

"Mile High Down Syndrome Association is a leader in its mission to serve and support families. We are grateful to MHDSA for their vision, commitment, and efforts which helped forge the development of the Denver Adult Down Syndrome Clinic years ago. Our serving and enhancing the lives of persons with Down syndrome in our community."

"Mile High is a wonderful resource for our families. As a physician I can provide coordinated care, but linking families with other families and community resources is a challenge without the activity of organizations like MHDSA! Thanks so much for your work!" — Laura Pickler, MD





www.MHDSA.org







303-797-1699

## **ABOUT MHDSA**

Mile High Down Syndrome Association, Inc. (MHDSA) is a non-profit organization which serves families of children and adults with Down syndrome, and interested professionals in the Mountain States region.



MHDSA was formed in 1981 by parents who felt a need to associate more closely with other parents of children with Down syndrome. Support, information, and referral services are provided to over 3,000 callers each year. MHDSA partners with other organizations throughout the Mountain States in order to provide the best possible resources to those we serve. We strive to empower people, ensure quality of life for all and energize the community to support our cause.

## **OUR MISSION**

The mission of Mile High Down Syndrome Association is to assure inclusion and enhance independence of people with Down syndrome. We achieve this by providing education, resources and support in partnership with individuals, families, professionals, and the community.



## **OUR VISION**

A society where all members are valued for their uniqueness, respected for their contribution and assured the opportunity and choice to create their own path to fulfillment and success.



MHDSA's Family Programs focus on individual needs of families raising children with Down syndrome. Families are provided with parent-to-parent support and information kits through the First Call program; networking and friendship-building opportunities through our Community Groups; and, educational enrichment opportunities through various seminars and classes. We want families to know that they are not alone, and that they receive support and education to become effective advocates for their children.

The Mile High Down Syndrome Association's Health Care Partnership is an innovative program designed to ensure that health care providers have the essential information, tools and resources needed to provide state-of-the-art care to individuals with Down syndrome and their families as well as expectant women and couples learning about Down syndrome. We achieve this support by offering publications, Down syndrome toolkits, dedicated web pages

MHDSA values the critical role volunteers play in helping us to provide our vital programs and services. We utilize more than 350 volunteers annually to help carry out our mission of assuring inclusion and enhancing independence of individuals with Down syndrome.

It is our intent to help you find meaningful volunteer assignments. The Volunteer Program features a handbook, orientation and trainings to supply you with the

necessary tools to carry out your volunteer duties effectively. We want your experience with MHDSA to give you satisfaction in knowing that you are a part of an organization that provides support and resources for individuals with Down

For more information about the Mile High Down Syndrome Association's Volunteer Opportunities, contact us at info@mhdsa.org or call 303-797-1699.

syndrome and their families. Helping you meet

your personal volunteer goals is important to us.

- Grandparents, Extended Family & Friends
  Outreach
- DS-Autism Connection

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and live presentations to our valued partners in health care.

• "First Call" Parent Visitation Program -

· Grupo el Cromosoma del Amor -

· Information Kits for New and

Hispanic Outreach

**Expectant Parents** 

· Community Groups

• Educational Programs

Outreach to New and Expectant Parents

For more information about the Mile High Down Syndrome Association's Health Care Partnership, visit www.mhdsa.org/HCP.htm, or contact us at info@mhdsa.org or call 303-797-1699.

## WHAT IS DOWN SYNDROME

Down syndrome is a genetic condition, resulting when a baby is born with three, rather than the usual two, copies of chromosome 21. Because there are three copies of chromosome 21, Down syndrome is also called trisomy 21. With a third copy of the 21st chromosome existing in every cell, it is not surprising to find that every system in the body is affected in some way.

Down syndrome is the most frequently occuring chromosomal abnormality occuring once in every 733 live births. Over 375,000 people in the Unites States have Down syndrome.