

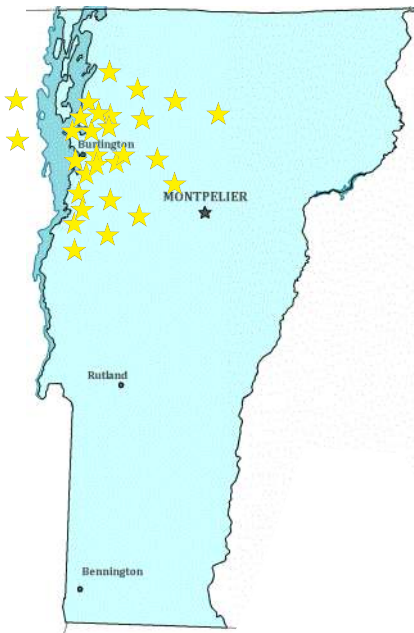
2018 Annual Report



Champlain Valley
Down
Syndrome
Group

The mission of the Champlain Valley Down Syndrome Group is to provide information, resources, and support to individuals with Down syndrome and their families and to promote awareness and inclusion in our communities of people with Down syndrome to help them achieve their full potential.

Who We Are



The Champlain Valley Down Syndrome Group (CVDSG) was established in 2011 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to better connect and support families within our region. Our membership includes over 50 families throughout Northern Vermont, and the Champlain Region of New York. At present, the Board of Directors consists of four Officers holding two-year terms, currently filled by Dave Mentzer (Chair), Joe McNamara (Vice Chair), Lisa DeNatale (Acting Secretary), and Steve Boutcher (Acting Treasurer). Elections for a new slate of Officers will take place this January of 2019.

The Board meets regularly to conduct group business, including decisions needed to support the group's activities, such as the summer barbecue in July and the Buddy Walk in October. Meetings are posted on the group's website (www.cvdsg.org) and are open to any member interested in attending. Typically, one to two additional family gatherings are scheduled during the year. The required Annual Meeting, traditionally held soon after the new year, allows the Board to report on the events and finances of the previous year.

Members of the Group often provide critical outreach and facilitate networking for families, connecting groups with similar interests or concerns and often serving as the first point of contact for families who are new to the area or may have just learned about a diagnosis of Down syndrome for a newborn. The CVDSG is also an affiliate of the two primary national advocacy groups for people with Down syndrome, the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) and the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC).

Members are invited and encouraged to reach out to the Board with any ideas that could help further the Group's mission.

Program Highlights

9th Annual Buddy Walk

This year's Annual Champlain Valley Buddy Walk was held on Sunday, October 8th, under cool and overcast skies, with approximately 125 people participating in this year's event. This event was one of 250 Walks across the country held in the fall to raise awareness and funds for programs that benefit people with Down syndrome and their families. The walk is a great way to visit with old friends, greet new members and gain some media exposure. The Plourde Family volunteered and was interviewed on Channel 22/44 and Megan Carpenter, the morning anchor for Local 22 and Local 44, volunteered to be the emcee for the event.

The event would not be possible without our generous corporate sponsors and the help of many individuals. We received direct financial support from People's United Bank, Dore & Whittier Architects Inc, CCS Constructors Inc and Little City Speech and Language. We also received in-kind contributions from Starbucks Coffee, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, Subway, Hannaford Market, Market 32 Supermarket, Bagel Place, The Bagel Café & Deli and Burlington Bagel Bakery & Café. Many thanks to all the volunteers, food-getters and crossing guards. Contact: Tim McQuiston / mcq@vermontbiz.com



Financial Assistance to MDSC Conference

Each year, the Champlain Valley Down Syndrome Group provides financial assistance to its members in a variety of ways. In 2018, assistance was provided to two group members and their families to support attendance at the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress' Annual Conference, held in Worcester, MA on March 24th, 2018. The event is one of the best state conferences in the nation, covering a wide range of topics for parents, educators, family members and self-advocates, and we are very fortunate to have easy access the conference in an adjoining state. The group was also able to assist in a modest way with financial support related to a member's living expenses associated with their child's extended medical care in Boston. And finally, the CVDSG explored offering financial support to help defray some costs associated with attendance at summer camps. Though no family came forward to express interest in this opportunity, the program may be evaluated again for offering in 2019. Contact: Steve Boutcher / sboutcher@gmail.com

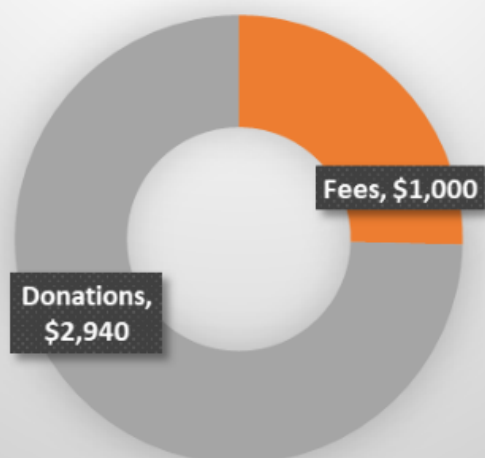
"Near Future" Discussion Group

The "Near Future" discussion group sprung up when a group of families with young adults decided to meet periodically to discuss issues related to transition: housing, jobs, social assimilation, aging, guardianship, adult medical issues, and finances. Occasionally speakers from government or service organizations have attended to give background information and answer questions about families' specific situations. Meeting once in 2018, the group has been a rich source of support to the dozen or so families who have attended, and meetings are open to anyone with interest. Contact: Elizabeth Campbell / info888@comcast.net

Financial Report

At the start of 2018, the CVDSG had \$5,243.63 in assets. A total of \$3,940.83 was raised during the year through a combination of corporate and private donations, Buddy Walk registrations and t-shirt sales. A total of \$3,809.59 was spent during the year, primarily in support of Events, such as the Buddy Walk (including park rental, insurance, etc.) and financial support to members, as outlined above. Other funds were used to cover administrative expenses, such as membership dues to the NDSS and NDSC and web site hosting and maintenance. At the end of 2018, the CVDSG had \$5,374.87 in assets.

How are we funded?



How is the funding used?

