



Families
Raising
Inspiring
Educating
Networking *for*
Down
Syndrome
WEST FLORIDA

FDSWF is Non-profit 501c3, private operating foundation that was founded in 2007 by parents of children impacted by Down Syndrome. It has grown from a few families to well over 1,400 plus families in the Tampa Bay area and is the leading voice for Down Syndrome in the West Florida area. We proudly serve Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties.

FDSWF MISSION

Our Mission is to provide up encompassing educational and support services to new parents and families. To empower individuals and help them to become more independent. To promote community integration and together celebrate the lives of people impacted by Down Syndrome.

FDSWF GOALS

FDSWF Goals provide a foundation on which to meet the demands of the future.

- To provide accurate and up-to-date information to new and expectant parents.
- To change people's attitudes about Down syndrome and promote respect and esteem.
- To enable people with Down syndrome to speak up and be heard.
- To help individuals become a productive part of society.
- To provide financial and social service support.
- To train volunteers to represent and promote "best practice" programs in meeting the needs of all individuals with Down syndrome and their families.
- To create a community that embraces, supports, and inspires individuals with Down syndrome to live happy, healthy, full-filling lives.

OUR VALUES

- We are **TRUSTWORTHY** in our daily responsibilities.
- We use **EMPATHY** in our interactions and **RESPECT** toward others in all that we do.
- We **COLLABORATE** and create **PARTNERSHIPS** within our community.
- We are **DEVOTED**, investing our time, effort and energy to our mission.



FDSWF has been awarded a 2018 Gold Seal of Transparency by GuideStar. GuideStar USA, Inc. is an information service specializing in reporting on U.S. nonprofit company's compliance and transparency. FDSWF IRS 990 Forms are posted on www.fdswf.org for your inspection. Tax EIN #651261646.

FDSWF PROGRAMS & SERVICES

FDSWF PARENT PACKETS PROGRAM - FDSWF provides free FRIENDS Parent Packets and Down syndrome resource materials for new and expectant parents receiving a diagnosis of Down syndrome. Each packet includes the book "Babies with Down Syndrome, A New Parents Guide". FRIENDS Parent Packets are available in English and Spanish. They are distributed free of charge to:

- St. Joseph's Women's Hospital
- St. Joseph's Children's Hospital
- Brandon Hospital
- Tampa General Hospital
- Florida Hospital Tampa
- Medical Center of Trinity Hospital
- Mease Countryside Hospital
- All Children's Hospital

PARENT LIAISON PROGRAM – Upon request our Parent Liaisons offer peer to peer counseling and support for expectant parents, new parents, & grandparents. **Nosotros hablamos español.**

FDSWF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - FDSWF provides financial support through our scholarships to help offset the costs of:

- Special Needs conferences – funds for special needs conferences and workshops.
- Recreational Programs – funds can be used for any type of recreational program.
- Educational programs – funds can be used for any type of education program.
- Medical Program – funds may be used for PT, OT, Speech.
- Hardship Fund – for families in need/crisis.
- College tuition for individuals with Down Syndrome.

You can apply for a FDSWF Scholarship on our website, www.fdswf.org. Approval will be at the discretion of the FDSWF Board of Directors.

FDSWF understands that a strong support system can make a great impact in the lives of parents raising a special needs child. We provide connections and support through our monthly Playgroups and Social Clubs.

BABY FRIENDS PROGRAM – (birth to 5yrs) meets in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties at meet at We Rock the Spectrum and Lolo's Playplace.

DREAM TWEENS PROGRAM – (6-13yrs) meets for fun outings quarterly in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.

TAMPA BAY TEENS PROGRAM – (14-17yrs) we need a host volunteer. If you are interested, please contact us at info@friendssupport.org.

FRIENDS SOCIAL CLUB (FSC) PROGRAM - Is available for *all* special needs adults and meets quarterly for various fun activities and monthly for the F.S.C. All Abilities Dance. The dance is held at Livingstone's Academy - 1649 Bloomingdale Ave. Valrico, Florida 33596. Dancers will enjoy making new friends, socializing, and enjoying great music and refreshments. For more information call Julie McKenna (631)335-8464.

DADS - Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome or D.A.D.S. is to assist and support, through fellowship and action, the fathers and families of individuals with Down syndrome. We are looking for a Dad to host, if you are interested please send an email to info@friendssupport.org.

FRIENDS DOWN SYNDROME ESPANOLA - Bienvenido a la zona española de la Asociación FRIENDS Down Syndrom West Florida para el área de Pinellas, Tampa y Pasco. La misión de F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Down Syndrome West Florida proporcionará servicios educativos y de apoyo que abarquen a todas las familias afectadas por el Síndrome de Down; al tiempo que promueve la integración completa de la comunidad de las personas afectadas por el síndrome de Down. En esta área, queremos compartir los artículos y la información sobre el Síndrome de Down. Esperamos que esta sección te sea útil. Para obtener ayuda en español envíe un correo electrónico a belinda@friendssupport.org.

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS, ADVOCACY, AND FAMILY FUN - FDSWF hosts these events each year:

- March - World Down Syndrome Day Picnic
- July - Brandon 4th of July Parade
- July- Down Syndrome Awareness Pinellas Picnic & Pool Party
- October- Buddy Walk at Raymond James Stadium
- October – Halloween Party
- December - Pinellas Christmas Parade
- December FDSWF Holiday & Cookie Swap Party.

FDSWF MEMBERSHIP

Want to join FDSWF it's free and easy! Log onto our website and fill out our membership form. By joining our community, you will receive our newsletters and events emails. FDSWF is run by a dedicated group of volunteers made up of Down Syndrome parents, business and community leaders, and professionals. If you would like to participate on our board, volunteer to help with a function, become a parent liaison, or volunteer on a committee we'd love to have you! We have serve Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco Counties.

FDSWF FUNDRAISING - BUDDY WALK

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month! Every October, FDSWF together with the National Down Syndrome Society brings the FDSWF BUDDY WALK® to Raymond James Stadium to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness. The Buddy Walk also helps to raise funds for FDSWF so that we may continue to bring our current year-round programming, to develop new and exciting programs, and to enhance the position of our Down syndrome community in our area.

We welcome you to join us as we walk along with more than 2,500 families, friends, and professionals, who attend this event each year to raise awareness, acceptance, and advocate for individuals impacted by Down syndrome. For more information go to our website at www.fdswf.org.

SPONSORS

We Need You! Your company can reach a large audience in a fun and upbeat atmosphere while supporting the mission of FDSWF. There are many ways your business or organization can be a part of our community. For more information contact us at (813)245-2782 or info@friendssupport.org.

DONATE TODAY!

Your donations make all the difference in our community. FDSWF is funded by donations from individuals, employee giving, corporations, and fundraising events. Our largest fundraiser is our October Buddy Walk where families, friends, and the professionals who support them come together to advocate and support their loved ones. Your donations allow us to continue our current year-round programming, and to promote the value, acceptance, and inclusion of people impacted by Down Syndrome.

Your donations help to provide:

- Printed materials for our FRIENDS Parent Packets and Parent Liaisons program.
- Resource materials for our families impacted by Down syndrome.
- Funds to support our Playgroups, Friends Social club, and Dad's club activities.
- Printed materials for presentations to physicians and nurses.
- Scholarship Funds for our community.
- Funds support our community activities, picnics, and parties.
- Funds support our 4th of July and Christmas float.

VOLUNTEERS

We are always in need of great volunteers who are hard-working, organized and who love interacting with our families. Thank you for your time, love, and support. Sign up on our website today, www.fdswf.org.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Check our website calendar and Facebook Events for the dates and time of meetings and events, www.friendssupport.org.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Our public page is FRIENDS DOWN SYNDROME WEST FLORIDA – we also have a “closed page” just for our West Florida families.

FACEBOOK - FRIENDS DOWN SYNDROME WEST FLORIDA

TWITTER - https://twitter.com/Friends_DSWF

FDSWF NEWSLETTER - FDSWF Newsletter is published monthly and furnishes information on our programs, event's and connections.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS & FDSWF OFFICERS

Ann Foyt – President	(813)245-2782	info@friendssupport.org
Liz Johnson – Vice President	(727)463-1707	liz@friendssupport.org
Jil Pettengil – Secretary	(727)688-7129	jill@friendssupport.org
Brenda Wando – Treasurer	(813)750-3949	brenda@friendssupport.org
Belinda Romero - Spanish Outreach	(813)233-6395	belinda@friendssupport.org
Kathy Boisseau - Playgroup Director	(603)438-2886	kathy@friendssupport.org
Sue Warady-Keene – Vendor Coordinator	(630)914-4114	swaradykeene@gmail.com

ADVISORY BOARD COUNCIL

Laurie Ohall - Special Needs Attorney
Julie Hirsch - FDSWF Photographer
Natalie Killebrew – IT Specialist
Paul Foyt – Volunteer
Evan Johnson – Volunteer

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to be available to advise the Board, Buddy Walk Committee, Development Committee, and the executive leadership with regards to fundraising initiatives, public relations and programming issues. The Advisory Council does not have any authority to govern FDSWF; such authority resides with the Executive board.

CONTACT US

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 677, Brandon FL 33509
PHONE: (813) 245-2782 Hillsborough
(727) 463-1707 Pinellas
WEBSITE: www.fdswf.org



“Down syndrome is an intellectual disability that about 5,000 babies in the United States are born with each year. A person with Down syndrome has 47 chromosomes, microscopic structures that carry genetic information to determine almost everything about a person. Most people have only 46 chromosomes. It’s the extra chromosome that can cause certain physical characteristics (such as short stature and an upward slant to the eyes) and speech and developmental delays. Still, people with Down syndrome are a lot like you: They are unique people with strengths and talents.”

Melissa Riggio – DS Self Advocate

Tampa Bay Resource List

Alzheimer's/Down Syndrome Family Advocate - Jadene S. Ransdell

Down syndrome/Alzheimer's Family Advocate (727)543-4174 Aging with Down Syndrome; Down syndrome & Alzheimer's Dementia Capable Support – Facebook Group

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Hillsborough County

(813) 233-4319; 1313 N. Tampa St. #515 Tampa FL 33602

www.APDcares.org/resource directory -APD works with local communities and private providers to support people who have developmental disabilities and their families in living, learning, and working in their communities. The agency also works to educate the public on disability issues and focuses attention on employment for people with disabilities. APD provides:

- Medicaid HCBS Waiver through iBudget FL
- Supported employment services
- Placement in an intermediate care facility for those with developmental disabilities
- Supported living services
- Consumer Directed Care Plus (CDC+)

Access FL: Department of Children and Families

(888)254-7591; www.myfamilies.com/service-programs/access-florida-food-medical-assistance-cash

Contact DCF if applying for cash assistance, food stamps, and Medicaid.

Ace HomeCare Services

(813)621-0022; www.acehomecareflorida.com; A Medicare-certified Home Health care agency.

Adult Protective Services

(813)558-5584; www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/adult-protective-services; protects adults with disabilities that may experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

All About You Support Services

(813)846-4003; Provides Respite, companion, supported employment, supported living, in-home support for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Arc Tampa Bay

1501 N. Belcher Road, Suite 249 Clearwater, FL 33765 thearctb.org (727) 799-3330

Types of Services available: Educational techniques & specialized therapies, PT/OT, Speech. Transportation if necessary. Birth to 5yrs with developmental disabilities. Cost: free; accepts Medicaid/Medicare.

USF Bay Area Early Steps (birth to 3yrs)

www.early-intervention.org; (813) 974-0674; (800)654-4440 Alex DeMolina, Resource Specialist

Counties Served: Hillsborough, Polk University of South Florida 13101 North Bruce B. Downs Boulevard Tampa, Florida 33612 Toll Free: (866) 549-1740 Phone: (813) 974-0602 Fax: (813) 558-1343; USF Florida Bay Area Early Steps Program holds the Children's Medical Services Early Steps contract for the Bay Area, which covers

Hillsborough and Polk Counties and offers services to eligible infants and toddlers (birth to thirty-six months) with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay.

Best Buddies - Tampa Office

200 South Hoover Boulevard, Suite 191 Tampa, FL 33609 florida@bestbuddies.org

Phone: 813.254.9025. Services one to one friendships with a nondisabled peer for one year; activities for pairs and groups; Programs for middle, high school, college, citizens, and jobs.

Bright Expectations

Florida's site dedicated to helping our residents with unique abilities find the support, resources, and inspiration they and their families need to break barriers, defy lowered expectations, and achieve the brightest futures they can imagine. www.brightexpectations.com; Early Steps Directory@flhealth.gov.

Buddy Cruise - <http://www.buddycruise.org>; (877) 239-2789

Buddy Cruise Inc. serves families and friends of individuals with Down syndrome and developmental delay. We are a 501c3 nonprofit charity. It is our purpose to provide education and promote public awareness by arranging and conducting special events, namely cruises. These events will be a forum for prominent educational speakers addressing a wide range of Down syndrome and disability related topics. We encourage self-advocate sessions. Buddy Cruise, ideally, will set sail each October, National Down syndrome awareness month, to honor those who are touched by Down syndrome.

Children's Medical Services

(813)396-9743 www.floridahealth.gov/tampa

A collection of special programs for eligible children with special needs. We have a variety of services for expecting moms, newborn babies, infants and toddlers, school-aged children, adolescents and young adults..

Dental Services

Arc of Florida (800)226-1155; dental@arcflorida.org

The Humanitarian Foundation (614)933-0711 – Providing dental needs for special needs children.

Florida Dental Association Guide to Dentists - <http://www.floridadental.org/public/find-a-dentist>

Easter Seals – Tampa

2403 E. Henry Ave; Tampa, FL 33610; Phone: (813)988-7633 Fax: (813)914-0403 - Offers Childcare, Early Intervention, Child development centers, Speech, PT, OT. Ages birth to school age. Cost: Florida child scholarships; private tuition; Medicaid/Medicare.

Medicaid - (813) 871-7600 6800 N. Dale Mabry Suite #200, Tampa FL 33614

Ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid Medicaid is the medical assistance program that provides access to health care for low-income families and individuals. Medicaid assists people with disabilities with the cost of nursing facility care and other medical and long-term care expenses.

Medicaid Waiver Programs

800-342-0778 <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/BrainSC/Medicaid/ACFHomepage.htm> The Home and Community Based Services Waiver, also called the HCBS/DD Waiver or "Big" Waiver, is one of Florida's. The

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www.fDSWF.org info@friendssupport.org

HCBS/DD Medicaid waiver program helps cover the cost for things that regular Medicaid does not pay for. The HCBS Waiver currently has 28 services and there is a spending cap based on the individual's needs. However, services must be "medically necessary". Individuals that meet the following criteria are eligible to receive services under the Home and Community Based Services Waiver:

- Be under 65 years of age.
- Reside in a Diversion Project service area.
- Be a Florida resident.
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified noncitizen.
- File for any other benefits to which they may be entitled.
- Disclose any rights to third party liability (i.e., health insurance).
- Meet the income limit of \$2022 for an individual or \$4044 for a couple.
- Meet the asset limit of \$2000 for an individual or \$3000 for an eligible couple.
- If your monthly income exceeds \$2022/month you still can benefit from Medicaid Diversion by setting up an income trust. This is a legal document and it must be done by an attorney.

Social Security - www.ssa.gov; 1-800-772-1213 3415 E FRONTAGE ROAD TAMPA, FL 33607; The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources.

Special Needs Attorneys

Hillsborough - Law Offices of Laurie E. Ohall, P.A. - Estate Planning, Elder law, Probate and Guardianship 1464 Oakfield Dr., Brandon, FL 33511 813-438-8503 (office) - Laurie Ohall is a Florida Board Certified Elder law attorney who has been practicing law since 1994. She concentrates her practice in the areas of estate planning, elder law and planning for special needs.

Pinellas - Steven E. Hitchcock, Esq, Florida Board Certified in Elder Law attorney, who will soon be offering free Guardian Advocate workshops for special needs parents in Pinellas county. He is Board Certified in Elder Law. His office is at 635 Court Street, Suite 202; Clearwater, Florida 33756; Phone: 727-223-3644.

The USF Regional Genetics and Metabolism - (813) 259-8772 2 Tampa General Circle, 2nd Floor Tampa, FL 33606; Usf.edu/medicine/pediatrics. Established in 1977 to provide comprehensive medical management to individuals and families with a genetic condition. This includes an initial evaluation and examination, genetic testing as appropriate, genetic counseling and follow up as appropriate.

Vocational Rehabilitation Florida Department of Education - 1313 North Tampa Street, Suite 801 Tampa, FL 33602 Phone: (813) 233-3600 ; Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federal-state program that helps people who have physical or mental disabilities get or keep a job.

2-1-1 Association

The 2-1-1 Association provides free, confidential information and referral services. Trained professionals are available 24/7 to provide crisis counseling and help callers identify and connect with health and human service programs that can meet a variety of needs including food, housing, employment, health care, and more. Services are available statewide through any cell phone provider as well as through landlines in 58 of Florida's 67 counties. Visit website to contact your local certified 2-1-1 Center, www.211.org .

ASSISTED SERVICES & TECNOLOGY

FAAST Florida Alliance for Assistive Services- (866) 732-88734202 E. Fowler Ave, Tampa FL 33620 Improve the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities through awareness activities that increase access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology. Hands on assistive technology, demonstrations, and trainings. Assistive device lending programs and no charge.

Ability Medical Equipment - 813-620-4475 4010 E Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa, FL 33610
www.a-ability.com; We are a DME company located in Tampa, FL providing standard and customize manual and power wheelchairs, custom seating, scooters, patient lifts, ceiling lifts, standing frames, ramps, residential lifts, bathroom equipment, ambulatory aids, seat lift chairs.

Dreams for Kids, Inc. - www.dreamms.org Assistive technology for special needs children.
Family Center on Technology and Disability www.fctd.info; Offers Information on assistive technology for special needs children.

FDLRS – Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System - (813) 837-777 fdlrs.mysdhc.org. Provides diagnostic, instructional, and technology support services to exceptional student education programs statewide and to families of students with disabilities.

ADVOCACY, FREE PROGRAMS FOR THE DISABLED

Able United (850)488-8514 myablesavings.com; The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act now authorizes each state to establish a qualified ABLE program to offer savings and investment options similar to a collage savings account to individuals with a disability. The purpose of the ABLE account is to encourage and assist individuals and families to save private funds supporting individuals with disabilities.

Florida's Voice on Developmental Disabilities-ARLENE LAKIN, ESQ.-President PO Box 24531 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307; (954) 975-5159 E-mail: FVDDorg@aol.com; Website: www.Floridasvoice.org
A statewide independent advocacy and networking non-profit organization of families and friends of persons with developmental disabilities. Our services - community programs, family home care, group homes, and larger centers (over six beds) for only the most severely developmentally disabled. Cost: \$25 family membership fee; \$15 for those with financial hardships

GiGi's Playhouse Tampa - Down syndrome achievement centers; changing lives through free, results-driven programs for individuals of all ages, families and communities. confidence and continuous improvement. Nicki Rawlings, President; nrawlings@gigisplayhouse.org; 813-843-7629

Goodwill Industries of Hillsborough County - 727-523-1512/888-279-1988 The mission is accomplished through employment services, training programs and affordable housing. Headquartered in St. Petersburg, we provide services to people in 10 counties – Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Polk counties.

Head Start/Early Head Start/Hillsborough County-813-272-5140 Fountain Oaks Business Park, 3639 W. Waters Ave., Ste. 500, Tampa, FL Head Start/Early Head Start assists children with all types of disabilities

✉ P.O. BOX 677 BRANDON FL 33509 (813) 245-2782
✉ info@friendssupport.org

including but not limited to those with developmental, hearing, language, and visual disabilities as well as emotional, medical, mental, and social needs. Enrolled children with special needs are provided with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and/or Individual Family Support Plans (IFSP).

Special Olympics - Special Olympics Florida – Hillsborough County P.O. Box 130535; Tampa, FL 33681 Sarah Taylor Gogliormella, County Director, 813-508-6905; <http://specialolympicsflorida.org/hillsborough> Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition to children and adults 8 years of age and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Cost is free, need a doctor's clearance on physical exam, sometimes provided free of charge.

Van Dyke Church Special Needs Ministry - 17030 Lakeshore Rd., Lutz, FL 33558. www.vandyke.org jatkinson@tampabay.rr.com. Embrace Special Needs Respite Care gharmon@vandyke.org 813-968-3983.

DISABILITY TRAINING

Brandon Swim & Tennis Club – Pathway's Program (813) 689-0908; 405 Beverly Blvd. Brandon, FL 33511-5507. The Brandon Sports and Aquatic Center specializes in educating individuals with specific learning disabilities. Our team is dedicated to understanding each student and making accommodations to support individual learning styles. We believe everyone deserves a chance to learn in a safe and positive environment. T.R.I.D.E.N.T. and Pathways allow adults with special needs to continue pursuing their education among supportive peers and experienced teachers.

McDonalds Training MTC - (813) 870-1300 | Fax (813) 872-6010; 5420 W. Cypress Street; Tampa, Florida 33607-1706 - Primary areas of service include educational, vocational and residential supports for persons with disabilities. MTC day services includes vocational skills training and life enrichment activities from computer lab and fine arts instruction to recreational outreaches for people with developmental disabilities. Provide people in community living the opportunity and resources to lease their home or apartment, pay their own expenses, make their own decisions, and receive services that promote choice and self-sufficiency.

Joyful Heart Training Center (727) 940-3573 1200 S. Pinellas Ave #14, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 Helping the Developmentally Disabled realize their potential. Joyful Heart Training Center offers Life Skills, Development Level III, Adult Day Training. Transportation to adults with developmental disabilities in North Pinellas and West Pasco Counties.

Parent Support Center

(727) 523-1130 2196 Main Street, Suite L, Dunedin FL 34698; This program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), is the Parent Training Information (PTI) center for the Central and Northeast of Florida, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk counties.

Self-Reliance, Inc. Center for Independent Living - 8901 North Armenia Avenue; Tampa, FL 33604 (813)375 3965 Self Reliance is a cross disability agency providing services to both children and adults with disabilities (regardless of age and type of disability) to identify and overcome barriers to independence in their lives. Self-Reliance is an agency of last resort and there is no charge for services.

CAMPS, SUMMER CAMPS, DAY PROGRAMS

Brandon Sports & Aquatic Center -405 Beverly Blvd. Brandon FL 33509 (813)545-4368; Trident Day/Summer Program for adults with Special Needs. The Team TRIDENT Program is focused on three main areas: active recreation, proper socialization / interpersonal skills, and independent life skills. We aim to provide an enriching environment where our team members can continue to learn and perfect their interpersonal and life skills, create bonding social relationships with their peers and benefit from organized activities, games and sports to lead a more active lifestyle.

Bakas Equestrian Center Horses for the Handicapped

(813)264-3890; www.bakasridingcenter.com – 501c3 nonprofit

Camp Sparks-After School Programs and Summer Camp - Camp Sparks is designed for children with special needs. The 8 to 10week summer program provides activities such as sports, games, arts and crafts, and cooking along with special events, swimming, and field trips. Contact 813-744-5978.

Parks and Recreation Disability Services Programs

601 E. Kennedy Blvd. 24th floor; Tampa FL 33602 (813) 744-5595 Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation offers financial assistance for summer camp to qualified families. To determine your eligibility, you must provide your child's school lunch letter to the staff at your desired camp location prior to registering for Summer Camp. Families that qualify for Community Service Block Grants qualify for free summer camp.

Quest's Camp Thunderbird - 909 E. Welch Rd., Apopka, FL 32712. 407-889-8088.

campthunderbird@questinc.org Camp for persons with developmental disabilities. Quest, Inc. 1404 Tech Blvd., Tampa, FL 33619 813-630-4710. Housing, Adult Day Training, Camp Thunderbird. www.questinc.org Suncoast New Options. 9502 N. Florida Ave., Tampa, FL 33612 813-933-1476.

GROUP HOMES

Genesis Manor Group Home

(813)361-9164 absolutecare01@yahoo.com

An Apd licensed Co-Ed Group home to serve children and adults with developmental disabilities.

New Horizons Group Home

109 E. Clay Ave. Brandon FL 33510; 813-571-2690

Provides group homes for adults with developmental disabilities. Homes are licensed through the Agency for Health Care Administration as Assisted Living Facilities. The residents care for their own personal needs, contribute to the housekeeping duties of their residence and work on personal goals with supervision and assistance as needed from devoted Support Staff.

Ridgeland Group Home, Inc. - Carol Josephs (813) 810-6257; Adult Day Training center in Brandon Florida.

Ridgeland Group Home and its staff are dedicated people striving to provide clients the opportunity for a meaningful life through various supports needed to improve their quality of life.

Royal Care Group Home - 813-623-6333 Licensed Standard & Behavior Focus homes and provide a variety of Supportive Residential & Community Based Services for adults in South Tampa, Brandon & Plant City. We currently serve males 18 + and adult females on a case by case basis.

Sunrise Community of Hillsborough County - 2714 West Kirby Street Tampa, Florida 33614 Phone: (813) 830-7823 hillsborough@sunrisegroup.org <http://www.sunrisegroup.org>. Group homes; Respite; adult training programs; Behavioral Analysis Services; Personal Assistance services; day services; and transportation.

Quest Training and Group Home - 1404 Tech Blvd. Tampa, FL 33619 contact@questinc.org (813) 423.7700; Quest provides a variety of residential living options for people with disabilities, including group homes, intermediate care facilities and transitional and support environments. Quest's vocational program provides individuals with disabilities in the Orlando and Tampa areas the opportunity to apply job skills and gain meaningful employment through the Adult Day Training (ADT) and the Supported Employment programs.

TRANSPORTATION

Suddenly Transportation (Pinellas) - We are a family owned & operated business in Pinellas County. We provide several types of safe and reliable private transportation services. Suddenly Transportation drivers are thoroughly background checked, licensed & insured. We own clean and comfortable 15 passenger vans, equipped with dash cams for added safety, call (727) 452-4328.

Sunshine Line Transportation - Scott Clark Director P: 813-272-7272; Reservation Hours Monday – Friday 8 AM - 5 PM; Provides door-to-door transportation and bus passes for elderly, low-income, and disabled persons who do not have or cannot afford their own transportation. Transportation is provided primarily to medical appointments and Aging Services day care and nutrition sites, but nonmedical trips are provided on a space-available basis. Sunshine Line does not provide Medicaid transportation. Fees & Eligibility- Vehicles used for door-to-door service are wheelchair accessible. Fees are charged for some trips.

Transportation - Agencies Federal Transportation Administration Michele Ogilvie 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 18th floor, Tampa, FL 33602. Call: 813-272-5940 ext 317. Email: ogilviem@plancom.org

TSA - 855-787-2227 The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has a toll-free helpline designed to assist travelers with disabilities and medical conditions, prior to getting to the airport. It is available Monday through Friday 9am–9pm EST, excluding federal holidays, with questions about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the security checkpoint.

EDUCATIONAL REFERENCES

Down Syndrome Books www.woodbinehouse.com

Babies with Down Syndrome – A New Parents Guide by Karen Stray-Gunersen

Medical and Surgical Care for Children with Down Syndrome by Philip Mattheis, M.D.

SCHOOLS

Focus Academy info@focusacademytampa.org (813) 433-5558 The curriculum at Focus Academy is structured with dual purposes: academic achievement and social success. Many students are scholastically capable but are hindered by struggles in dealing with peers.

Livingstone Academy 813-661-4200 - is an independent, non-profit, Private School that specializes in serving the unique needs of children with learning disabilities. At each location, Livingstone Academy serves students in grades 1-8; providing a continuum of services based on the individual requirements of each student. (Our Seffner campus serves students in grades 1st through 12th) We provide a positive learning environment for students with Specific Learning Disabilities, Autism, Asperger's, Down Syndrome, Speech and Language disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Emotional/Social disorders and Cognitive and/or Developmental delays. (813)404-1598; www.livingstoneschools.org.

Morning Star Academy – A mission of the Catholic Diocese. Children with special needs who have learning disabilities and developmental delays. 210 E Linebaugh Ave, Tampa, FL 33612
Phone: (813) 935-0232 or 4661 80th Ave. North, Pinellas Park FL 33781 (727)544-6036

Pepin Academy – 813-236-1755 Serves over 700 students between 3rd and 12th grade, and young adults 18 to 22 with specific learning disabilities. Approximately 80% of our students graduate with a standard high school diploma, and we provide individualized instruction, along with all the services your child needs to succeed and the opportunity to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities. 3916 East Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa, FL 33610

Special Needs School List - For a list of special needs schools in your area log onto:
<http://www.privateschoolreview.com/florida/special-education-private-schools>.

CHARITIES & CONFERENCES

Deliver the Dream - Offers an all-expense paid weekend retreat for families. Contact@deliverthedream.org

Sunshine Foundation Dream Villages – Offers an all-expense paid family vacation in Orlando, Florida@sunshinefoundation.org.

Family Café Conference – yearly conference for families with children who have disabilities. When you register, you can apply for assistance to cover the cost of the hotel room, www.familycafe.net

FLORIDA SPECIAL NEEDS WEBSITES

- Able Trust of Florida www.abletrust.org
- Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities www.advocacycenter.org
- Best Buddies bestbuddies.org
- Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services www.fldoe.org
- Career Education for Students with Special Needs www.myfloridaeducation.com
- Family Network on Disabilities, Inc (birth to 26) <http://fndfl.org>
- FL Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged www.dot.state.fl.us/ctd
- FL Department of Health www.doh.state.fl.us/family
- FL Diagnostic and Learning Resource www.paec.org/fdlrsweb
- Florida Developmental Disabilities Resources www.flddresources.org
- Florida's Voice on Developmental Disabilities www.floridasvoice.org
- Florida Center for Inclusive Communities flfcic.fmhi.usf.edu
- Family Care Council www.fccflorida.org
- Hillsborough County's Head Start <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/headstart/>
- Job Accommodation Network www.askjan.org
- Kidcare www.floridakidcare.org

- Macdonald Training Center
www.macdonaldcenter.org
- Shriner's Hospital for Children
www.shrinershq.org
- State Agency for Workforce
www.floridajobs.org
- School to Work Transitions
www.rehabworks.org
- Special Olympics
specialolympicsflorida.org/Hillsborough
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program
www.doh.state.fl.us/family/wic

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WEBSITES

- Administration on Developmental Disabilities
www.acf.dhh.gov
- American Speech/Language/Hearing Assoc.
www.asha.org
- ARC of United States
www.thearc.org
- Council for Disability Rights
www.disabilityrights.org
- Dating for the Disabled
www.dating4disabled.com
- Down Syndrome Associates in Action
www.dsaia.com
- Down Syndrome Research Foundation
www.dsrf.org
- Family Network on Disabilities (birth to 26yrs)
www.fndfl.org
- Global Down Syndrome Foundation
www.globaldownsyndrome.com
- IDEA
www.ideapartnershop.org
- Learning Disabilities Association of America
info@ldaamerica.org
- of Dimes
www.marchofdimes.com
- Medicaid
www.cms.gov/special
- National Ataxia Foundations
www.ataxia.org
- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities
www.nichcy.org/babies
- National Down Syndrome Congress
www.ndsccenter.org
- National Down Syndrome Society
www.ndss.org
- National Organization on Disability
www.nod.org
- National Resource for Parents
www.zerotothree.org
- National Society of Genetic Counselors
www.nsgc.org
- National Info Center for Children & Youth with Disabilities
www.nichcy.org
- Social Security
www.socialsecurity.gov
- Spec 4 Us
www.specs4us.com
- Technical Assistance Alliance, Parent Centers
www.taalliance.org
- Technology for Children
www.kidsmartearlylearning.org
- Wrights law
www.wrightslaw.com