

# 2016 Buddy Walk

## Schedule of Events

Come early in the day to select an area of your choice in our designated team areas. First come, first serve and you will have the day to set up your tent and decorate your area.

3:00 p.m. Check-in / Walk-Up Registration begins  
Live Music by the Myles Sharp Band  
**All children's activities will be open!**  
Concession Stand Opens

Be **CERTAIN** every individual with DS is registered so they can be recognized at the presentation of medals ceremony following the walk!

4:00 p.m. Welcome / Introduction of Guests and Grand Marshalls  
Presentation of Colors & National Anthem  
One mile Fun Walk  
Reconvene at stage for Entertainment

5:00 p.m. Presentation of medals to each individual with Down syndrome and presentation of trophies to the top three teams with the most number of walkers present  
Followed by the Talent Show



Please **NO PETS ALLOWED** on the grounds of the Gulfport Sportsplex unless they are in crates!  
**SERVICE ANIMALS WELCOME!**

### 2016 Buddy Walk Deadline Schedule

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Oct. 1, 2016 | Sponsorships Due  |
| Oct. 1, 2016 | Team Registration Ends  |
| Oct. 1, 2016 | Individual/Family Pre-registration ends   |
| Oct. 8, 2016 | T-shirt Distribution Party & Turn in donations to GCDSS: Gulfport Sportsplex 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. |

Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 654  
Gautier, MS 39553

[www.GCDSS.org](http://www.GCDSS.org)



Building a Bridge to a Brighter Future  
...One Family at a Time

**2016 BUDDY WALK**  
**SATURDAY**  
**OCTOBER 15, 2016**

**3:00 P.M.**  
**SPORTSPLEX**  
**GULFPORT, MS**



## WHAT IS A BUDDY WALK?

The Buddy Walk® was developed by the National Down Syndrome Society in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. The Buddy Walk® has grown from 17 walks in 1995 to nearly 300 Walks planned for 2016 worldwide. In 2015, nearly \$13 million was raised nationwide to benefit local programs and services, as well as the national advocacy and public awareness initiatives of NDSS that benefit all individuals with Down syndrome.”



2015 GRAND MARSHALL  
KELSI DUNGAN

This is the 16th annual Gulf Coast Buddy Walk, and a percentage of the proceeds goes to the NDSS .

Join us for the one-mile fun walk and festivities! NO registration fee is required to participate, but there is a \$5 suggested donation to cover the cost of the t-shirt. You can walk as an individual or create your own team! Ask your family members, co-workers, teachers, classmates, friends and church family to join you. The team with the most walkers present will be recognized. Although fundraising is optional, donations help support our mission.

## HOW DO I REGISTER ?

### Team Registration

The preferred method of team registration is electronic—visit our website at [www.gcdss.org](http://www.gcdss.org) and click on Buddy Walk to complete your registration today! Pre-registration guarantees you and your team members t-shirts and ends Monday, October 1st. Provide each individual team member a copy of the waiver form located on the right of this page or it can be downloaded from our website.

### Individual/Family/Team Member Registration

Electronic registration is available for individuals or families that are not registered with a Team Captain and are not walking with a registered team. Or you can complete the form on the right of this brochure. Registration can also be completed on the day of the event, however, pre-registration guarantees you a t-shirt and saves time at check-in. Team members register with your Team Captain.

### Donations

People that know you will support a cause that you believe in! By doing a simple letter or e-mail you can ask for their support and pledges. An Individual/Team Pledge Form has been provided on our website for your convenience.

GCDSS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to GCDSS. Donations can also be made via PayPal at our website. Receipts will be provided for single donations of \$250.00 or more.

Donations can be made online at [gcdss.org](http://gcdss.org) via PayPal; sent to: GCDSS, P.O. Box 654, Gautier, MS 39553; or bring them to the t-shirt distribution party on October 8th; or make alternate arrangements with a Buddy Walk Committee member. Please note the individual and/or team participant name when turning in donations.

### Corporate Sponsors

All corporate sponsors will receive recognition on the day of the walk. Visit our sponsorship registration page on our website for additional information. Sponsor registration is due no later than 8:00 a.m. Monday, October 1st to be recognized on the t-shirts. Should you have additional questions concerning corporate sponsorship, please contact us.

### Volunteer

You can help set-up, check-in, give directions and lots more on the day of the event. GCDSS will have activities available for the children and this is an excellent way for other civic organizations to perform volunteer work for another organization. Please contact us via the website, our Face Book page or email.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO GCDSS BY MAIL AT P.O. BOX 654, GAUTIER, MS 39553 OR BY E-MAIL TO [INFO@GCDSS.ORG](mailto:INFO@GCDSS.ORG)



### Pre-Registration Ends October 1st

Individual or Family Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adult Participants \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children/Youth \_\_\_\_\_

Are you walking in honor of a friend or family member with DS? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so what is this person's name? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in volunteering on the day of the event? If so, how can we contact you? Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Waiver: In consideration of me and/or my minor child being permitted to participate in the Buddy Walk, I hereby -for myself, my heirs and personal representatives—assume any and all risks which might be associated with the event. I further waive, release, discharge and covenant not to sue the National Down Syndrome Society or the GCDSS, its officers, employees, sponsors, organizers, volunteers or other representatives or their successors and assigns, for any and all injuries or damages of any kind whatsoever suffered by myself and/or my minor child as a result of taking part in the events and any related activities. I also authorize the use by NDSS or GCDSS of any photo, film or videotape taken of me or my minor child at the event for any purpose which does not violate any state or federal regulations. **REGISTRATION NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED.**

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

For more information on the Buddy Walk® please contact:

Our website: [gcdss.org](http://gcdss.org) or Face Book page

(228) 447-0270

e-Mail: [gcdss@cableone.net](mailto:gcdss@cableone.net)