

# April



# NEWSLETTER



## BGCDSO Member Events & Community Resources



APRIL

2026



- APRIL 2 READ ALONG-Members Only**  
 BGCDSO Office @ 16PM  
 RSVP to [events@bgcdowndownsyndrome.org](mailto:events@bgcdowndownsyndrome.org) by 3/31
- APRIL 4 SPRING EGG HUNT-Members Only**  
 Tree Tops Park, Davie-Sabal Palm Shelter from 10am-12pm  
 RSVP to [events@bgcdowndownsyndrome.org](mailto:events@bgcdowndownsyndrome.org) by 3/28
- APRIL 6 AUTISM WALK & VENDOR FAIR**  
 Seminole Tribe of Florida-Hollywood Reservation from 12:00pm-4:00pm  
 Vendor Fair @ Howard Tiger Gym 6353 N 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Hollywood, FL 33024
- APRIL 11 COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS**  
 BGCDSO Office @ 10am  
 RSVP to [events@bgcdowndownsyndrome.org](mailto:events@bgcdowndownsyndrome.org) by 4/09
- APRIL 12 ZUMBA-Members Only**  
 BGCDSO Office @ 10am  
 RSVP to [events@bgcdowndownsyndrome.org](mailto:events@bgcdowndownsyndrome.org) by 4/10
- APRIL 15 ESE ADVISORY COUNCIL GENERAL MTG**  
 Plantation Middle School- 6600 W. Sunrise Blvd, Plantation  
 from 6:15pm-8:45pm
- APRIL 22 BINGO NIGHT-Members Only**  
 BGCDSO Office @ 6Pm  
 RSVP to [events@bgcdowndownsyndrome.org](mailto:events@bgcdowndownsyndrome.org) by 4/20
- APRIL 24 ESE PARENT SYMPOSIUM**  
 Stranahan High School 1800 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Place, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312  
 from 8:30am-1:00pm see flyer for more details
- APRIL 25 SPRING SHOPPING SOCIAL**  
 Lucy Whitson's House from 10am-2pm  
 RSVP to Lucy at [shopgogirl@aol.com](mailto:shopgogirl@aol.com) by 4/20

## STAY INFORMED!

Topic	Page
Growth	2-3
Celebrations	4
New Families	5
Volunteer Spotlight	6
Birthdays	7
Upcoming Events	8-9
Community Events	10
Fundraisers	11
Upcoming Fundraisers	12
Save the Date	13
Special Thanks	14



## FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- > **Read Along-** Our Read Along book for March was “The Very Impatient Caterpillar” by Ross Brach and was graciously read by Alyssa and her mom, Isabel. Thank you to this month’s book sponsor: Maria Rojas. Our activity of identifying and categorizing the life cycle of a butterfly was a beautiful hands-on activity! They had fun sorting and working on their fine motor skills! Thank you all for your support of our monthly Read Along! Join us for our next one on April 2nd!



- > **BINGO Night-** Bingo Night was a hit! We enjoyed winning along with some delicious popcorn! Bingo offers an opportunity to work on math skills: number recognition, finding numbers called on Bingo cards, keeping track of game played: vertical, horizontal, 4-corners and whole card filled. It is fast-paced and requires focus and attention. We love adding skills to games! Our next Bingo Night is April 22<sup>nd</sup>! We hope to see you there!



- > **Bowling Social-** Thank you, Merwyn De Sa, for organizing the event for the Adult Social Group and Malina Carraher, for the Teen Social Group. Everyone had a great time bowling and mingling! Social time is beneficial for both our parents and their children, and structured activities allow for turn-taking, cheering on your friends, conversations, and some independence in the game area!



## FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

> **Down Syndrome Committee of Broward ESE Advisory Council Meeting & Presentation-** Special thanks to Best Buddies, and the Broward County Public Schools ESE Department, for their resources and availability to help answer parent's questions and concerns. What a great night full of knowledge and resources!



> **Coffee & Conversations-Special Presentation by Rangel Advocacy Law, P.A** - Thank you, Talhia Rangel, for helping our parents with the important questions and concerns regarding Guardianship, Special Needs Trust, SSI, and Guardian Advocacy. Welcome to the new parents that came for answers and left as friends. Community is essential for success and knowledge is power!



> **Guardianship Night at The Quest Center and Transition Fair at Cooper City HS-** When there are two events the same night, we divide and conquer! We are thankful for our parent volunteers that are able to assist at these fairs, making them successful by giving parents in need individual attention. We loved meeting new families and sharing our resources that empower our community! Thank you for having us at your events!



# CELEBRATIONS

## WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY CELEBRATION



What a way to kick off our World Down Syndrome Day Celebration: with a fashion show! Our models were amazing with one or no rehearsal. They shined brightly on the runway as we cheered them on. Thank you, **Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization's** families and friends, for joining us on this special day! Thank you parents, for having your super stars participate in the fashion show. Thank you, **Tia Frost from #NoLimitsFoundationInc**, who organized the show for our event. We appreciate your support!

Special thanks to the **Broward Sheriff's Office, Special Populations of Broward County, Art inclusion with Erika, and James Martinez from #forcephotographs**, for being a part of our special day! You each played such a special role in our day!

Last but not least, our gratitude to the **volunteers and staff**. The event would not have been successful without your support and involvement.

We had a nice visit from **Tony DiGiulian - #PelagicGear**, who is our long-time supporter. It was such a wonderful opportunity to get together for our Extraordinary loved ones with Down syndrome.

**Happy World Down Syndrome Day!**



# NEW FAMILIES

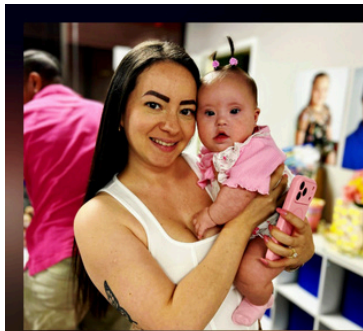
**We had a full house for our New Families Luncheon!  
We had such a lovely time meeting these new families and  
providing them with resources.**

**You are not alone in this journey; we are here for you!**

**Thank you, Patricia Garland, our parent volunteer,  
who organized this event for the families.**

**Special thanks to, [A Special Miracle](#), for sponsoring the luncheon.**

**We appreciate your partnership!**



# Volunteer Spotlight

We ♥ our  
Volunteers



**Dennis, Mateo and Christina Fox**

**We are so blessed to be a part of Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization as volunteers, but most importantly, as friends. Each member of BGCD SO is a gift to us, to their families, and to the world.**

**Spending time with our friends at BGCD SO energizes us with the love and joy that they bring. We recognize that each member of BGCD SO is their own unique individual, yet we also have the privilege of remembering our dear Aunt Maria during the time that we spend with them.**

**Maria, who had Down syndrome, was an icon in our lives. We feel her spirit with us always, but especially at BGCD SO events. Thank you for welcoming us into your organization of amazing people!**

# Birthdays



**Anthony**



**Cassidy**



**Anthony**



**Danny**



**Kevin**

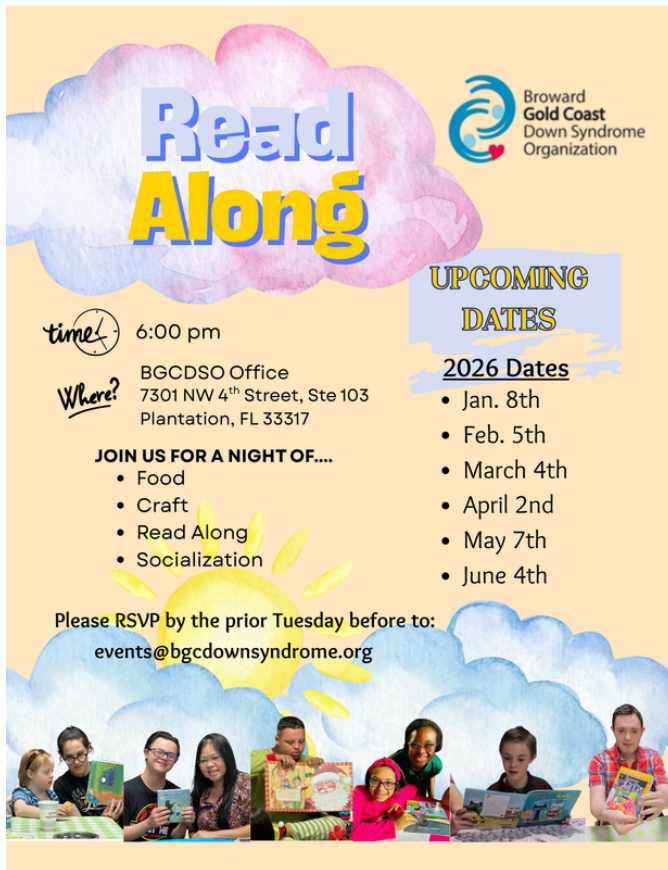


**Ernesto**




# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MONTHLY MEMBER EVENTS



### Read Along

 Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

**UPCOMING DATES**

**2026 Dates**

- Jan. 8th
- Feb. 5th
- March 4th
- April 2nd
- May 7th
- June 4th

**time** 6:00 pm

**Where?** BGCD SO Office  
7301 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 103  
Plantation, FL 33317

**JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF...**

- Food
- Craft
- Read Along
- Socialization

Please RSVP by the prior Tuesday before to:  
events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org



### Join us for COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

**DATE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each Month ( or alternative date posted )  
**TIME:** 10am-12pm  
**Where:** BGCD SO Office  
7301 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #103  
Plantation, FL 33317

Please RSVP by the prior Thursday to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org

**UPCOMING DATES**

January 17 <sup>th</sup>	February 28 <sup>th</sup>	March 14 <sup>th</sup>
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	May 9 <sup>th</sup>	June 6 <sup>th</sup>
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	August 8 <sup>th</sup>	September 12 <sup>th</sup>
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	November 14 <sup>th</sup>	December 12 <sup>th</sup>

\*If less than five people RSVP, the meeting will be cancelled.\*  
\*\*This is a group for parents only, we will be discussing adult topics. However, if you bring your child, we will make accommodations. \*\*




### Members Only

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR DATES:**  
Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>,  
Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> and Apr. 12<sup>th</sup>  
*more dates will be added*

**Time:** 10:00 am  
**Location:** BGCD SO Office  
7301 NW 4<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 103  
Plantation, FL 33317

Please RSVP by the Thursday before the class to:  
events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org




 Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

Presents a Member's Only Event

Join us for a night of fun, socializing, food & prizes!

**Location:**  
BGCD SO Office  
7301 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
STE. 103  
Plantation, FL 33317

### BINGO Night

**UPCOMING DATES**

February 11 <sup>th</sup>	March 11 <sup>th</sup>	April 22 <sup>nd</sup>
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	June 24 <sup>th</sup>	July 21 <sup>st</sup>

\*All events begin at 6pm\*

Please RSVP by the Thursday before to:  
events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org

# UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



## READ ALONG *april* ALONG

join us for a night of

- food
- craft
- read along
- socialization

**Thurs. April 2nd**  
6:00 pm

BGCDSO Office  
7301 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103  
Plantation, FL 33317

Thank you to this month's book Sponsor:  
**Todaro Family**

Please RSVP by the prior Thursday, March 26th to:  
**EVENTS@BGCDOWNSYNDROME.ORG**




## Egg Hunt 2026

### PICNIC, ARTS, CRAFTS AND EGG HUNT!

**Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Tree Tops Park - Davie  
Sabal Palm Shelter  
(near safety town)

**RSVP:**  
[events@bgcdownsindrome.org](mailto:events@bgcdownsindrome.org)  
By March 28th

**BGCDSO Member Event**

an event for all ages



## BGCDSO Spring Shopping Social

Great Drawings and Prizes  
Bagels, Sweets, Treats and more Vendors

**When:** Saturday, April 25th 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
**Where:** Lucy Whitson's House  
**RSVP:** Lucy (954)-214-1360 or [shopgogirl@aol.com](mailto:shopgogirl@aol.com)

come and go as you please eat, shop, laugh, mingle

<b>Park Lane Jewelry</b>	<b>Deb's salad dressings</b>
<b>Manilu's Creations</b>	<b>Tasteful Thoughts</b>
<b>LimeLife (skincare/makeup)</b>	<b>The Bag Lady</b>
<b>Starbucks Coffee</b>	

Percentage of the proceeds donated to:

**DUCK POND**  
While Supplies Last



## Mother's Day!

*Coming Soon*

### BEAUTY AND SPA

**When:** Sunday, May 3rd  
**Time:** 11:00am - 2:00pm  
**Where:** West Regional Library Auditorium  
8601 W Broward Blvd  
Plantation, FL 33324

**SAVE THE DATE**

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

## AUTISM AWARENESS WALK

**HOLLYWOOD<sup>th</sup>**  
Monday, April 6  
12 PM – 4 PM

Start/End Location  
**Airnasium**  
Setup Time  
12 PM – 1 PM  
Walk Time  
1 PM – 2 PM  
Lunch/

Passport to Resources  
2 PM – 4 PM  
Clean Up Time  
4 PM




## ESE PARENT SYMPOSIUM



Register for  
the Parent Symposium



The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department will host a one-day ESE Parent Symposium for families of students receiving special education services. This conference is designed to equip parents with vital information, resources, and guidance to enhance their child's educational experience. Attendees will receive comprehensive insights into ESE programs, services, and processes, and will have the opportunity to engage directly with senior department leaders and support staff.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026  
8:30 am TO 1:00 pm

Stranahan High School  
1800 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Place  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

### Key Components Include:

- Resource Fair
- Opportunities to meet the ESE Directors
- Concurrent Sessions
  - » Behavior Strategies
  - » Executive Functioning
  - » Family Network on Disabilities (FND)
  - » Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities (FES-UA)
  - » Gifted Services
  - » Sensory Dysregulation
  - » Transition Services
  - » AND MORE!



AT THE  
28TH ANNUAL  
**FAMILY, CAFÉ**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**JUNE 12-14,  
2026**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO  
9801 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE, ORLANDO, FL

Registration now OPEN!  
<https://familycafe.net/>

See you soon!

NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME CONGRESS

# ORLANDO

— 2026 CONVENTION —

Together, We Create Magic  
July 23 - 26, 2026

Now featuring the DSAIA Pre-Con  
July 22 - 23, 2026

Sponsorships & Naming Opportunities

Contact Executive Director, Jim Hudson  
for more information: [jim@ndscenter.org](mailto:jim@ndscenter.org)



See more on



# FUNDRAISERS

**What a turn-out at our Sicilian Oven Give Back event! Thank you everyone, who joined us today! Special thanks to Hana Maharaj and her team at Black Diamond Claims Solutions, we appreciate your continued support of our organization! As always, the food was great, and the time spent catching up with friends was so special! ❤️**



# UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

## Shine Bright, Do Good

JOIN US FOR A KENDRA GIVES BACK EVENT

### DATE & TIME

May 2nd, 2026 from 1:00-3:00pm

### DETAILS

Come shop and support Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome at Kendra Scott Pembroke Gardens.

When you shout out the organization at checkout, Kendra Scott will donate 20% of your purchase back to the organization.

Shop online with code "GIVEBACK-LPMLJ" from May 2nd at 12:00am to May 3rd at 11:59pm!



## Shine Bright, Do Good

SHOP FOR GOOD IN-STORE OR ONLINE!

**May 2, 2026- May 3, 2026**

Enter code

**GIVEBACK-LPMLJ**

in your cart or at checkout on kendrascott.com, or mention it at checkout in-store, and 20% of your purchase will benefit



Broward  
Gold Coast  
Down Syndrome  
Organization

*Not combinable with other offers.*



KENDRA  
SCOTT



## Shine Bright, Do Good

SHOP FOR GOOD IN-STORE OR ONLINE!

### HOW TO ENTER YOUR GIVEBACK CODE

1

Click on the bag in the top right corner of your screen.

2

You'll see a bar that says "Enter Coupon Code" both in your cart and at checkout.

3

Insert your giveback code at one of the two places, then hit "Apply".

## Shine Bright, Do Good

SHOP FOR GOOD IN-STORE OR ONLINE!

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Giveback code is active for 48 hours and will be valid through midnight PST on kendrascott.com unless otherwise agreed upon by a Kendra Scott representative. Giveback code must be entered at checkout. Exclusions may apply if combined with additional offers. Giveback code cannot be applied to previous purchases, gift card purchases, sales tax, or shipping charges. Nail lacquer, color bar™, and marked-down purchases are final sale. If exchange or return of merchandise forces purchase out of line with terms, total will be adjusted to reflect updated balance due which must be reconciled at time of return or exchange. By signing up for our text messages, you agree to receive recurring automated marketing and cart reminder text messages from kendrascott at the cell number used when signing up. Consent is not a condition of any purchase. Message & data rates may apply. For additional terms & privacy details, visit [www.kendrascott.com/privacy](http://www.kendrascott.com/privacy). For any questions or concerns, please contact [service@kendrascott.com](mailto:service@kendrascott.com).



# SAVE THE DATE



# SAVE THE DATE



**OCTOBER 17, 2026**



**MARKHAM PARK, SUNRISE, FL**



See more on



13

# Special Thanks

Thank you all so much for your generous donations toward our new office furniture.

Your support truly means a lot and has already made a big difference in the organization and layout of our office/center! We're incredibly grateful for each of you!

**Yvonne Squire**

**Lisa Scott**

**Talhia Rangel**

**Garrett/Olga Baken**

**Elizabeth Long**

**Rafael Arteaga**

**Check out our donation page:**

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48ABAC2CA3FACE9-63250511-officecenter>**

