

September



NEWSLETTER



BGCDSO Member Events & Community Resources



SEPTEMBER

2026

SEPTEMBER 3	READ ALONG-Members Only Sunrise Athletic Complex-Community Room at 6pm 11501 NW 44 th Street, Sunrise, FL 33323 RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 9/1
SEPTEMBER 12	JOE DIMAGGIO RESOURCE FAIR from 10am-1pm-see flyer for more information 601 City Center Way, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025
SEPTEMBER 13	BACK TO SCHOOL WATER PARK-Members Only 6200 Royal Palm Blvd, Margate, FL 33063 from 10am-5pm Refresments from 11am-1pm only RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 9/11
SEPTEMBER 16	ESE ADVISORY COUNCIL GENERAL MTG Indian Ridge Middle School-1355 S Nob Hill Rd, Davie, FL 33324 from 6:15pm-8:45pm
SEPTEMBER 23	BINGO NIGHT-Members Only BGCDSO Office @ 6:00pm RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 9/21
SEPTEMBER 26	COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS BGCDSO Office @ 10:00am RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 9/24
SEPTEMBER 26	DANCE WORKSHOP-Members Only Sunrise Athletic Complex-Community Room from 1pm-3pm 11501 NW 44 th Street, Sunrise, FL 33323 RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 9/24
SEPTEMBER 27	DANCE WORKSHOP-Members Only Sunrise Athletic Complex-Community Room from 12-2pm 11501 NW 44 th Street, Sunrise, FL 33323 RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 9/25
SEPTEMBER 30	DS COMMITTEE OF BROWARD ESE ADVISORY COUNCIL GENERAL MTG BGCDSO Office from 6pm-8pm

STAY INFORMED!

Topic	Page
Member Events	2-3
Growth	4
Birthdays	5
Upcoming Events	6-8
JOIN US!	9-12
Special Thanks	13
Community Events	14-16
Community News	17
Save the Date	18
Fundraiser	19
Fundraiser News	20



MEMBER EVENTS

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- **Read Along-** Another great night with books, crafts, and friends! A special thank you to our long-time community partner, **Special Populations of the Broward County Parks and Recreations**, for teaming up with us to provide the fun arts & crafts activities, and the **Broward Sheriff's Office** for supplying our books! We are grateful for their continued support in helping us create meaningful experiences for our participants. We look forward to seeing you on our next Read Along on September 3rd!



- **Coffee & Conversation-** At our last Coffee & Conversations, the kids really enjoyed watching a movie, while the adults were able to just chill, connect with each other, and enjoy meaningful conversations and a good laugh. Sometimes a little downtime is truly necessary. We look forward to seeing you at our next gathering on September 26th.



MEMBER EVENTS CONT.

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- > **BINGO Night-** Another great Bingo night! The group was smaller, but the fun was enormous! We hope to see you for our next Bingo Night, September 23rd.



- > **Dance Workshop-** Another great month of our dance class! Thank you to our student teachers for doing such a fantastic job leading the classes. Your energy, dedication, and passion make the evenings extra special!

We will continue meeting twice a month as the dancers build their skills and confidence, all leading up to a very special moment- performing at our annual Step Up 4 Down Syndrome Walk on October 17, 2026! We can't wait to watch them shine on stage!



See more on



FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- **Plantation Chamber Luncheon**-At the monthly Greater Plantation Chamber of Commerce's Member Luncheon, we were treated to four great presentations including one from Bobbi Meloro of Meloro Law. It was a very informative day!



- **SNAC JAFCO**-A huge thank you to the Special Needs Advisory Coalition (SNAC) for hosting the Community Partnerships Networking Event at the JAFCO Children's Ability Center! It was a resourceful morning connecting with local providers, educators, advocates, and parents who are dedicated to supporting our special needs community! Thank you again for putting together such a wonderful event that gives community partners an opportunity to network with other non-profits and business that serve our children!



BIRTHDAYS



Etienne



Mya



Xavier



Nico



David



Elizabeth



Anais



Faith



UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY MEMBER EVENTS

Join us for COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

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

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

UPCOMING DATES

January 17 th	February 28 th	March 14 th
April 11 th	May 9 th	June 6 th
July 18 th	August 8 th	September 26 th
October 10 th	November 14 th	December 12 th

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. **



READ ALONG

Join us for a night of...

Craft • Read Along • Socialization

2026 Dates

- August 6
- September 3
- October 7
- November 5
- December 3

**Sunrise Athletic Complex
Community Room
11501 NW 44th St.
Sunrise, FL 33323
6:00 PM**

MEMBERS ONLY

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



Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization Presents a **MEMBERS ONLY EVENT**

DANCE WORKSHOP

Get ready to boogie to great music with friends! **Love to Dance?** All levels welcome! Fun workouts! Great vibes!

LOCATION: SUNRISE ATHLETIC COMPLEX-COMMUNITY ROOM
11501 NW 44TH STREET
SUNRISE, FL 33323

In Partnership With: 

Upcoming Dates:

- Sun 8/23, 12pm-2pm
- Sun, 8/30, 12pm-2pm
- Sat, 9/26, 1pm-3pm
- Sun, 9/27, 12pm-2pm
- Sun, 10/4, 12pm-2pm
- Sun, 10/11, 12pm-2pm

Please RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org



Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization Presents a **MEMBERS ONLY Event**

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

BINGO Night

Location: BGCDSDO Office
7301 NW 4th Street
STE. 103
Plantation, FL 33317

UPCOMING DATES

- July 21st
- August 26th
- September 23rd
- October 21st
- November 18th
- December 16

All events begin at 6pm

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

See more on



Fun in the sun!



Calypso Cove, Margate

6200 Royal Palm Blvd. Margate, FL 33063

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Come enjoy the waterpark from 10am to 5pm.
Lunch and refreshments will be served inside the
community center from 11am -1pm only.

**Attendance available with active BGCD SO membership.
Space is limited to individuals with Down syndrome,
their parents and siblings.**

Please RSVP number of adults and number of children (with
ages) by September 10th to events@bgcdsyndrome.org
First Come, First Served

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



Sheriff Gregory Tony, Ph.D.



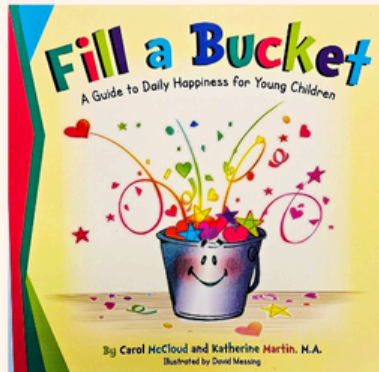
UPCOMING READ ALONG BOOKS & DATES

Would you like to be our Reader for the Month?
Email events@bgcdownsyndrome.org to select
your month. You'll receive a digital copy of the
book to practice beforehand.

August 6th



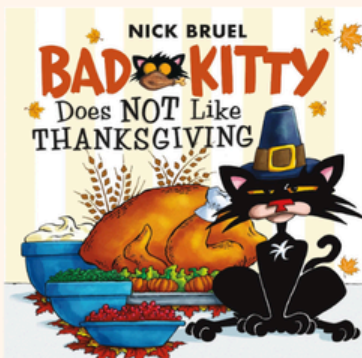
September 3rd



October 7th



November 5th



December 3rd



WOULD
YOU
LIKE TO
READ?

JOIN US!

<https://su4ds.redpodium.com/step-up-4-down-syndrome-2026-walk>



Step Up 4 Down Syndrome 2026 Walk

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 17TH
Walk Starts 8:30am

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT



Broward
Gold Coast
Down Syndrome
Organization

Markham Park:

16001 W. State Rd 84
Shelters #2 & #3
Sunrise, FL 33326

BREAKFAST | FAMILY FUN | ENTERTAINMENT |
INFLATABLES | RAFFLES & MUCH MORE

REGISTER/DONATE/SPONSOR

<https://su4ds.redpodium.com/step-up-4-down-syndrome-2026-walk>



BGCDSO: 954-530-3089

EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT:

7/1-7/15 - \$25 Early Bird Special

7/16-7/31 - \$30

8/1-8/31 - \$35

9/1-9/30 - \$40

10/1-10/17 - \$50



SCAN ME



See more on

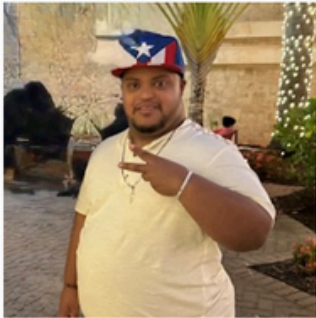


JOIN US!

Thank you to the Teams below for a great start in collecting Walk registrations and donations! Have you registered yet?

Join an existing team or create your own!

2026 SU4DS Team/Stats



Ky-Ky's Team

\$2665

8 Members



JERO's Team

\$1175.20

7 Members



Team Preston

\$865

28 Members



Cassie's Crew

\$670

5 Members



Noah's Ark

\$530

16 Members



Köri's Crüe

\$310

11 Members



Fabrizio

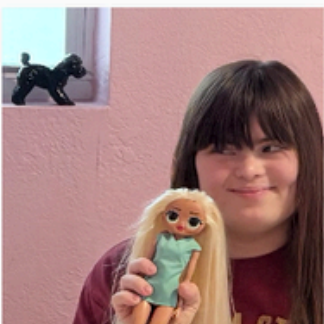
\$175

7 Members



**Unbreakable
Diamonds**

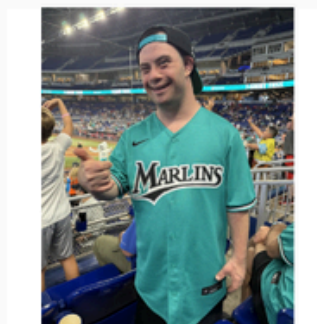
\$150



Amazing Grace 2026

\$130

5 Members



Chad's Buddies

\$110

4 Members



Mary's Marchers

\$105

5 Members



Titi's Advocate

\$95

4 Members

See more on



10

JOIN US!



Joey's Go Team

\$75

5 Members



Lucky Leilani

\$70

3 Members



Nico

\$55

3 Members



Tanner's Team

\$50

3 Members



**Manatee Bay
Elementary Friends**

\$40

1 Member



Anthony's Ace Squad

\$35

2 Members



Lillyanns Love

\$25

2 Members



**Thank you who already committed to donating a
raffle basket for our SU4DS Walk-You're AMAZING!**



CAN YOU HELP?

If you'd like to donate a raffle basket, please email admin@bgcdownsyndrome.org

Theme baskets:

- Liquor basket
- Disney basket-**MaryBeth Gebbia**
- Movie night
- Pet basket
- Game basket-**Paola Herrera**
- Spa/Beauty
- Lego basket-**Yalpri Ortega**
- Italian basket-**Lucy Whitson**
- Man- Home Depot
- Beach basket-**Nancy Smith**
- Girl's basket-**Yalpri Ortega**
- Gym basket
- Garden basket-**Nadine Turner**
- Boys' basket
- Sensory basket
- Teen basket

see more on 



JOIN US!

Own a Business or have contacts that do?
Consider becoming a Sponsor for our SU4DS 2026 Walk!

Our organization relies on the support and generosity of our community and its members!

SU4DS Sponsorship Levels

 DIAMOND SPONSOR	 PLATINUM SPONSOR	 GOLD SPONSOR	 SILVER SPONSOR	 BRONZE SPONSOR
\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$500
With your Diamond Sponsorship, we offer: • Sponsor name in newsletter and social media • Website recognition year round • Logo on the SU4DS Walk shirt • Custom email blast showcasing your business with a special offer or message • Two complimentary registrations • Free Vendor table at four events of choice • Exclusive invitation to all events • Exclusive invitation to our Appreciation event	With your Platinum Sponsorship, we offer: • Sponsor name in newsletter and social media • Logo on the SU4DS Walk shirt • Custom email blast showcasing your business with a special offer or message • Two complimentary registrations • Exclusive invitations to all events • Free Vendor table at three events of choice	With your Gold Sponsorship, we offer: • Sponsor name in newsletter and social media • Logo on the SU4DS Walk shirt • Custom email blast showcasing your business with a special offer or message • Two complimentary registrations • Free Vendor table at two events of choice	With your Silver Sponsorship, we offer: • Sponsor name in newsletter and social media • Name on SU4DS Walk shirt • Two complimentary registrations • Free vendor table at SU4DS Walk	With your Bronze Sponsorship, we offer: • Sponsor name in newsletter and social media • Two complimentary registrations • Vendor table at our SU4DS Walk

Contact admin@bgcdownsyntaxndrome.org to request a digital Sponsor packet or to have a paper packet mailed.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

See more on



Special Thanks

Thank you to all the Sponsors listed below for either renewing their Sponsorship or offering their services in support of our rapidly approaching 2026 Step Up 4 Down Syndrome Walk!

Your continued support helps us provide vital programs, resources, and opportunities that empower individuals with Down syndrome and their families throughout our community.

Thank you for standing with us and helping create a more inclusive future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Together, we are making a meaningful difference!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



In-Kind Sponsors



Community Donations



See more on



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Special Needs Fair | 2026

Saturday,
9 • 12 • 2026
10 am – 1 pm

Charles F. Dodge City Center
601 City Center Way, Pembroke Pines

Join us for a fun and informative day the whole family will enjoy! Parents can learn more about resources available through disability organizations in Broward County, while kids can participate in a variety of exciting activities.

For more information or to arrange for an American Sign Language interpreter, please contact the Community Relations department at communityrelations@mhs.net.

▶ **GIVEAWAYS**
▶ **ACTIVITIES**

▶ **REFRESHMENTS**
▶ **RESOURCE BOOTHS**

▶ **ENTERTAINMENT**
▶ **QUIET AREA**



Scan to register

Joe DiMaggio  **Children's Hospital**

See more on



COMMUNITY EVENTS CONT.

Save the date! Get involved, stay connected,
be present, and stay informed!

Down Syndrome Committee Meeting Schedule 2026–2027 School Year

General meetings will be held on
Thursdays 6:00pm–8:00pm

LOCATION: Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Office
7301 NW 4th St., Suite 103
Plantation, FL 33317

DATES

September 30th, 2026
December 17th, 2026
March 31st, 2027



Broward
Gold Coast
Down Syndrome
Organization

The Down Syndrome Committee (DS Committee) is a parent driven group of volunteers with a mandate of nurturing greater understanding, acceptance, inclusion and independence for students with Down Syndrome across Broward county. We represent all students through collaboration consultation and participation on school, District and community-derived committees.

SERVING: Children from age 3 entering Pre-K (transitioning from Early Steps) to their transitional exit from Broward County Schools at age 22.

GROUPS: National Down Syndrome Congress and its local chapters around the country, Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization.

Contact: dscommitteeboard@gmail.com for any questions or concerns.

Follow us on Facebook "LIKE" our page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/DSCommittee>



See more on



COMMUNITY EVENTS CONT.

Save the date! Get involved, stay connected,
be present, and stay informed!



BROWARD ESE ADVISORY COUNCIL



WHO WE ARE

Broward ESE Advisory Council is a parent-led volunteer group established under School Board policy to voice the interests of students with disabilities.



OUR PURPOSE

We provide recommendations and feedback to the Superintendent and School Board relating to exceptional student education. We foster communication between the school district and parents, and provide a forum for information and advocacy.



COME TO OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are open to everybody, including parents and caregivers, educators, staff and leadership, service providers, advocates and community members. Join us for district updates, guest speakers and discussion of systemic concerns.

CONNECT WITH US!



Facebook
@browardeseadvisory



Instagram
@browardeseadvisorycouncil



Website
www.browardeseadvisorycouncil.com



X (Twitter)
@BrowardESEad



Email
ESE.chair@gmail.com



ESE ADVISORY CALENDAR 2026/27

ESE ADVISORY GENERAL MEETINGS:



At Indian Ridge Middle School, 6.15pm–8.45pm:

Aug 19th

Sept 16th

Oct 21st

Nov 18th

Dec 16th



At Seminole Middle School, 6.15pm–8.45pm:

Jan 20th

Feb 17th

March 17th

April 21st

May 19th

OUR SUBCOMMITTEES:



Autism (ACE) – all 10am:

Sept 24 (Coral Park Elementary)

Nov 12 (Forest Glen Middle)

Feb 11 (Seminole Middle)

April 15 (Sunset Lakes Elementary)



Deaf & Hard of Hearing:

All on Teams 7pm – Sept 14, Nov 9, Jan 11, March 8, May 10.

Links will be emailed to parents, posted at

browardschools.com/calendar and shared to our social media.



Down Syndrome:

6pm on Sept 30, Dec 17, March 31 at

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

7301 NW 4th St. Suite 103, Plantation, FL 33317



See more on



COMMUNITY NEWS

BROWARD ESE PARENTS:

Parents of children in special program classrooms in Broward County schools should have received notification the first week of school about the process of obtaining cameras in ESE classrooms.

I attended an IEP meeting today where the administrator said that there were parents who opted out of the camera. I'm confident that those parents were given misinformation.

THEN I saw a notice from a teacher to parents in her classroom where she specifically told the parents that if there is a camera in the classroom, 'your child will be viewed by strangers'.

First, if a parent is requesting video footage, it is because something serious and significant has happened in the classroom. If my child was in that classroom, I would definitely want there to be a camera.

Second, before that parent views video footage, all of the other children's faces are blurred.

When teachers tell parents this type of misinformation, it is often to get them to make decisions that may not be in the best interest of their child, or, maybe they don't even understand.

Cameras in classrooms benefit both students and good teachers.

I encourage all parents of children in Broward County Schools ese classrooms to request a Camera in your child's ese classroom. If you were under the assumption that this is not a good idea, then I believe that someone has told you something that's not true.

There are advocates who will be seeking cameras in all special education classrooms across the state of Florida during the 2027 legislative session. **If you would like to get more information about that and how to get involved, please reach out to me at Staceyhoaglund@gmail.com.**



✗ MISINFORMATION
ABOUT CAMERAS
IN SPECIAL-NEEDS CLASSROOMS

Let's set the record straight. ❤️

✗ THE MYTH	✓ THE FACTS
 Other parents can watch their child if cameras are in the classroom.	 Footage is released ONLY if a parent has a specific concern.
	 All other students' faces are blurred. Privacy is protected.
	 Cameras promote safety, accountability and peace of mind for everyone.

 **Fact over fiction.**
Our kids deserve the truth.



Stacey Hoaglund is a seasoned advocate, trainer, and disability consultant dedicated to building inclusive communities. With 25+ years of experience, she empowers families and professionals through education and systemic advocacy.

SAVE THE DATE

WORKSHOP DIETETICS and NUTRITION

with Dylan Chang, RDN

Dylan Chang is a registered dietitian who earned his bachelor's degree in Dietetics and Nutrition from FIU. His passion for nutrition began at a young age after being diagnosed with Crohn's Disease. He is passionate about helping people feel better, build confidence in their health choices and create sustainable habits.

WHEN:

Thursday, September 30th

TIME:

6:00 pm

WHERE:

BGCDSO OFFICE
7301 NW 4th St., Suite 103
Plantation, FL 33317

Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 29th to:
events@bgcdownsyntaxdrome.org



Broward
Gold Coast
Down Syndrome
Organization

FUNDRAISERS

Thanks to the generosity of Papa John's, we are excited to offer their popular Nifty Fifty Card fundraiser once again! The card is available for **purchase now through September 19, 2026 and provides 50% off 18 online orders through July 31, 2027.** For just **\$15**, you can enjoy great savings while supporting the Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization.

purchase your Nifty Fifty Card, visit:

<https://givebutter.com/BGCDSOFundraisers>

If you have any questions, please contact
events@bgcdownsyndrome.org

Thank you for supporting the Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization.

🍕 Save money, enjoy great pizza, and support a great cause!
Delivery estimated to be October 7th, 2026.



PAPA JOHNS® | Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

NIFTY 50 FUNDRAISER

Help Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization!!!!

PAPA JOHNS® PAPA'S NIFTY 50 CARD
LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED



Your **ONLINE** Menu Priced Pizza Order
*See back for details

\$15 GET NIFTY... TAKE 50!

For only \$15,
get **50% off**
18 ONLINE ORDERS
off regular menu-priced
orders through 07/31/27!

SALES START: 08/24/26 | SALES END: 09/19/26

Cards will be distributed by the organization about 2 weeks after sales end

Cards are valid online only in Central and South Florida, Greater Tampa Bay, and Fort Myers. See pajohnsfundraising.com/participating-areas
Must be signed into Papa Rewards Account. Not stackable with other discounts. \$500 order limit.

FUNDRAISER NEWS

Thank you to everyone who came out and joined us for our **Give Back Day at Sicilian Oven** to help support the Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization!

We enjoyed delicious food while giving back to our community! Thank you to **Isabel Rojas-Knapp** for organizing this amazing event and **Sicilian Oven Plantation** for hosting our fundraiser. We truly appreciate your continued support of our loved ones with Down syndrome!

