



July



NEWSLETTER



BGCDSO Member Events & Community Resources



JULY

2026



JULY 01	SU4DS 2026 Walk EARLY BIRD Registration Visit our website to Join Us! bgcdownsyrndrome.org Flynn's Arcade Game Cards on sale NOW! Visit our website bgcdownsyrndrome.org and click under Fundraisers at the top
JULY 07	READ ALONG-Members Only BGCDSO Office @ 6pm RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 7/5
JULY 09	DANCE WORKSHOP-Members Only Sunrise Athletic Complex-Community Room from 6pm-8pm 11501 NW 44 th Street, Sunrise, FL 33323 RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 7/7
JULY 16	DANCE WORKSHOP-Members Only Sunrise Athletic Complex-Community Room from 6pm-8pm 11501 NW 44 th Street, Sunrise, FL 33323 RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 7/14
JULY 18	COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS BGCDSO Office @ 10am RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 7/9
JULY 21	BINGO NIGHT-Members Only BGCDSO Office @ 6pm RSVP to events@bgcdownsyrndrome.org by 7/19
JULY 23	NDSC CONVENTION in Orlando July 23-26 th 2026 Go to http://ndsccenter.org/convention/ for more information.

STAY INFORMED!

Topic	Page
Member Events	2-5
Growth	6-10
Birthdays	11
Upcoming Events	12
Community Events	13-14
Fundraisers	15
Upcoming Fundraisers	16
Special Thanks	17-18

MEMBER EVENTS

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- > **Coffee & Conversations-** Thank you to the officers from Broward Sheriff's Office, Sgt. St. Sauveur and Ciara Bostick, for joining us this month at our Coffee and Conversations. They most graciously supplied us with some very important and enlightening information regarding internet safety and programs BSO offers throughout the county. We look forward to having them for an evening presentation soon!



FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

Father's Day- "A father's love, guidance, and support help shape lives in countless ways. Father's Day is a time to celebrate and thank all fathers and father figures for their dedication, sacrifice, and care."- An opportunity to recognize the important role fathers play in families and communities.

Several BGCD SO fathers gave back to the community by volunteering at Oakmonte Village of Davie, a senior living community. They helped set up balloon signage and hung it at the entrance, creating a festive welcome. They also wrapped chocolate bars with "Happy Father's Day" covers for the residents. Their effort was greatly appreciated, and they've been invited back to volunteer again next year.

Following the volunteer event, our members met up for lunch and had the opportunity to connect with one another. We are excited to see our father members build these relationships and begin planning future events together. It was truly a great day!

Special thanks to, Merwyn De Sa, BGCD SO Advisory Board Member who organized this special event for our father members.

Thank you to all the fathers who came out to celebrate. Hoping you all had a very Happy Father's Day!



HAPPY FATHER'S Day

See more on



MEMBER EVENTS CONT.

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- > **BINGO Night-** Our monthly BINGO night was a blast! We welcomed two new players, and they had such a great time. We can't wait to see everyone again on July 21st for our next BINGO night!



- > **Dance Workshop-** This is just the beginning of our dance class journey! Our members had an amazing time during their very first practice- their joy and excitement truly filled the room. It was incredible to see everyone come together, learn new moves, and simply have fun!

A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful instructor, Bianca Vila, and her duet dance partner, Camila Back, for generously volunteering their time and talent to lead this class. Their passion and dedication are already making such a meaningful impact. We can't wait to see this group continue to grow, learn, and shine with each class!

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!

LET'S
Dance



MEMBER EVENTS CONT.

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

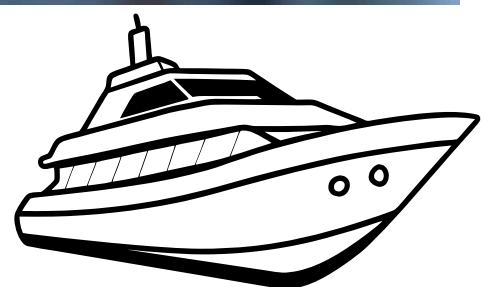
➤ **Father's Day Fishing Trip-** The BGCD SO Dads had an incredible time bonding with their kids on our Father's Fishing Trip! It was a fantastic day filled with laughter, great catches, and unforgettable memories.

A heartfelt thank you to Tony Di Giulian from Pelagic Gear for making this special experience possible for our members. We are also deeply grateful to the Starlight Fleet Florida, all the volunteers and everyone involved- your support means so much to the BGCD SO Families!

After a fun day on the water, we gathered at Papa's Raw Bar for dinner, where everyone enjoyed great food and even better company while catching up with friends, A special shout-out to Troy Ganter and Papa's Raw Bar for generously hosting our members and treating us like VIPS. We truly appreciate your hospitality and kindness!



happy
Father's
Day



See more on



GROWTH

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- > **Summer Exceptional Educators Training Preparations-** Thanks to the dedication of our community partners and volunteers! With your help, we are able to better support and empower our educators!



E D U C A T I O N



GROWTH CONT.

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

> **Summer Exceptional Educators Training** - We had our first Summer Exceptional Educators Training and to say it was a success is an understatement! We had 120 educators registered for the training. Educators came out and listened to our nine incredible presenters for a full day of training on how to interact with students with Down syndrome and each had their own valuable tips and tricks to deal with anxiety, everyday behaviors, Access Points, teaching strategies, and much more! Special thanks to Sue Davis-Killian, the Director of Education from Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization, who presented on Down syndrome 101, and Dr. Adrine McKenzie presented on mental health and anxiety.

A huge thank you to Broward Sheriff's Office, Family Network on Disabilities, New Patterns ABA, Rangel Advocacy Law P.A. and FDLRS who sponsored the training. Thank you Andrica Thomas-InD Curriculum Supervisor and Bach Todaro-DS Committee of Broward ESE Advisory Council Chair for organizing this beneficial training in record time!

A special thanks to our staff, MaryBeth Gebbia, for all the time and effort in organizing and bringing to fruition the amazing breakfast and lunch spread, while our parent volunteer, Malina Carraher, kept us awake with the coffee station and hydrated us throughout the day. Also, our awesome photographer, Aura Krimmer who captured the training. Thank you!

We love providing our educators with resources to help our Down syndrome and ESE community. When people are educated and given resources to help our ESE students, WE ALL BENEFIT!

THANK YOU



See more on



GROWTH CONT.

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- > **Family Cafe Conference-** Our families had a wonderful time at the Family Café Conference, connecting with other parents, learning about valuable resources, and celebrating the amazing abilities of children with Down syndrome. It was an inspiring experience filled with support, advocacy, and community—reminding us how powerful it is when families come together to learn, share, and grow!



GROWTH CONT.

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- > **Women's Summit-** What a day at the Women's Summit! Connecting, meeting new friends, and rediscovering ourselves along the way. Finding joy in the little things, decorating our bucket drums, and playing together with intention-such as beautiful shared experience. This marks the 12th year of the summit, and it truly keeps getting better every year!



Women
have
No Limits

See more on



GROWTH CONT.

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- **Multi-Chambers of Commerce Networking-** An event with Plantation, Sunrise, Miramar, and Pembroke Pines. Huge thank you to AC Hotel Sawgrass for hosting such a great evening! It was amazing catching up with familiar faces and making new connections. The breezy rooftop and sunset was simply unforgettable!



BETTER
TOGETHER

Birthdays



Preston



Leilani



Vivi



UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY MEMBER EVENTS



**Join us for
COFFEE &
CONVERSATIONS**

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

Please RSVP by the prior Thursday to events@bgcdownsyndrome.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 12 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...

Food • Craft • Read Along • Socialization

2026 Dates

- ☀ July 7 - BGCD SO Office
- 🌙 August 6 - Sunrise
- 🌊 September 3 - Sunrise
- 🌅 October 1 - Sunrise
- ★ November 5 - Sunrise
- ❤ December 3 - Sunrise

📍 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@bgcdownsyndrome.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Dance Workshop Dates:
June 25th, July 9th & July 16th

DANCE

Time: 6-8pm
Location: Sunrise Athletic Complex-Community Room
11501 NW 44th St. Sunrise, FL 33323
Please RSVP to events@bgcdownsyndrome.org

Members Only Event!




WORKSHOP



BINGO NIGHT

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

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

UPCOMING DATES

July 21st	August 19th	September 23rd
October 21st	November 18th	December 16

All events begin at 6pm

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

See more on



Entries due 7/31



Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

BGCDSO MEMBERS

SU4DS 2026 Walk Shirt Design contest

Let's celebrate creativity together!

Calling all Broward Gold Coast artists! For the first time ever, we're inviting our talented members to help create the official design for our SU4DS 2026 Walk T-shirt! This is your chance to leave your mark on an event that celebrates our community. This year's shirt will be special and designed by the people who make our community so amazing!

REQUIREMENTS:

- SUBMITTED BY JULY 31ST
- ONE COLOR/INK DESIGN
- ACTIVE MEMBER
- ARTIST: ANY AGE

Great Opportunity for DS Families!



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

Who will be our featured artist?



Visit <https://ndscenter.org/convention/>
for more information!

Registration is OPEN!



Step Up 4 Down Syndrome 2026 Walk

SATURDAY

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT

Markham Park:

OCTOBER 17TH
Walk Starts 8:30am



Broward
Gold Coast
Down Syndrome
Organization

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

LUNCH | FAMILY FUN | BOUNCE HOUSE | INFLATABLES |
RAFFLES & MUCH MORE

REGISTER/DONATE/SPONSOR

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



BGCD SO: 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



FUNDRAISER

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

- > **Pelagic Nights Fundraiser-** What a night! We had an incredible evening filled with live music, delicious food, and great freindship at the Pelagic Nights fundraiser for BGCD SO.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out and supported our cause by participating in the raffles-your generosity makes a real difference.

Special appreciation goes to our friend, Tony DiGiulian of Pelagic Gear, for his passion and for organizing such an amazing event, and to Papa's Raw Bar for generously hosting us at their restaurant!

We are truly grateful to be part of such a supportive community!



Fundraising
EVENT

See more on



UPCOMING FUNDRAISER



FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY



**NEW BGCDSO FUNDRAISER ALERT!
JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT AT FLYNN'S ARCADE
WHILE SUPPORTING A GREAT CAUSE!**

CELEBRATE PRESTON'S 17TH BIRTHDAY!

THURSDAY, JULY 2ND

6:00PM-8:00PM

FLYNN'S ARCADE

\$15= ONE DAY OF UNLIMITED ARCADE PLAY/PER PERSON

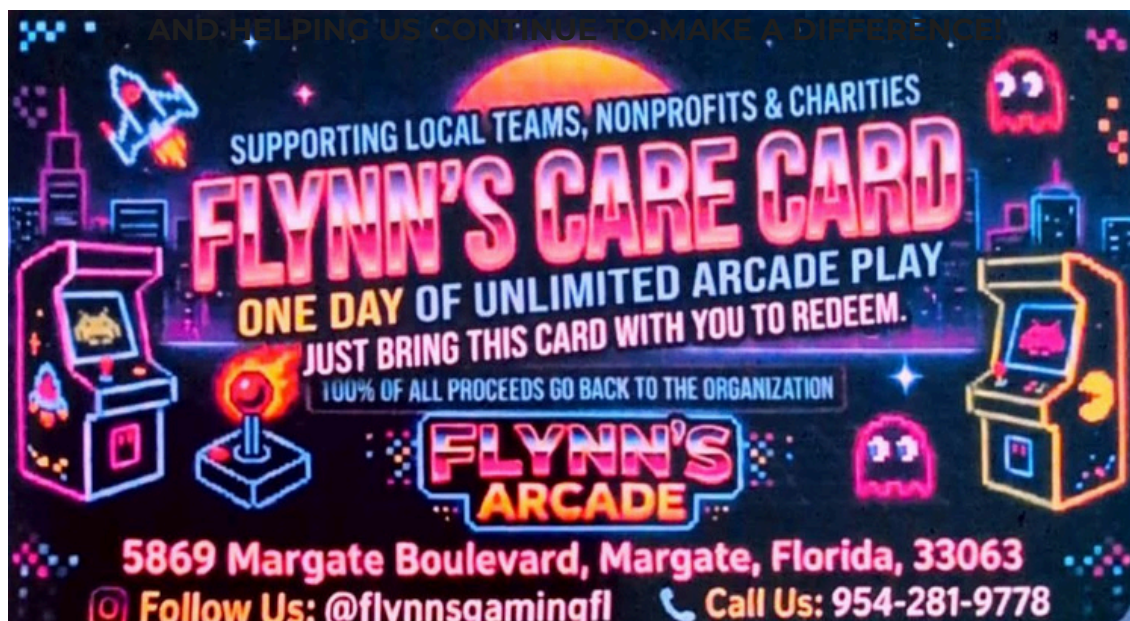
BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR A NIGHT OF FULL GAMES, LAUGHTER AND CAKE!

**PURCHASE YOUR GAME PASS HERE: SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT
[HTTPS://GIVEBUTTER.COM/BGCDSOFUNDRAISERS](https://givebutter.com/bgcdsfundraisers)
PLEASE WRITE "FLYNN'S ARCADE" IN THE MEMO.**



CAN'T MAKE IT THAT NIGHT? NO PROBLEM! YOU CAN STILL PURCHASE A GAME CARD AND USE IT ANYTIME FOR ONE DAY, AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BGCDSO!



Special Thanks

Special thanks to the **The Knights of Columbus, Plantation Chapter from St. Gregory's Catholic Church**, for their generous donation to our organization.

A special thank you to **Merv De Sa** for reaching out to them and helping coordinate and collect these donations in support of our mission.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the kindness and generosity of others, and we truly couldn't be more grateful for this support.



Thank You!

Special Thanks

A very Special Thanks to the Sponsors of our recent Summer Exceptional Educators Training! We could not hold such a needed workshop to educate our teachers and staff to better understand our DS students in and out of the classroom! Thank you for donating your time, money and resources to making this an amazing, beneficial day!

