



Montgomery County Down Syndrome Interest Group Impact Report 2025



"MCDSIG has been such a blessing to our family. Inclusive and active for the whole family, including parents and siblings of a family member with Down syndrome.

Not only is Shea accepted, but he's truly valued for who he is as a person.

MCDSIG has given us community, and more importantly, amazing friendships. We love being a part of MCDSIG."

~Laura, mom to Shea



Education

Connected families with local and national resources on education, and expanded The Learning Program™ to support 41 families.

Advocacy

Empowered our families by sharing best practices in education, medical care and important therapies.

Support

Served more than 300 families in Montgomery County and beyond.

Outreach

Engaged with new and current families, health care providers and the broader disability community.

Social

Connected families and individuals through inclusive events and shared experiences.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am deeply proud of the dedication, compassion, and teamwork that continue to drive the Montgomery County Down Syndrome Interest Group forward. This past year, our Board, partners and volunteers came together to host more programs and events than we have in years, reconnecting families and strengthening the vibrant community that makes MCDSIG so special. A meaningful milestone was hiring our first staff member—an important step that expands our capacity to grow programs and better serve families across our community.

Thank you to every family, volunteer and supporter who makes this work possible. Because of you, we move into the future with gratitude, pride and great excitement for what we will accomplish together.

— Kim Krauter, Board President

OUR MISSION

The Montgomery County Down Syndrome Interest Group of Pennsylvania (MCDSIG) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to support individuals with Down syndrome and their families from diagnosis to adulthood through education, advocacy, support, outreach and social opportunities.

2025 YEAR AT A GLANCE

- First Responder Meet and Greet-12 local law enforcement agencies and their K-9 partners, a fire department and EMS service (68 participants)
- Spring Fling (116 participants)
- Bites and Brews fundraiser (over 200 attendees)
- Donuts in the Park (105 participants)
- Fall Fest (147 participants)
- Pizza in the Park (60 participants)
- Breakfast with Santa (220 attendees)
- The Arc Alliance Family Resource Fair
- Over 500 followers on Instagram
- 1.1 K Facebook followers on our public page
- Over 340 members in our private Facebook group
- Greater than 65 members in the Dual Diagnosis Facebook group
- The Learning Program™
- Summer theater program
- Hired a part-time employee
- Increased community collaborations



OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

MCDSIG family outreach volunteers connect personally with each new family and provide a welcome bag filled with gifts and resources. Throughout the year, volunteers continue offering guidance, encouragement and connections so that every family—when they're ready—feels supported and embraced by the MCDSIG community. We also provide meal vouchers to families during inpatient stays at CHOP, a small gesture that brings comfort and relief during some of their most challenging moments.

THE LEARNING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

For the past 12 years, MCDSIG has delivered The Learning Program™—a nationally recognized, research-based educational model that equips families with evidence-based tools, strengthens academic outcomes, and empowers parents as first educators and lifelong advocates. The program offers four developmentally aligned pathways for ages 5–22 and is led by parent educators, an MsEd special education teacher with 36 years of classroom experience, dedicated volunteers, and 6–8 teacher apprentices through our ongoing partnership with the Gwynedd Mercy University Teacher Apprentice Program. Instruction spans early literacy and math, social-emotional learning, and transition planning, including college and vocational site visits.

A standout highlight this year was our one week summer theater pilot where students and volunteers designed sets, built props, learned scripts, and rehearsed choreography—culminating in a joyful performance of “The Lion King”.

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

We held our annual Bites & Brews fundraiser at a new venue in 2025, Bald Birds Brewery in Audubon. The event raised more than \$23,000 after expenses, making it one of our most successful gatherings to date. In addition to the event itself, we generated meaningful support through our online raffles during Down Syndrome Awareness Month, and we also launched our first-ever online store featuring MCDSIG-branded merchandise—a new initiative that not only raised additional funds but helped strengthen our visibility and community pride.



“Our first encounter with MCDSIG happened by true fate. Our daughter was diagnosed at birth and we had a 16-day stay in the NICU. A few days after getting home we just happened to stumble upon a Fall Fest at a local farm. We were so new to her diagnosis and the group was so respectful to give us contact information but space to reach out when we were ready. We went to the Breakfast with Santa event and the community was nothing but amazing. It felt so good to see kids of all ages being themselves with so much support and love in this community. Our oldest son was also able to meet other siblings so he had his own community of support. This group has been helpful in so many ways, from support navigating insurance to having a conversation with a parent who knows what you are going through, that can provide guidance. We feel so lucky to have found such a great group for support, guidance and community!”

~Rebecca “Becky” Quintangeli



COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS



MCDSIG partnered with National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) in the launch of 321go!, a health and wellness program for teens and young adults designed to improve the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome through, physical activity, balanced nutrition, and emotional wellness.

MCDSIG was a sponsor for the NDSS Dragon Boat Team in the Independence Dragon Boat Race in Philadelphia. Several of our MCDSIG families rowed Team NDSS to a third place medal and helped to promote inclusion in community events and sports.

MCDSIG had the honor of hosting an information table at The Arc Alliance Family Resource Fair at the Elmwood Park Zoo! This private event offers families the opportunity to explore resources in employment, education, in-home care, legal and financial planning, waiver and non-waiver funded programs, and more.



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

- MCDSIG is grateful for our continued partnership with the National Charity League, Valley Forge Chapter. Their mothers and daughters bring generosity, warmth, and joy to community events, allowing our board and volunteers to fully participate with their families. Their presence strengthens the sense of connection that defines our community.
- We've been so grateful for many of our members who have stepped up as volunteers to help with many of our activities, including speaking to medical residents about Down syndrome, welcoming new families, planning events and gathering donations to be raffled off.
- MCDSIG's Board of Directors is an all-volunteer board made up entirely of parents who bring their lived experience, dedication and leadership to every aspect of our mission. The Board ensures all activities align with our mission and the donations we receive are spent and managed responsibly. Meeting 6 times annually, including one in-person public meeting, we report on each committee's activities. Our commitment guides our programs, events and advocacy efforts, ensuring that families in our community feel supported, informed and connected.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue Composition

- 43% of total revenue is derived from direct donations
- 56% is generated through fundraising activities

Expense Allocation

- 20% of total expenses are allocated to administration costs.
- 40% is directed toward free events so our families can connect

The remaining is retained for future programs and supports as we progress with our strategic plans.

Five-Year Financial Trend

- Revenue has remained consistent year over year for the last 5 years, reflecting stable donor engagement and fundraising performance.
- Expenses have increased during this period primarily due to
 - The resurgence of social and community events
 - Expanded community support efforts
 - Increased staffing cost

Overall, the organization remains financially stable, with expense growth aligned to program expansion and community impact.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026

Focus in 2026 is on deepening connection, expanding impact and ensuring that every family feels supported from diagnosis through adulthood. We plan to:

- Strengthen our infrastructure by continuing to build sustainable staffing and volunteer capacity
- Deepen partnerships with health care professionals, schools, first responders, and community organizations
- Enhance our digital engagement systems to reach more families and supporters across platforms
- Diversify fundraising and sponsorship opportunities to support long-term stability

