

# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **NC Down Syndrome Alliance to Hold 2022 Buddy Walk Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> in Holly Springs**

*The 24th Annual Buddy Walk raises funds to provide resources to North Carolina individuals with Down syndrome and their families.*

**Raleigh, NC** —The North Carolina Down Syndrome Alliance is hosting the 24th annual Buddy Walk to raise funds to provide programming and resources to individuals with Down syndrome throughout North Carolina. This year, the walk will be held on October 16th at Sugg Farm, Holly Springs, NC 1:00 to 5:00pm.

"This is a day of celebration and a day we honor individuals with Down syndrome in our community," says Christina Reaves, Executive Director of the North Carolina Down Syndrome Alliance. "All are invited to join us on the Buddy Walk as we promote acceptance and inclusion for people with Down syndrome and raise funds for education, research, and advocacy programs."

It's important to note that connecting families early, providing resources, and training parents on best practices gives the NCDSA the ability to train a generation of individuals with Down syndrome whose potential is limitless. By providing these intervention services, children with Down syndrome are learning to read, interacting with others, driving cars, graduating high school, and working in meaningful employment. This was not the case just 20 years ago.

A major piece of the NCDSA's evolution is to expand further to the Eastern and Western parts of the state and pay close attention to underserved areas. Ms. Reaves, her staff, and Board of Directors have been working on developing a plan to accomplish this and will be continuing implementation in 2023.

All are welcomed to join the NCDSA at this year's Triangle Buddy Walk. It will be held on October 16th at Sugg Farm in Holly Springs, NC 1:00 to 5:00pm. Whether you have Down syndrome, know someone who does, or just want to show your support, all are welcome on this day of celebration.

Visit <https://www.trianglebuddywalk.com> for more information, to register a team and to help spread the word!

#### About North Carolina Down Syndrome Alliance

The North Carolina Down Alliance is a nonprofit support, resource, and advocacy organization serving individuals, families, and professionals. Our Mission is to empower, connect, and support the lifespan of individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community through outreach, advocacy, and education in North Carolina. The vision of the NCDSA is to be an effective, compassionate, and comprehensive resource on Down syndrome throughout North Carolina. NCDSA envisions a culture in which all people with Down syndrome are empowered to achieve their full potential and live healthy, productive lives as valued citizens within the fabric of society. The goal is to promote a community where all people with Down syndrome can achieve their full potential, and where individuals with Down syndrome and their families are welcomed with fairness, enthusiasm, and encouragement in the community. The NCDSA is funded primarily through donations and small grants and rely on the help of volunteers to carry out activities throughout the year. For more information, visit <https://www.ncdsalliance.org/>.

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