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ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Prepared By



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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I reflect back on 2023, I am filled with so much joy and gratitude. The outpouring of support from not just our members, but southern Arizona as a whole, shows just how amazing our community is.

Last year, SANDS continued to thrive. We reached new heights in our membership and in our impact across the community. We refined our programming to better meet our members needs and maximize our efficiency. Transitioning from hosting a Buddy Walk to our SANDS Walk for Down Syndrome increased awareness and brought new levels of support for our event.

I am incredibly grateful to our dedicated Board of Directors who volunteer so much time and resources to serving our organization. To our members who lift each other up. To our donors who support our programs, and to our community volunteers who make our events possible.

I am honored to serve this community, and look forward to an amazing 2024!

Sincerely,

Chelsea Hansen





OUR MISSION AND VISION

Mission

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to being the primary source of information and support for individuals with Down syndrome in southern Arizona, working towards an improved quality of life and respect as valued members of society.

Purpose

SANDS focuses its efforts on connecting individuals and their families with needed services and resources, advocating locally and nationally, and raising public awareness. SANDS is volunteer driven and fully funded through donations and local fundraising events.



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



EXECUTIVE TEAM

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Determination Services

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Supervisors

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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 \$40,000 in direct financial support to our families. Requests ranged from copay assistance for therapies and tutoring, to climbing equipment for physical therapy, to program fees for classes to help with OT & PT needs such as gymnastics, swimming, and dancing. Our grocery gift card program received funding again this year, so we were able to provide grocery assistance to all of our families.



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

2023 was one for the books! This year, we changed our event name to bring more clarity to the purpose of our event. While it was a big change, community members expressed approval of the switch and embraced the transition. We also faced an unprecedented hurdle of our space flooding the night before the event, but our amazing volunteers rose to the challenge and made it happen! We also raised the most funds we have ever raised in the history of our walk.

“ I love all the support each and every family get by being involved in the walk every year . Even the little changes that had to be made this year . I am so gracious for all the hard work and dedication.

”

4 Community Events

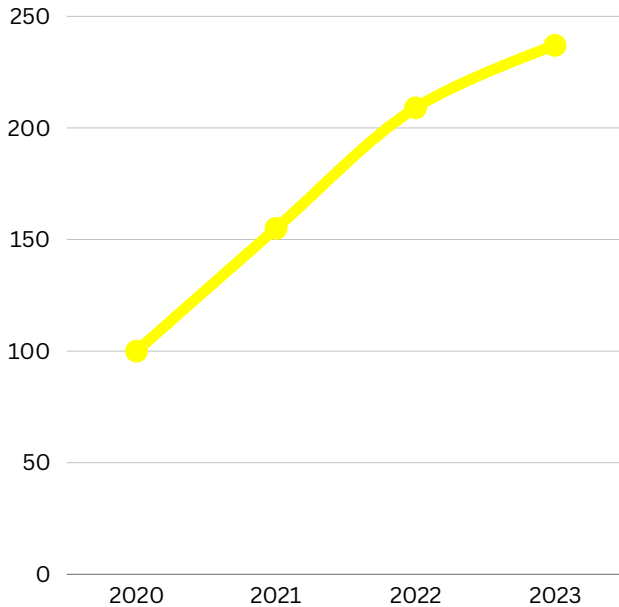
We took on a different strategy this year with our community events after listening to our family's concerns and needs. We found that families did not have the time and resources to commit to monthly programming. They also preferred events for the whole family instead of small group settings. So this 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.



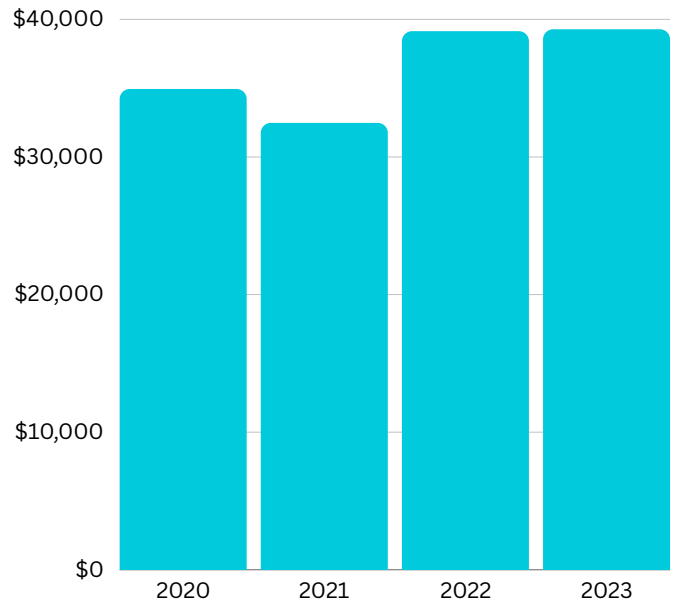


COMMUNITY IMPACT

SANDS Families



Direct financial assistance provided to families



Since 2004, SANDS has provided
\$245,843 to our families

Connections by the Numbers

Sierra Vista DS Walk	50 people
Cooking Classes	50 people
Playgroup	60 people
Superfest	250 people
Sin Limites	30 people
World DS Day	350 people
Night at the Museum	145 people
Santa Cruz DS Walk	200 people
Grocery Gift Cards	237 people
G.O.L.D. Grants	19 people
SANDS Walk for DS	800 people
New Families	31 families
Medical Outreach	5 organizations
Resource Fairs attended	6 events

Grants received for programs

City of Tucson \$20,000
G.O.L.D. Program

TMC Health \$2,000
Parent Information Program

Walmart \$1,500
G.O.L.D. Program

Total \$23,500

Income

FINANCIALS



Contributions <i>Personal & Corporate</i>	\$18,427.78	11%
Grants <i>Awarded to SANDS in 2023</i>	\$23,500.00	14%
Fundraising <i>Funds raised by special events & campaigns</i>	\$5,762.30	4%
Walk <i>SANDS Walk for Down Syndrome</i>	\$116,135.79	71%
Other <i>Interest</i>	\$16.23	<1%
Total	\$163,842.10	100%

Expenses

Programs <i>G.O.L.D., Walk, New Parent etc.</i>	\$107,548.00	60%
Administrative <i>This also includes salary and taxes. 80% of time is dedicated to programs.</i>	\$42,203.05	24%
Fundraising <i>The cost of fundraisers</i>	\$14,213.66	8%
Operational <i>Rent, insurance, office supplies, memberships etc.</i>	\$15,162.45	8%
Total	\$179,127.74	100%

Despite reducing budgeted costs, we had a net loss for the year due to unexpected decline in grants awarded to support our programs.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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

Team BLT

\$14,705

Dominique's

Buddies

\$6,761

Miles for Maddie

\$5,540

Team Luna

\$7,032

Jacob's Jets

\$6,755

Thank You

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