



Message from the President Jonathon Estes

Dear Friends,

As the father of a 6 year old daughter with Down syndrome and President of the GRADSA Board, I want to say thank you to all the companies and individuals in the community that made for a great 2015 at GRADSA!

Completing the second year of our strategic plan, our growth in the community through outreach and awareness efforts has been notable. GRADSA had one of its most successful Buddy Walks in its 17 year-history. We had more than 1200 participants and 100 volunteers in attendance and we raised over \$60,000 to help us realize GRADSA's mission.

Besides wanting to thank everyone who supported this effort, we would like to offer a special "shout out" to our Buddy Walk title sponsor Independence Bank and Darrell Higginbotham, WBKR's Jacklyn Graves, and the Hampton Inn and the Lure Restaurant who came to our rescue when our main cooking grill "flamed out."

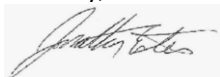
As noted in this Annual Report's highlights, besides progress in achieving financial sustainability for GRADSA, we also had a banner year in pursuit of other mission and strategic plan focused items.

Family networking and social opportunities continued to thrive through activities such as our annual Christmas Dinner and Party which drew more than 200 family members and volunteers. Awareness and advocacy efforts were enhanced by the production and promotion of our widely acclaimed "More Alike Than Different" educational video produced by Mike Dunn.

Efforts to strengthen our board and committee structures moved forward with the addition of some fine local business and professional leaders to our volunteer board. A grant from The Women's Guild is allowing us to expand our outreach efforts to new parents, and support from Owensboro Health's Community Benefit Fund is helping us to develop a fun and fitness focused performance dance team for teens and adults.

All of this was made possible through your friendship and support. Thank you! And remember, "You Are GRADSA!"

Sincerely,



Jonathon Estes, Board President

GRADSA's Mission - "to enable families enriched with the Down syndrome connection to share resources, build friendships, and advocate together for the future of individuals with Down syndrome."

Our Current Strategic Goals

- Increase social awareness of Down syndrome & GRADSA
- Reach out to parents and provide education and support for new parents of children with Down syndrome
- Provide opportunities for family education and networking
- Board Development: Build strong committee infrastructure
- Improve GRADSA's financial sustainability

2015 Financial Highlights

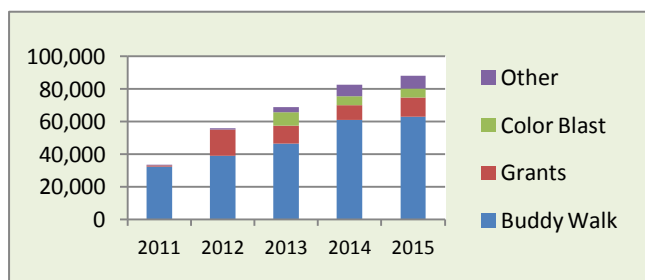
2015 Income

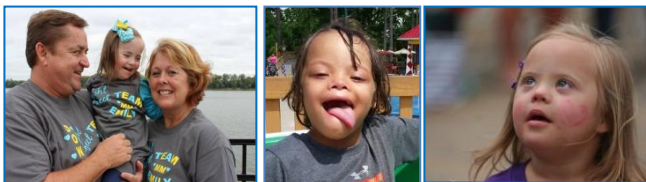
Buddy Walk Contributions	\$62,820
Grants	11,751
Color Blast 5K Participation	5,815
Misc. Fund Raising, Contributions, Fees	<u>7,659</u>
Total Income	\$88,045

2015 Expenses

Community Outreach & Educational Events	\$18,029
Grants and Awards	13,228
Social Networking Events	9,254
Administrative, Staff & Overhead	<u>20,966</u>
Total Expense	\$61,477
2015 Operating Surplus	\$26,568

Growth in Support of GRADSA





2015 Program & Service Highlights

Thanks to our contributors and volunteers, GRADSA offered a variety of services and activities in 2015 that touched you and the lives of our 140 member families:

- **Public Education and Awareness** campaign including billboards and the release of our “More Alike Than Different” educational video, all or clips from which were viewed by 13,852 in schools and on social media.
- **Special Fitness and Therapeutic Activity** programs including the “Fit with Friends” Summer Camp in collaboration with the Owensboro Health Park and the Simply Therapy play group, as well as the start-up of our dance troupe (name to be announced).
- **Parent and Sibling Support** programs like our special Moms, Dads and Siblings get away events.
- **Family Fellowship and Networking** events including the Spring Fling picnic, summer Holiday World adventure, Back to School Pool Party, Fall Family Fun Night and our annual Christmas Party and attended by more than 200 GRADSA families and friends.
- **Educational Seminars** for families and interested citizens on topics such as “Think First and Stay Safe,” “Steps to Independence,” massage therapy and special needs computer apps.
- **New Parent Outreach** with packets of books and other helpful materials on Down syndrome, offered directly and through hospital nurseries to new parents.
- **Education Fair**, involving grants to parents of school aged children and their teachers to purchase education and therapy items that may be re-used by others.



Special Thank You's

To these major sponsors, supporters and volunteers:

American Patriot Getaways
 Brescia & KWC student volunteers
 Drake Foundation
 E.M. Ford Co.
 First Class Services
 Gorman Recruiting
 Hampton Inn Riverfront
 Independence Bank
 KY Farm Bureau, Robert Edge
 Kentucky Mavericks
 Lure Seafood and Grille
 Michael E. Horn Foundation
 Owensboro Health
 PBI Bank
 Specialty Food Group
 Volunteers from Area High Schools
 Volunteers – Area Middle Schools
 WBKR Radio
 Women’s Guild

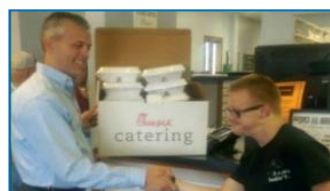
Community Events and Collaborations



2015 Buddy Walk, with Independence Bank as our title sponsor, attracted 1200 supporters to the Smothers Park riverfront area for a walk, cookout, entertainment and special appearances by the BG Rockerz Dance Team and several Kentucky Mavericks Basketball players. This is GRADSA’s major fundraising event.



Color Blast 5K Run and Walk is a collaborative and inclusive fund raising effort of five area organizations that serve people with developmental disabilities and their families. The 2015 event, aimed at community awareness and education, attracted 3000 runners and walkers of all ages and sizes.



WBKR Yard Party is another GRADSA awareness and fund raiser where GRADSA volunteers set up on the Frederica Street front lawn of WBKR Radio to sell grilled burger box lunches to passers-by while also making deliveries to area businesses and promoting GRADSA via live radio interviews.

2015 GRADSA Board of Directors

President – Jonathon Estes
Vice President – Kyle Gorman
Treasurer – Gary Estes

Ralph Blair, CIA	Tony Hamilton
Ashley Bottoms	Haylee Hay
Terry Brownson	Mark Pfiefer, Esq.
Sherry Cook	Juli Stewart, CPA
Renea Estes	Scott Sullivan
Missy Gant	Minga Trogden
Jessica Gorman	Helen Wright

Executive Director – Carla Renfrow

For more information please contact us at:

GRADSA - P.O. Box 2031 - Owensboro, KY 42302
 Email: info@gradsa.org Website: www.gradsa.org
 GRADSA is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit organization.
 Visit our website to make a tax deductible gift.