

IMPACT REPORT 2020



Email: info@sandsaz.org
Website: www.sandsaz.org

Tel: (520) 312-2030
P.O. Box 17011
Tucson, AZ 85731



TABLE OF CONTENTS

[illegible]

TO OUR COMMUNITY

Strategic Highlights

2020 brought about incredible change! In January we had a full year planned, complete with monthly activities, trainings, and a 20th Anniversary Buddy Walk celebration. By March, all plans were canceled, and we were challenged to quickly adapt to our community's needs. We provided new grant opportunities and increased funding to meet the needs of our families. 2020 brought us a new logo, new programs, and a virtual Buddy Walk!

Financial Highlights

Last year, we received more grant funding than ever before to assist with COVID-19 relief efforts. We also distributed an unparalleled amount of financial assistance to our community. Additionally, we became eligible for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Program.

Operating Highlights

In 2020, we made the commitment to hire our first-ever Executive Director. As our community and organization grows, so does the need for continued work hours. Our Board of Directors are all volunteers who work full-time jobs, and many are parents as well. This new change allows us to have a dedicated professional running the organization consistently and effectively.

Looking Ahead

This year, we are prepared for the unpredictable. We are hopeful for the NDSC conference that is scheduled to be held in Phoenix this summer, and to possibly resume monthly programming in the summer as well. We will continue COVID-19 grant relief efforts to serve our community's ongoing needs.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Allyson Schug

Allyson Schug
President, Board of Directors



Chelsea Hansen

Chelsea Hansen
Executive Director

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - INCOME

Buddy Walk: \$71,149.33 = 52% of SANDS income

In 2020 we had 63 Buddy Walk teams. Sponsors donated \$10,500.00, teams raised \$59,933.33, exhibitors raised \$25, and calendar sales were \$691. The top 5 teams raised *more than* 40% of the total funds raised! Our goal for 2021 is to have 100 teams and to help each team raise at least \$500!

Grants: \$45,000 = 33% of SANDS income

This year was unprecedented in the grants we received. Typically, SANDS does not fall under most company's "focused areas of giving" and therefore does not qualify for their grant programs. This year, we were able to apply for many COVID-19 relief grants! We received \$25,000 from Governor Doug Ducey's Arizona Together fund, \$10,000 from the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, \$5,000 from Arizona Community Foundation, \$4,000 from Global Down Syndrome Foundation, and \$1,000 from Walmart. These grants were used to fund our new Tutoring Grant program and our Give it Back grant program! We also received a 1-year grant to Catchafire, a program that pairs professionals with non-profits to assist with organizational needs. This 1-year membership is valued at \$2,000, however, we have already used over \$10,000 worth of volunteer work hours since receiving the award.

Business & Employee Support: \$17,636.27 = 13% of SANDS income

Business programs such as Fry's Community rewards, Amazon Smile, and non-profits like United Way contributed \$3,109.27 to our organization this year. Individuals contributed the remaining \$14,527.00. Whether it is through employees donating from their paychecks, or when you shop through Fry's or Amazon Smile, it all plays an important role!

Fundraisers: \$1,964.75 = 1% of SANDS income

This year's fundraisers came from Facebook.

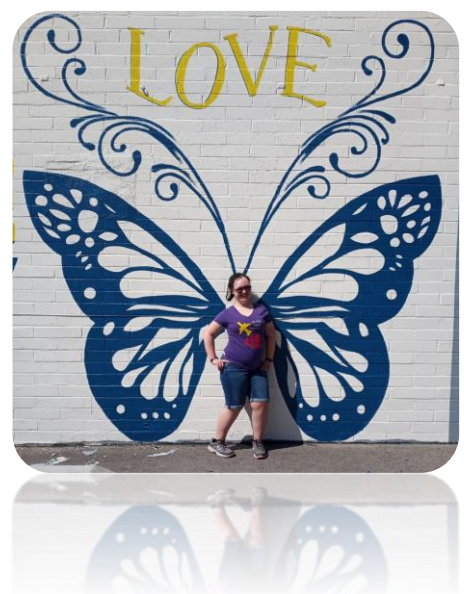
Interest: \$1,318.11 = 1% of SANDS income

In 2020 our Treasurer worked with our bank to increase our interest rates to help make our money work for us!

Memberships: \$0

That's right, \$0! Unlike other Down syndrome associations, we do not charge a membership fee!

TOTAL INCOME: \$137,068.46



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - EXPENSES

Programming: \$41,646.66 = 43% of SANDS expenses

This year, we saw a 500% increase in grants provided to our families! We provided 572 hours and \$13,800 in private tutoring assistance to 19 families. 29 Give it Back grants were fulfilled for medical, educational, and therapeutic needs. 103 families were provided grocery assistance. 30 new parent packets were delivered to hospitals and OBGYN offices. Financial assistance was also sent to Santa Cruz Parent Love Connection to support individuals with Down syndrome living in Santa Cruz County.

Salaries: \$19,903.70 = 21% of SANDS expenses

SANDS has grown by leaps and bounds! We made the decision that it was time to hire a staff member to fulfill and grow SANDS' mission. Our Executive Director applies for grants, supervises all of our programs, helps guide and implement each committee's activities, coordinates our Buddy Walk event, facilitates day-to-day business, and is the primary point of contact for the organization.

Buddy Walk: \$14,060.95 = 15% of SANDS expenses

In 2020, the cost of hosting the Buddy Walk was substantially lower than in typical years. This year's costs included the drive-in movie event, t-shirts, masks, incentives, the mural, and website fees.

Administrative: \$11,687.08 = 12% of SANDS expenses

Our administrative expenses cover storage unit rental since we do not have an office space, website maintenance and development, phone services, bank fees, insurance, and other miscellaneous expenses such as postage and printing.

Conferences: \$8,396.65 = 8% of SANDS expenses

Every year we send families and board members to conferences for trainings. The training topics can range from new medical information, to advocacy, to board management and community engagement. This year included NDSS' Virtual Adult Summit for families.

Memberships: \$1,150.00 = 1% of SANDS expenses

Your SANDS organization is a proud member of Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action (DSAIA) and Global Down Syndrome Foundation.

Total Expenses: \$96,845.04



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2021

Community Events

If safe, we hope to begin these programs this summer

- Monthly Jazzercise group for teens and adults with Down syndrome
- Quarterly Moms', Dads', and Siblings' groups
- Annual New Parent Breakfast
- Central or East side play group
- Sharon's Tie-dye event for adults with Down syndrome

Give it Back!

- Private Tutor grant program
- Continued funding for the bicycle program
- National Down Syndrome Congress Convention funding
- Revamped funding and approval process

SANDS Board of Directors

- We have 3 board positions available to fill - no experience required, just a heart to serve! We especially need board members who can also speak Spanish!



TESTIMONIALS

These stories are a reality because of you! Thank you for making a difference in our community!

"We are very appreciative of the SANDS grant to support Katie during Covid. We were able to maintain skills in both math and English. We hired a virtual Special Ed student who read with Katie and worked on comprehension while also socializing. We also spent time working on math. That is a skill that requires constant repetition. With support from SANDS we continued honing math skills 3 times a week to be better prepared for school and also the continuation of online learning. What a tremendous advantage Katie and our family had on academic and social skills while being supported. Thanks SANDS!" – From a Happy Family

"Hi! My name is Theodore but you can call me Theo. I was born in Bulgaria in 2012. Due to the fact that I have Down syndrome I was given up at birth. I spent my first three years in an orphanage. I didn't get any human interaction or any love or care during those years. In Bulgaria and other countries in Eastern Europe children with disabilities are believed to be a waste to society so they are given up. Thankfully, I was able to be taken in by a foster family that loved me and cared for me for the six months before my family came for me. (Not all of the children are as fortunate - they spend their years in orphanages and later in adult mental institutions. Many die in these places due to lack of human interaction and health issues that are not taken care of.) Over these last four years with my family I have learned all kinds of things! I can dress myself, communicate my needs and wants, feed myself; I have also learned what it is like to have a mom and dad and siblings. I always have someone to play with and to help me when I need it. If I get sick I have people to care for me and take me to the doctor. One thing I like to do is swing so when we got my new therapy swing in the mail I was excited! I spend lots of time in it and I even share with my brothers and sister. 😊 My mom is so thankful for the SANDS organization and their willingness to purchase my swing for me because it makes me happy! It will be used for years to come." – From Theo



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Our volunteers and community members make it all possible! A very special thank you to our community members who serve on a committee or help facilitate events for SANDS!

Tracy Carroll: Buddy Walk and Teens & Adults Jazzercise

Amanda Griffin: My Gym

Estella McClain: Challenger Little League Liaison

Janean Seegmiller: My Gym

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP BUDDY WALK TEAMS!

We are incredibly grateful for every single team and donor that helped raise funds for our organization so that we can continue to serve our families! These teams led the way and were so creative in how they met their goals. From BBQ fundraisers, to finding corporate sponsors, to Facebook fundraisers, they set a goal and worked hard to meet and even surpass it! Thank you!



Jacob's Jets

\$7,821



Team Ax-Man

\$5,766



Team BLT

\$5,175



Miles for Maddie

\$4,755



Team Matthew

\$3,635

MEET YOUR 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board member & Self-Advocate: Chad McKinley

Chad is our longest serving board member. Chad worked at Beacon and is responsible for community and self-advocate updates at our board meetings. He brings a crucial voice to our board to help keep our goals in line with our community members' wants and needs.



Board member & Self-Advocate: Sharon Callaway

Sharon is a long-time board member that not only attends the board meetings, but also represents the organization at various events throughout the year. Sharon keeps the board up to date on the adult community and loves to work with kids at our events.



Board member: Victoria Garcia

Victoria is mom to Nikolai (DS) and Seren. Victoria currently home schools both children during the pandemic. She is chairperson of New Parent committee, and also serves on the Funds Audit and Buddy Walk committees.



Board member: Jonathan (Jay) Rivera

Jonathan is father to Madison (DS), Emma, and JJ. He currently works at Glass Unlimited Inc. Jonathan serves on the New Parent and Buddy Walk Committees, and enjoys helping make t-shirt and new parent packet deliveries to our families.



Board Member: Ashley Gerhart

Ashley is mom to Morgan Rose and worked as a Paraprofessional with the Vail school district. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in Special Education and Elementary Education. Ashley serves on the Marketing and Community Connections committees. She also created our 2020 Tucson Buddy Walk video presentation.



Board Member: Hannah Speakman

Hannah is our newest board member and is mom to Arizona (DS). She serves on the Marketing, Community Connections, and New Parent committees. Hannah is responsible for initiating and organizing our 2020 mural. She is excited to expand our relationship with local hospitals and medical facilities to reach new families!



Board Secretary: Kaitlin Hollywood

Kaitlin is mom to Joseph and Zoey (DS). She is an attorney with the Arizona Attorney General's Office. Kaitlin is a Tucson native with many ties to the community. Along with serving as Secretary, Kaitlin is on the Board of Directors Manual, New Parent, and Buddy Walk committees.



Board Treasurer: Camille Stanbery

Camille has no personal connection to Down syndrome, but has a heart to serve. She works for the State of Arizona Disability Determination Services. Along with serving as Treasurer, Camille chairs the Audit committee and helps the Buddy Walk committee. She has been instrumental in our website development and maintenance.



Board Vice-President: Karen Poppe

Karen is aunt to Quinn (DS) and Alex (ASD). She works at Tattoo Manu, Inc., and creates all our temporary tattoos, event flyers, Buddy Walk T-shirt Logos, and Buddy Walk posters. Along with serving as Vice-President, Karen is Chairperson of the Board of Directors Manual Committee and serves on the Workshops and Buddy Walk committees.



Board President: Allyson Schug

Allyson is mother to Jacob (DS). She works as a 2nd grade Teacher at Esmond Station K-8 in the Vail school district. Along with serving as President, Allyson serves on the Workshops and Buddy Walk committees. She also helps oversee and manage the board and organization.



Executive Director: Chelsea Hansen

Chelsea is mother to Rebekah (DS-ASD) and Logan. She works to ensure all the vital day-to-day needs of the organization are met, provides oversight to all the committees, helps plan events, and applies for grants.



Our Mission

Southern Arizona Network for Down Syndrome (SANDS) is 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.