

## BUDS Member Directory

BUDS would like to put together a directory that would serve as a valuable resource to our members. This directory will contain the names and addresses of our members, and specific medical issues that they have experienced, enabling you to contact others who could give you advice on dealing with a similar issue.

There will be a professional directory listing professional organizations or groups that our members have found to be the best (including, pediatricians, medical specialists, therapists, lawyers, financial planners, etc.).

Finally, there will be a recreational directory highlighting organizations that offer activities that are welcoming to children with special needs (including summer camps, Special Olympics, horseback riding, gymnastics, karate, girl/boy scouts, soccer, baseball, etc.)

If you would like to receive this directory when it is available, please complete the following information:

- I would like to receive the directory, but do not want my family information included.
- I would like to receive the directory, and would like my family information to be included (sign below)

(signature required to be included in directory)

In addition, if you have any professional organizations or activities you would like to recommend, please provide the following on a separate sheet of paper:

1. List any professionals that you would recommend to other members (e.g., pediatricians, medical specialists, therapists, lawyers, financial planners, etc.)
2. List any recreational activities that your child is involved in that you would recommend to others.

**Please be sure to complete the membership application on the opposite side of this form.**

## ABOUT BUDS

*BUDS – “Bringing Up Down Syndrome” is a southern New Jersey non-profit organization whose purpose is to help families who have children with Down syndrome by offering a variety of programs and services. We have close to 300 families in our organization covering Burlington, Gloucester, and Camden Counties.*

*Our goal is to educate families on how to help our children be self-advocates, while showing the community that all individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities can be valuable, contributing members of society.*



*Please read the information contained in this brochure for more details about the services offered by BUDS. Be sure to complete both sides of the membership application and return it to the address listed, along with your \$5.00 annual membership fee.*

Visit our website at [www.budssj.org](http://www.budssj.org)

**BUDS**  
“Bringing Up Down Syndrome”  
P.O. Box 1085  
Marlton, NJ 08053

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**Membership  
Brochure**



## Friendship

One of the biggest benefits *BUDS* offers is the opportunity to meet other families with similar interests as yours, and thereby establishing friendships. These friendships are formed between the parents and siblings of the children with Down syndrome and, more importantly, between the children themselves.

A common concern of many parents, is whether or not their children will establish valuable, long-lasting friendships. This is even more of a concern when the child has special needs. For this reason, *BUDS* has formed *FRIENDRAISER* events. These are monthly events organized by *BUDS* that invite members to come and enjoy getting acquainted with other members in an informal, fun environment.

There are *FRIENDRAISER* events for all ages – bowling parties, miniature golf outings, teen dances, a spring egg hunt, trips to the zoo, hayrides in the fall, and brunch with Santa, to name a few.

All of these events have the goal of bringing together our members in order to facilitate lasting, life-long friendships. As a member of *BUDS* you will receive newsletters and monthly reminders informing you of these



## Inclusion

Inclusive Education is defined as the opportunity for all students, regardless of their disability, to be educated in age-appropriate regular classes in their neighborhood school.

One of the primary goals of *BUDS* is to educate our families about the laws that are available to protect our children regarding their education. It is our intent to empower parents with the knowledge they need to get the education they feel is best for their child.

All of us have a vision for our child's future. For some, that vision may involve our child attending his or her neighborhood school with siblings and local friends. For others, it may not. Regardless of your family's vision, it is important to understand what laws are available to protect your child as he or she enters the educational setting.

Since September 2000, *BUDS* has been the recipient of an annual grant from the Division of Developmental Disabilities which enables us to offer a variety of training programs and workshops to our membership regarding inclusion.

We encourage all families to attend these workshops in order to learn about the services that are available for our children. This will enable you to make the most educated decision about what choice is right for your child and your family.

**REMEMBER:** *Special Education is a service, not a place.*

## Advocacy

The definition of an advocate reads: a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. A self-advocate, then, would have to be defined as a person who publicly supports or recommends him or herself.



Another goal of *BUDS* is to encourage our children to be self-advocates. People like Chris Burke (pictured above) have paved the way for thousands of individuals with Down syndrome to follow their dreams and set high standards for themselves.

The time has come for all individuals with or without disabilities to stand up and be counted.

*“The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those who sang best.”*

—Henry VanDyke

## Membership Application

Please check all that apply:

- I am the parent of a child with Down syndrome
- I am the family member of a child with Down syndrome
- I am a person with Down syndrome
- I am a professional who works with persons with Down syndrome and other disabilities
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following information regarding the child with Down syndrome:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current educational status:

Early Intervention  High School

Preschool  Post Secondary

Elementary School  Transition to work

Middle School  Work/Job Training

Please list any medical concerns that your child has had since birth \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any siblings and their birthdates: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed application and \$5.00 annual membership fee (payable to *BUDS*) to:

*BUDS Membership*

*P.O. Box 1085*

*Marlton, NJ 08053*

See reverse side for information about Membership Directory.