NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization



BGCDSO Member Events & Community Resources

NOVEMBER **2026**



NOVEMBER 5 — READ ALONG-Members Only
Sunrise Athletic Complex-Community Room @ 6:00pm
11501 NW 44th Street, Sunrise, FL 33323
RSVP to events@bgcdownsyndrome.org by 11/3

NOVEMBER 12 — SPECIAL NEEDS FINANCIAL PLANNING WEBINAR by New York Life
ZOOM Meeting @ 6:30pm
Register by 11/10 to https://forms.gle/xpfxu2puEub6oJMA8

NOVEMBER 14 — COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS
Special Guests: FND, Supportive Engagement, and New York Life
BGCDSO Office from 10:00am-12:00pm
RSVP to events@bgcdownsyndrome.org by 11/12

NOVEMBER 17 — BGCDSO BOARD ELECTIONS
BGCDSO Office @ 6:30pm
Send your nominations to admin@bgcdownsyndrome.org by 11/10
RSVP to events@bgcdownsyndrome.org by 11/15 to attend

NOVEMBER 18 — BINGO NIGHT-Members Only
BGCDSO Office @ 6:00pm
RSVP to events@bgcdownsyndrome.org by 11/16

NOVEMBER 18 — ESE ADVISORY COUNCIL GENERAL MTG
Indian Ridge Middle School-1355 S Nob Hill Rd, Davie, FL 33324
from 6:15pm-8:45pm

NOVEMBER 21 — FRIENDSGIVING POTLUCK
Tree Tops Park-Sabel Palm Shelter
3900 SW 100th Ave., Davie, FL 33328 from 11:00am-2:00pm
Scan the QR code to donate a dish or supplies

NOVEMBER 26 — THANKSGIVING
ENJOY!!



MEMBER EVENTS

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

Read Along-It's that time of the year! Halloween Read Along is one of our favorite events. We had such fun seeing everyone's costumes and listening to fun Halloween music! Special thanks to our talented and dramatic reader, Danny, who read the book for us so well. Bravo!















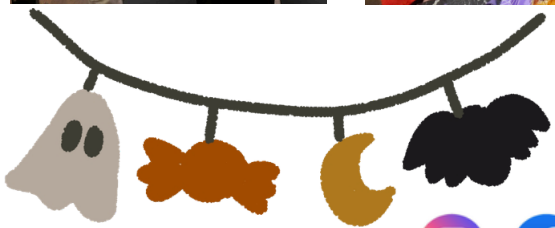












See more on

MEMBER EVENTS CONT.

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

Raffle Baskets-Thank you so much to Lucy Whitson, Miriam Linares and Aura Krimmer for helping to wrap the raffle baskets for our SU4DS Walk. We had so much fun working together on this, and there was definitely plenty of laughing—even with the AC being out! We truly appreciate your enthusiasm and support! Thank you to Lucy Whitson, Isabel Rojas-Knapp, and everyone who donated raffle baskets/items. We truly appreciate your support!












TEAMWORK

Coffee and Conversations-What started as an unexpected monthly Coffee and Conversations, turned into a full day of counting, sorting, folding, and pulling shirts for the teams. We even had our young men hang out with each other while their moms worked from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. It was wonderful to see their bonding and hear their giggles in the background! A special thank you to Nadine Turner, Miriam Linares, and Kametra Smith for offering your helping hands to make our workload so much lighter for our SU4DS Shirt Distribution Night!

Congratulations to Noah Turner, who won the SU4DS Walk 2026 shirt design contest. Great job, Noah!







MEMBER EVENTS CONT.

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

Bingo Night-Another fun night in the books for our Bingo Night! Thank you, Maria Teresa Pretelt-Cuchi and Malina Slaney Carraher, who helped with the event. Special thanks to the Baken family for donating pizza.
We look forward to seeing you at our next bingo on November 18th!



















GROWTH

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY

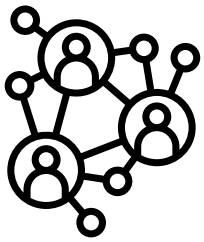
Thank you so much for the invite to the Coffee & Conversations in the Courthouse hosted by the Law Office of the Public Defender. It was such a casual and welcoming gathering, and a wonderful opportunity to connect with the team, engage in open conversation about the justice system, legal rights, and community concerns, and reunite with some of the "grant sisters." Afterward, we were able to drop by for a surprise visit with Nadine Turner, one of our BGCDSO members who works in the adjacent building. She gave us a tour of the courtroom and even let us sit in the judge's chair—what a special treat! A big thank you to Nadine as well for the warm hospitality. Thanks again for including us in such a memorable event!













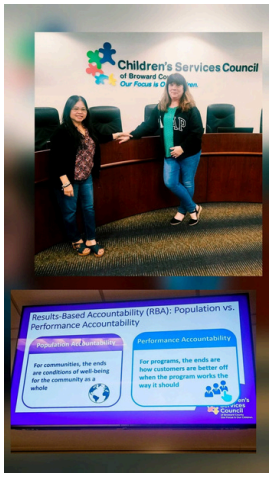






It was a month full of trainings and meetings; completely packed with great information to share!









BIRTHDAYS

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization



Zara



Boston



Mitchell







UPCOMING EVENTS

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

MONTHLY MEMBER EVENTS



Join us on November 14th for our monthly Coffee & Conversations meet up at our BGCDSO Office from 10:00am-12:00pm, with special guests from FND-Family Network on Disabilities, Supportive Engagement, and New York Life.

We hope to see you there!





UPCOMING EVENTS

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

Join our 3rd Annual Friendsgiving Potluck! Scan the QR code to sign up.
We are in need of a few volunteers to help at our 3rd Annual Friendsgiving Potluck! Click on the link below to sign up. Volunteer service hours available for students.

POTLUCK

Friendsgiving 2026

Join us for our
2026 Friendsgiving Potluck!
Let's gather for good food, great friends, and lots of gratitude.

Please RSVP by November 18th to:
events@bgcdownsyndrome.org

Scan the QR code below, or click to sign up here:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48ABAC2CA3FACE9-66638244-2026
for what dish you'd like to bring.
We can't wait to celebrate together!

Saturday, November 21, 2026

11:00am-2:00pm

Tree Tops Park: Sable Palm Shelter
3900 SW 100th Ave., Davie, FL 33328

Scan to sign up

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization



SPECIAL THANKS

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

Special Thanks to the **Broward Sheriff's Office** for awarding BGCDSO two LETF grants in support of our Read Along Program and Step Up 4 Down Syndrome 2026 Walk! We are truly grateful for their continued support of our organization and the Down syndrome community!

Thank you to **Bach Todaro** and **Giovanna Peters** for working so hard to secure these grants for our organization! They are very time consuming and we are so proud to have such a great team working to help us continue our Mission!







See more on

THANK YOU!

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

Where do we even begin?

There are days that remind us exactly why we do what we do, and our Step Up 4 Down Syndrome 2026 Walk was one of those days. Seeing our families together, our individuals with Down syndrome being celebrated, volunteers lending a hand wherever they were needed, community partners showing up in full force, and friends and supporters filling the day with laughter, dancing, hugs, and joy was truly incredible.

This event was months in the making, and it took an entire community to bring it to life. To every sponsor, donor, volunteer, vendor, entertainer, first responder, community partner, member, family, friend, Walk planner, Advisory, Board member, and staff member, please know how grateful we are.

You didn't simply help us put on an event. You helped us celebrate a community. For 31 years, BGCDSO has been bringing families together and supporting individuals with Down syndrome, and this Walk was a beautiful reminder of what is possible when our community comes together.

Every registration, every donation, every volunteer hour, every sponsorship, and every person who showed up helped make this milestone celebration unforgettable.

Thank you for stepping up. Thank you for believing in our mission.

And thank you for celebrating our incredible Down syndrome community with us.

Thank you everyone, who shared your photos and videos with us.

We received a lot and they're still coming. Thank you so much for your support!

The Walk fundraising site will remain open through December 31, 2026 for anyone who would still like to contribute.

We've reached $94,955, 79% of our $120,000 goal! $25,045 to go.

Let's Reach Our Goal Together!

Every registration, donation, fundraiser, sponsorship, and share makes a difference. Your support helps us continue providing FREE programs, events, scholarships, resources, and support to individuals with Down syndrome and other special needs in our community.

Together, we Step Up. Together, we make a Difference.

We are still accepting donations on our Walk site until December 31, 2026! Your donation is tax deductible. Receipts available upon request.

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

THANK YOU!

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

A special thank you to our 2026 sponsors, in-kind donors, and community partners for your generous support of the Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization and the Down syndrome community in South Florida. We truly appreciate your continued partnership and dedication.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS

Diamond Sponsor

Sheriff's Office Broward County

Sheriff Gregory Tony, Ph.D.

Platinum Sponsors

Black Diamond Claims Solutions

Craig Kinn Automotive Group

Lexus of North Miami · Lexus of Pembroke Pines · Toyota of Hollywood · Subaru of Pembroke Pines · Acura of Pembroke Pines

Omnio

Gold Sponsors

Tropic Supply

RUUD Air Conditioning Equipment

GMTS Global Maritime Transportation Services

R&R Electric 954.894.2900

Silver Sponsors

The Marion Roletti Foundation

AbilityToHelp

TMS Trade Management Solutions

JL Door

Bronze Sponsors

Special Education Advocacy Services, LLC www.yselaheim.com

Eyes on Weston

Meloro Law

FND Family Network on Disabilities

Rangel Advocacy Law

Suarez-Baster Accounting & Tax Services

Friedland & Boiman Certified Public Accountants

THANK YOU!

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

In-Kind Sponsors

Everglades Onelove Sheriff's Office Broward County – Sheriff Gregory Tony, Ph.D. Force Photographs Police Department City of Sunrise Sunrise Fire Rescue Florida

Izzy's Beauty Biz – Limelife Beauty Guide Sunshine Tents & Event Rentals Hooters South Florida Cloggers

Trader Joe's Anthony's Clam House & Grill Papa Johns – Better Ingredients. Better Pizza.

Community Donations

Supportive Engagement – Healing Through Therapy Uniquely You! Broward & Palm Beach New York Life J. James

Padrino's Cuban Restaurant Dr. Adrine McKenzie – Children, Adolescents and Families

Thank you for making our SU4DS such an Amazing Success!!

Step Up 4 Down Syndrome

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

See more on

THANK YOU!

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

A special thank you to **Hooters Weston** for hosting the **Friendraiser** for us right after our SU4DS Walk!
Thank you for your continued support as an in-kind sponsor.
We truly appreciate your ongoing partnership and dedication to our cause.















See more on

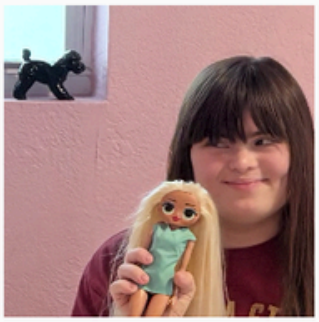
GREAT JOB TEAMS!

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

Top 10 SU4DS Teams!



Noah's Ark
$20,660
18 Members



Amazing Grace 2026
$11,085
16 Members



Chad's Buddies
$8,085
55 Members



Ky-Ky's Team
$3,470
28 Members



Team Preston
$3,170
41 Members



Team Etienne 2026
$2,420
11 Members



JERO's Team
$1,920.20
13 Members



Anthony's Ace Squad
$1,731.94
9 Members



Darren's Dawgs
$1,300
16 Members



Cassie's Crew
$1,080
16 Members

Many thanks to the teams that worked so hard to collect sizeable donations for our organization:

~Noah's Ark (Nadine Turner)for securing us a donation through Vanguard Charitable

~Amazing Grace 2026 (Patricia Garland) for securing a donation from the Chicago Community Foundation

~Chad's Buddies (Whitson's & Robinson's) for recruiting their community partners, U.S. Tents Rentals (Timothy Boyle) and IRG Global (Robbie Meeks)

~Ky-Ky's Team (Yolanda Thompson) from Gordon Food Services

~JERO'S Team (Paola Herrera) from Square Feet Contractors

~Anthony's ACE Squad (Sabrina Cornell) from MedPro Staffing.

See more on


step UP 4
step UP 4


Step UP
FINISH
WALK
WALK


I AM NOAH
I AM PRESTON
I Believe in Meaningful Inclusion!
WALK

See more on

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

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 stude 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

COMMUNITY EVENTS CONT.

Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization

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





BE A PART OF THE CONVERSATION!

