals with Down syndrome across West Michigan.

Investing in the Future

Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan FOUNDATION

DSAWM Foundation

$2.06 million
Foundation Endowment

$219,341
distributed to support DSAWM operations and programs in 2025

$176,904
raised through Winners Cup 2025

$5,000
awarded through Community Impact Grants in 2025



2025 Grant Recipients

Arts in Motion

Artists Creating Together (ACT)

DSAWMF's mission is dedicated to building a sustainable future for individuals with Down syndrome and their families throughout West Michigan.

DSAWM
Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan

Thank You



Every program, event, scholarship, and connection featured in this report was made possible through the generosity of families, volunteers, donors, sponsors, community partners, and advocates.

Our Mission

The Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan is a resource and advocacy organization promoting public awareness and supporting lifelong opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome.



Contact Information

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