

**FEBRUARY**

# NEWSLETTER



## LEADERSHIP CORNER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Esteemed Members,

It is with a heavy heart that I address you today. Our beloved organization, which has stood as a beacon of hope and support for countless individuals, is now facing an unprecedented financial crisis. The very core of our mission, the objectives that drive us to serve, uplift, and transform lives, is at risk of being compromised.

Over the years, your unwavering support and generosity have allowed us to achieve remarkable milestones. Together, we have touched lives, created opportunities, and fostered a community of compassion and resilience. But today, we find ourselves at a crossroads where the future of our organization hangs in the balance.

Despite our best efforts to navigate the turbulent waters of financial uncertainty, we have reached a critical juncture. Donations have dropped 89% due to loss of principal donors and the ongoing post-pandemic recovery. In addition, our main fundraising event only reached 46% of its target goal. Our resources are depleting, and without immediate intervention, the programs and services that define our essence may cease to exist. The thought of turning away those who rely on us for hope and assistance is unbearable.

Now, more than ever, we need your support. We would greatly appreciate it if you could share this urgent call to action with others who may be willing to help by donating to our cause. Let us unite in this moment of need and demonstrate the power of collective compassion.

Together, we can overcome this challenge and emerge stronger, reaffirming our commitment to those who need us the most.

With heartfelt gratitude and hope,

Paola Herrera  
President  
BROWARD GOLD COST DOWN SYNDROME

## STAY INFORMED!

Topic	Page
Activities	2
Growth	3
Birthdays	4
Upcoming Events	5
Special Thanks	6

Let's  
Recap

SCROLL DOWN FOR A  
QUICK PEEK AT THE  
FUN WE HAD THIS  
MONTH!



# FEBRUARY- ACTIVITIES

## Our Children's Social Group

Our kids had a great time watching Pete The Cat at the Broward Center for Performing Arts Amaturro Theatre. .



### PERFORMING ARTS



### Read-Along

At our monthly Read Along, we had a special visit from the Women Soccer Team of Fort Lauderdale United FC. Our kids made Valentine's goodie bags for their family and friends.

### READING, CRAFTS, FOOD, CELEBRITIES

## 321 Dance- 2025

WOW! What great fun everyone had at our highly requested 321 Dance that promotes inclusion, acceptance, friendship and networking.



### DANCE



See more on



# FEBRUARY- GROWTH

## FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY



➤ **Papa John's Pizza Nifty Fifty- SUCCESS!** Thank you, everyone, who purchased their cards

➤ **World Down Syndrome Day Shirt- AVAILABLE!** First come first served. Scan QR code or go to our shop on our site to purchase.  
<https://bgcdownsyntax.org/shop/>



➤ **FT Lauderdale United FC-** On February 22nd, FTLUTD FC started donating \$5 of every ticket sold to their matches. SCAN QR code on flyer for more information and sign up for a game!




**BROWARD GOLD COAST  
DOWN SYNDROME ORGANIZATION**

We are proud to donate \$5 of every ticket sold to Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

USL Super League matches get underway on Feb 22nd and every match includes our \$3 dogs, drinks and snacks

Click the BUY TICKETS HERE button to see the full schedule

MIDFIELD	\$28
SIDELINE	\$22.40
GENERAL ADMISSION	\$16

**BUY TICKETS HERE**



➤ **New Families-** We are grateful to have the opportunity to provide this safe space for our new families. Special thanks to A Special Miracle, and our parent volunteers for their welcome baskets along with essential resources.

➤ **Advisory Board-** We had a full house at our 1st Advisory Board meeting of the year! Our gratitude to the advisory for their time and dedication to BGCDSO. We appreciate your support!



# FEBRUARY- BIRTHDAYS

Jerónimo Hernández- 2/03



Lillyann Carragher- 2/11



Happy  
Birthday

Johanna Arteaga 2/12



Kori Armstrong- 2/19



# FEBRUARY- UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3.08 | Coffee and Conversations-** Join us at this parent only get together to talk, drink coffee and connect!
- 3.21 | World Down Syndrome Day-** Sparez! Reserve your spot and go bowling with us!
- 4.05 | Youth Mental Health First Aid Training-** Let's take advantage of this one day training and learn how to guide our special ones through mental health.
- 4.05 | Spring Shopping Social-** Let's shop for a cause! When you shop at the Shopping social BGCD SO will receive a percentage of the profits.
- 4.07 | Sicilian Oven-** Dine and help raise funds for BGCD SO! Let them know you are supporting us and they will give back a portion of the sale. Thank you!
- 4.19 | Hoppy Egg Hunt 2025-** Spring is coming! Join us at Tree Tops Park Davie for a picnic and arts & crafts.
- 5.03 | Adult Mental Health First Aid Training-** Let's take advantage of this one day training and learn how to guide our special ones through mental health.
- 5.10 | Make A Mother's Day Floral Arrangement-** Time to make our moms feel extra special! Limited to first 30 who reserve.



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!  
**World Down Syndrome Day**  
MARCH 21ST  
6:00PM-8:00PM

**SpareZ**  
5225 S University Dr  
Davie, FL 33328

**2025**

SCAN TO PAY

\*EVENT DETAILS\*  
Free for Member Individual with Down syndrome  
\$25 for Members, \$40 Non-Member  
Event includes, pizza, soda, shoes & 2 hours of bowling.  
SPACE IS LIMITED. FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.  
RSVP  
EVENTS@BGCDOWNSYNDROME.ORG  
PLEASE RSVP BY SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH 2025  
PAY BY LINK OR SCAN BARCODE ABOVE  
HTTPS://BGCDOWNSYNDROME.ORG/DONATE-VOLUNTEER/



Jeff Masarek  
Behavioral Health Center  
Broward Gold Coast  
Down Syndrome  
Organization

**Youth Mental Health First Aid Training**  
Saturday, April 5th @ 9:00am  
Broward Gold Coast's Office  
7301 NW 4th Street, Ste 103  
Plantation, FL 33317

FOR OUR MEMBERS AGES 12-17  
FREE ONE-DAY TRAINING (6-8 HOURS)  
NO PRE-REQUISITE TO ATTEND  
LUNCH INCLUDED  
FEW SHORT BREAKS

RSVP TO  
EVENTS@BGCDOWNSYNDROME.ORG



**BGCD SO SPRING SHOPPING SOCIAL**

All proceeds donated to:  Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

**WHERE:** Lucy Whitson's House  
**WHERE:** Saturday, April 5th - 11:00 am-3:00 pm  
**RSVP:** Lucy (954) 214-1300 or [shopgirl@aol.com](mailto:shopgirl@aol.com)

\*\*\*GREAT CHANCE DRAWING PRIZES!\*\*\*

COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE! **EAT SHOP SMILE LAUGH**

**Park Lane Jewelry**    **The Bag Lady**  
**Manli's Creations**    **Starbucks Coffee**  
**Bagels, Sweets & Many More Vendors & Treats**

**Duck Pond**  
While supplies last!



**Sicilian Oven**  
Come dine with us to help raise funds for

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization



Monday, April 7, 2025

Sicilian Oven  
801 S. University Drive • Plantation, FL 33324  
954.533.1047

DINE IN OR TAKE OUT  
(11:30 am - 10:00 pm)  
Let your server know you are here to support this give-back night and a portion of your sales will be donated back to the organization!

Follow, share, & tag us on social media to help spread the word:  
[@sicilianoven](https://www.instagram.com/sicilianoven) | [@sicilianoven1](https://www.facebook.com/sicilianoven) | [Sicilian Oven Company Page](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sicilianoven)



**HOPPY EGG HUNT 2025**

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH  
10AM-12PM

TREE TOPS PARK DAVIE  
SABAL PALM SHELTER  
NEAR SAFETY TOWN

**PICNIC, ARTS & CRAFTS, AND EGG HUNT!**

**EGG HUNT** AN EVENT FOR ALL AGES  
RSVP  
EVENTS@BGCDOWNSYNDROME.ORG  
BY APRIL 12TH



Jeff Masarek  
Behavioral Health Center  
Broward Gold Coast  
Down Syndrome  
Organization

**Adult Mental Health First Aid Training**  
Saturday, May 3rd @ 9:00am  
Broward Gold Coast's Office  
7301 NW 4th Street, Ste 103  
Plantation, FL 33317

FOR OUR MEMBERS AGES 18+  
FREE ONE-DAY TRAINING (6-8 HOURS)  
NO PRE-REQUISITE TO ATTEND  
LUNCH INCLUDED  
FEW SHORT BREAKS

RSVP TO  
EVENTS@BGCDOWNSYNDROME.ORG



**MAKE A Mother's Day FLORAL ARRANGEMENT**

Who: Current Member + Individual with Down syndrome  
When: May 10th at 11am - 2pm  
Where: Long Key Nature Center  
3501 SW 130th Ave  
Davie, FL 33330

LIMITED TO FIRST 30 RSVP'S  
RSVP: [events@bgcdownsyndrome.org](mailto:events@bgcdownsyndrome.org)  
PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 28TH

See more on



# FEBRUARY- SPECIAL THANKS

**Thank you Gordon and Patricia Garland!**  
For organizing the 11th Annual 321 Dance



A special thanks to our generous sponsors for making the 321 Dance a success!

> Entertainment Inc.



> Broward Parks and Recreation



> Torro Auto Brokers



> Sarita Martine Bistro



> Southeast Society of Health-System Pharmacists



> Funky Biscuit



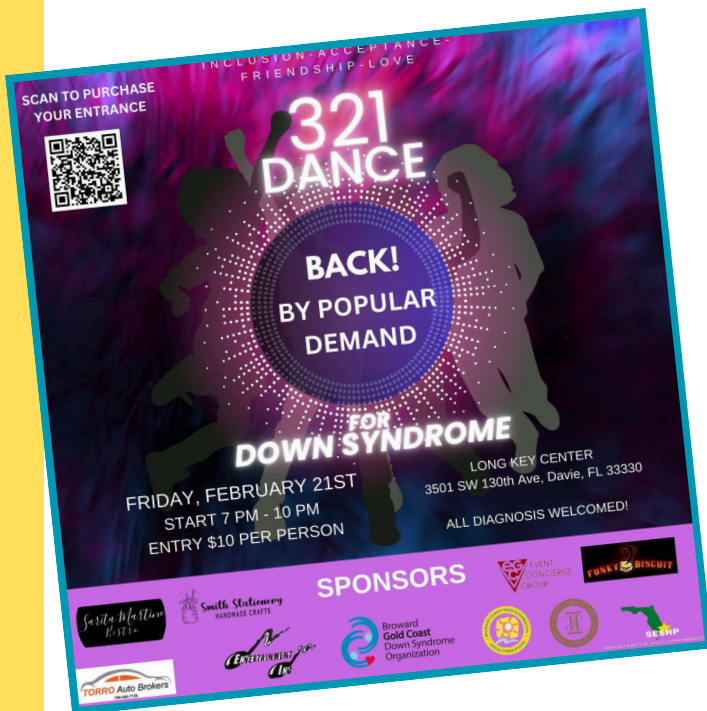
> Smith Stationery



> Event Concierge Group



> Junie Lamour Law



See more on

