



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared By



Table of Contents

- 1 Letter from our Director
- 2 Mission & Purpose
- 3 Our Team
- 4 Program Highlights
- 5 Our Community Impact
- 6 Financials
- 7 Thank you!

Letter from our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As we conclude our landmark 21st year of being a non-profit, we have so much to be grateful for. We have grown tremendously over the years and are humbled and grateful to all of you who have made all that we do possible.

SANDS hosted our first “Buddy Walk” in 2001, officially became an organization in 2003 and received non-profit status in 2004. At that time we were a small organization run by a handful of families wanting to bring our community together. This small group created a strong foundation to build on. We now have a board of directors, staff, numerous volunteers, and nearly 300 families that band together to lift each other up. Our southern Arizona Down syndrome community is truly unique in our ability to pull together and take care of each other, and it is so beautiful to be a part of!

2024 we continued to have steady growth in our membership, and made immense impact in our community. From sending a ground breaking contingent of almost 100 people to the DS Convention in Phoenix, to having one of our highest attended walks ever, we reached more people than we dreamed possible. And we have YOU to thank for that!

January of this year, the board met to review our executive plan and set our 2025 strategic goals. We are planning another amazing year for our organization. Know that the board and I are committed to our Mission, Vision, and Values. These are our guiding principals. Thank you for your faith and trust in us to serve our families. We cherish your support, and strive to lead this organization with our loved ones at the forefront of everything we do.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Hansen



Our Why

Mission

SANDS provides resources and opportunities to our Down syndrome community while also working to shift public perceptions about Down syndrome by creating a supportive, inclusive and collaborative network within southern Arizona.

Vision

To develop a more inclusive society that encourages individuals with Down syndrome to thrive and lead fulfilling and dignified lives.

Values

Diversity: We believe that everyone belongs in our SANDS family and pledge to embrace a sense of acceptance and belonging in all that we do.

Collaboration: We believe in harnessing the collective power of our team by fostering open communication and shared decision-making to achieve optimal results.

Financial Stewardship: We believe in managing our finances with responsibility, integrity and foresight, ensuring long-term financial stability and positive impact through wise decision-making and ethical practices.

Trust: We believe in building strong, transparent relationships with our members and community by always acting with honesty, integrity, and accountability, ensuring their confidence and trust in our mission to serve.



Board of Directors

Executive Team

Camille Stanbery

President

State of Arizona Disability
Determination Services

Kim Briggs

Vice-President

Pima County Board of
Supervisors

Tracy Carroll

Secretary

Wesley Community
Health Center & UofA

Ben Renner

Treasurer

Self Employed

Members at Large

Katie Langan

Self-Advocate

Estella Avila

Long Realty & Great Clips

Karen Poppe

Retired

Terra Rivera

Raytheon

Brianne McIntyre

Stay at home Mom



Program Highlights

1 Parent Information

Our parent information program is a multifaceted program. We provide educational resources to:

- Families receiving a prenatal diagnosis
- Families who just had a baby with Down syndrome
- Families who are new to the state and our region
- Families caring for an adult with Down syndrome
- Medical facilities who care for individuals with Down syndrome



2 G.O.L.D. Program

This year our numbers held steady with SANDS providing nearly \$41,000 in direct financial support to our families. The majority of our requests were for families to attend the National Down Syndrome Convention in Phoenix. We were so thrilled to be able to send nearly 100 people! We had the largest single group present! We were also able to fund regular requests for therapy and medical copay assistance as well. Unfortunately our grocery gift card program funding was drastically cut, but we were able to use funds from other sources that were not used to help fund the program.



Music therapy is a missing link that helps speech, intelligibility, and confidence. Having support for this program was mission critical to our daughter's success in 2023!!
THANKS SANDS!!!

Program Highlights



3 SANDS Walk for Down Syndrome

2024 brought about yet another change to our event! After much consideration, and many months of searching, we decided to move our event to the Tucson Convention Center (TCC). While this brought on new challenges and a completely different experience, it allowed us to save \$10,000 in event costs, greatly reduced our volunteer needs, and provides us lots of opportunities for growth. We anticipated hurdles, and some ended up being larger than expected, but we are committed to learning from the experience and improving it for 2025!

“We are so grateful for the grant which allowed me as a single mom and my children to attend the convention when we otherwise would not have been able to go. The convention was amazing. I learned so much during the sessions, I connected with many new friends from out of state as well as locally, my kids made friends with other siblings, the kids camp was amazing and I think my kids would like to volunteer in the future. We just loved getting to see so many other buddies in one place - it was heart touching and such a happy place!”

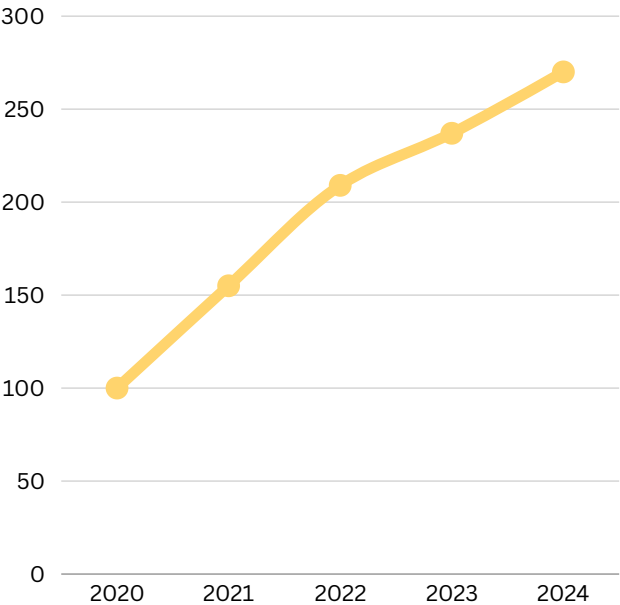
4 Community Events

We took on a different strategy this year with our community events after listening to our family's concerns and needs. We found that families did not have the time and resources to commit to monthly programming. They also preferred events for the whole family instead of small group settings. So this year we moved to having a few, larger, whole family events. In the spring we hosted a World Down Syndrome Day celebration at the zoo. In the summer we had a night at the museum event catered by Special Eats. And in the fall we had our Walk for Down Syndrome.

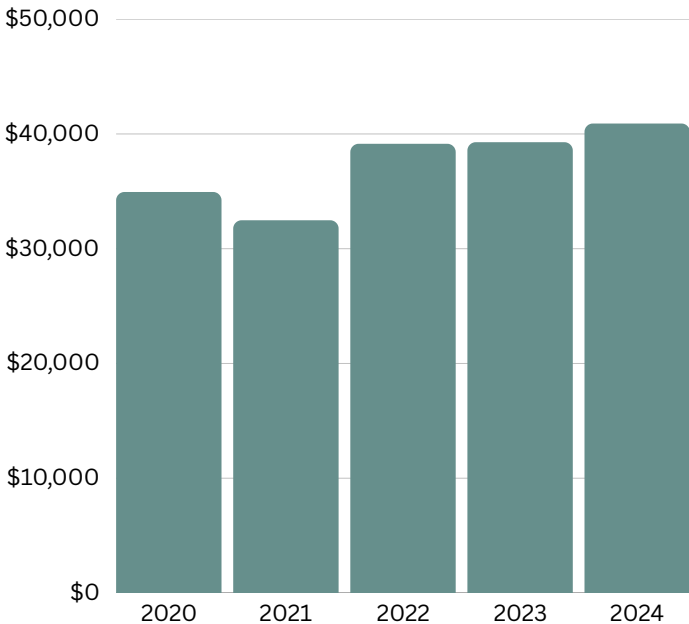
Community Impact



SANDS Membership



Direct financial assistance provided to families



Since 2004, SANDS has provided \$286,751 in financial awards to our families

Grants received for programs

City of Tucson \$10,000
G.O.L.D. Program

Sundt Foundation.....\$3,000
G.O.L.D. Program

Bella Initiative of Grace...\$2,500
G.O.L.D. Program

TMC Health \$2,500
Parent Information Program

Walmart \$1,250
G.O.L.D. Program

Total \$19,250

Connections by the Numbers

- World DS Day 250 people
- Night at the Museum 150 people
- Grocery Gift Cards 247 people
- G.O.L.D. Grants 32 awards
- SANDS Walk for DS 800 people
- New Families 18 families
- Medical Outreach 5 organizations
- Resource Fairs attended 3 events

Financials

Income

Contributions <i>Personal & Corporate</i>	\$14,076.90	9%
Grants <i>Awarded to SANDS in 2023</i>	\$19,250.00	13%
Fundraising <i>Funds raised by special events & campaigns</i>	\$1,641.58	1%
Walk <i>SANDS Walk for Down Syndrome</i>	\$115,371.22	77%
Other <i>Interest</i>	\$12.90	<1%
Total	\$150,352.60	100%

Expenses

Programs <i>G.O.L.D., Walk, New Parent etc.</i>	\$84,702.03	56%
Administrative <i>This also includes salary and taxes. 80% of time is dedicated to programs.</i>	\$44,086.00	29%
Fundraising <i>The cost of fundraisers</i>	\$3,300.00	2%
Operational <i>Rent, insurance, office supplies, memberships etc.</i>	\$18,225.65	12%
Total	\$150,313.68	100%

This year we were faced with even more reductions to grants funding our programs, but we worked hard to reduce expenses and prevented a net deficit.

Thank You!

1,160 hours
volunteered

\$20,000 Value!

Volunteers

Karen Poppe

*World Down Syndrome Day, Night at the Museum,
SANDS Walk for Down Syndrome*

Lilian Yslas
Mom's Night Out

Terra Rivera
Resource Fairs



Top Fundraising Walk Teams

Katie Langan
\$11,101

Team Luna
\$9,135

The Jaywalkers
\$7,400

Jacob's Jets
\$6,771

Team BLT
\$6,125



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