

In Every Difficult  
Situation, Lies  
Opportunity

# Delaney Wedding



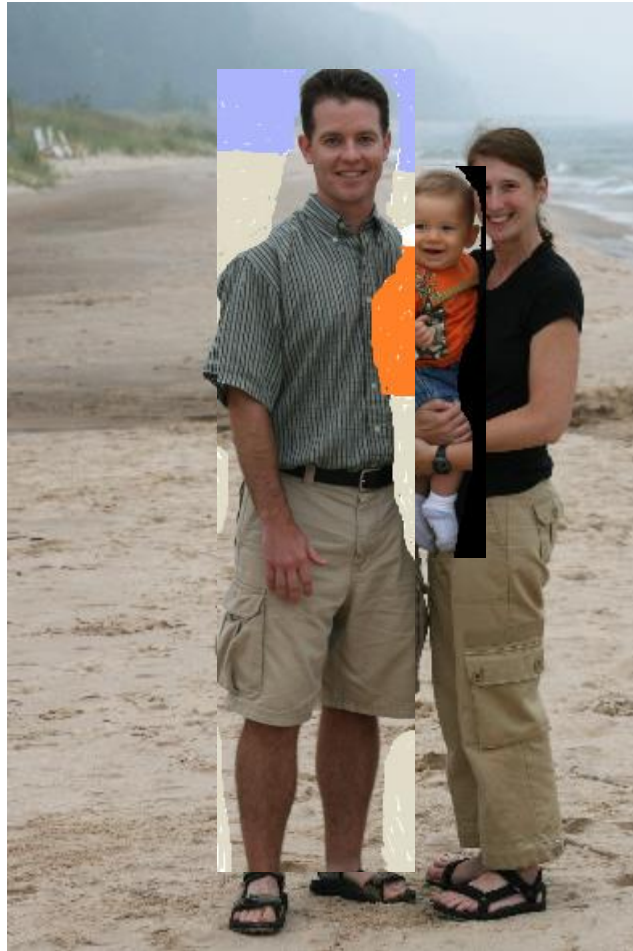
# Delaney Wedding



# Along Comes Charlie



# Along Comes Charlie



# Delaney Christmas

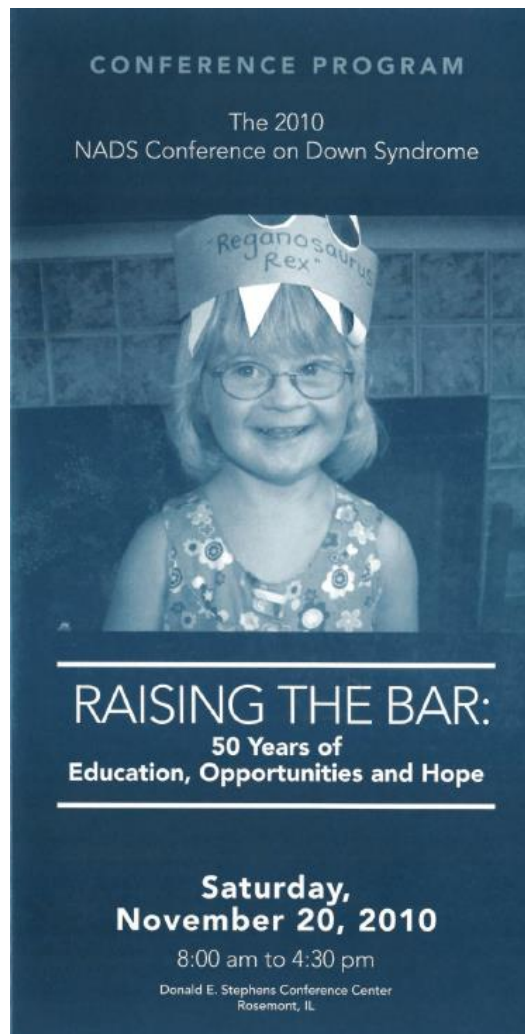




# Delaney Christmas



# N.A.D.S Conference 2010





# N.A.D.S Conference 2010

## 20 **The Changing Role of DADS** **Open to Men ONLY**

Joe Meares and Jeff Huffman

D.A.D.S. National

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

**11AM & 3:15PM**

**Level 2 Room 28**

Joe and Jeff will share the mission of Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome and how the organization started. They will also share how a DADS group can assist and support, through fellowship and action, the fathers and families of individuals with Down syndrome.

# D.A.D.S. Goals

To create a network of fathers **willing to develop a program based on the needs of the men involved**

To **increase a father's knowledge** and resources about children and individuals with Down syndrome

To **enhance personal advocacy skills**

To heighten a family's ability to cope with the unique challenges of raising a child with Down syndrome

To provide **a safe atmosphere of support** where men can openly share

To **have fun and build camaraderie** and friendships among fathers

# The D.A.D.S. Mission

**“To assist and support, through fellowship and action, the fathers and families of individuals with Down syndrome”**

# First D.A.D.S Meeting

January 2011



# A Growing Group



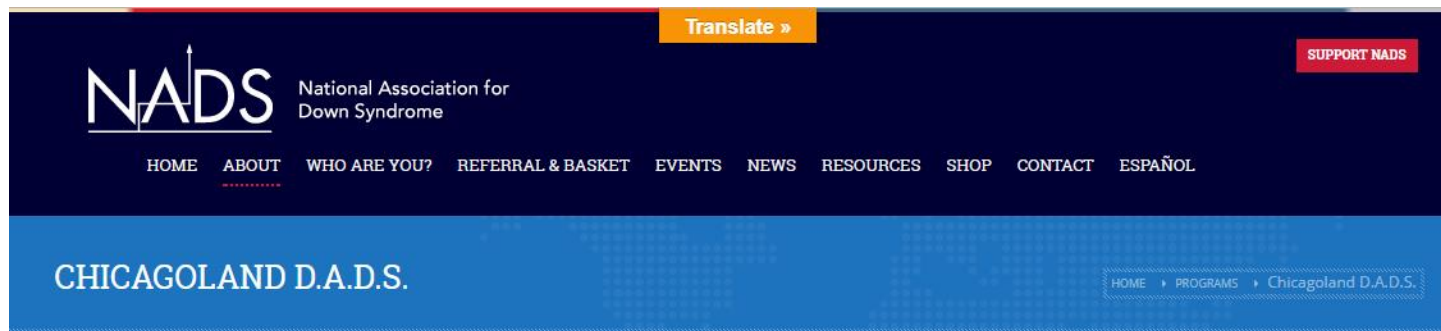


# Continuing To Grow!





# Chicagoland D.A.D.S.



The Chicagoland chapter of Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome (D.A.D.S.) generally meets on the last Sunday of the month. Meetings feature lively discussion about such topics as education, individual development, finance, healthcare, advocacy, coping, as well as a myriad of other topics unique and important to raising a child with Down syndrome—not to mention the benefits drawn from “hanging out” with a room full of other fathers experiencing the exact same issues as you!

## Our Mission is simple, but our impact is profound.

Come see what D.A.D.S. is doing in your community:

- enhancing a father's knowledge and resources about children and individuals with Down syndrome
- helping to build personal advocacy skills
- helping families cope with the unique challenges of raising a child with Down syndrome
- creating a safe environment of support where men can openly share experiences
- building camaraderie and helping create genuine friendships between fathers and families of children with Down syndrome.

Please visit our website for the details of our next meeting: [www.chicagoland-dads.org](http://www.chicagoland-dads.org).

***Share what you know . . . Learn what you don't.***



## NADS PROGRAMS

Parent Support Program  
Public Awareness Program  
Education for Healthcare Professionals  
Support for Spanish-Speaking Families  
More Than Down Syndrome Retreat  
Conference & Seminars  
Government Affairs  
Self-Advocate Program

# Advocacy



# Patti and Vince



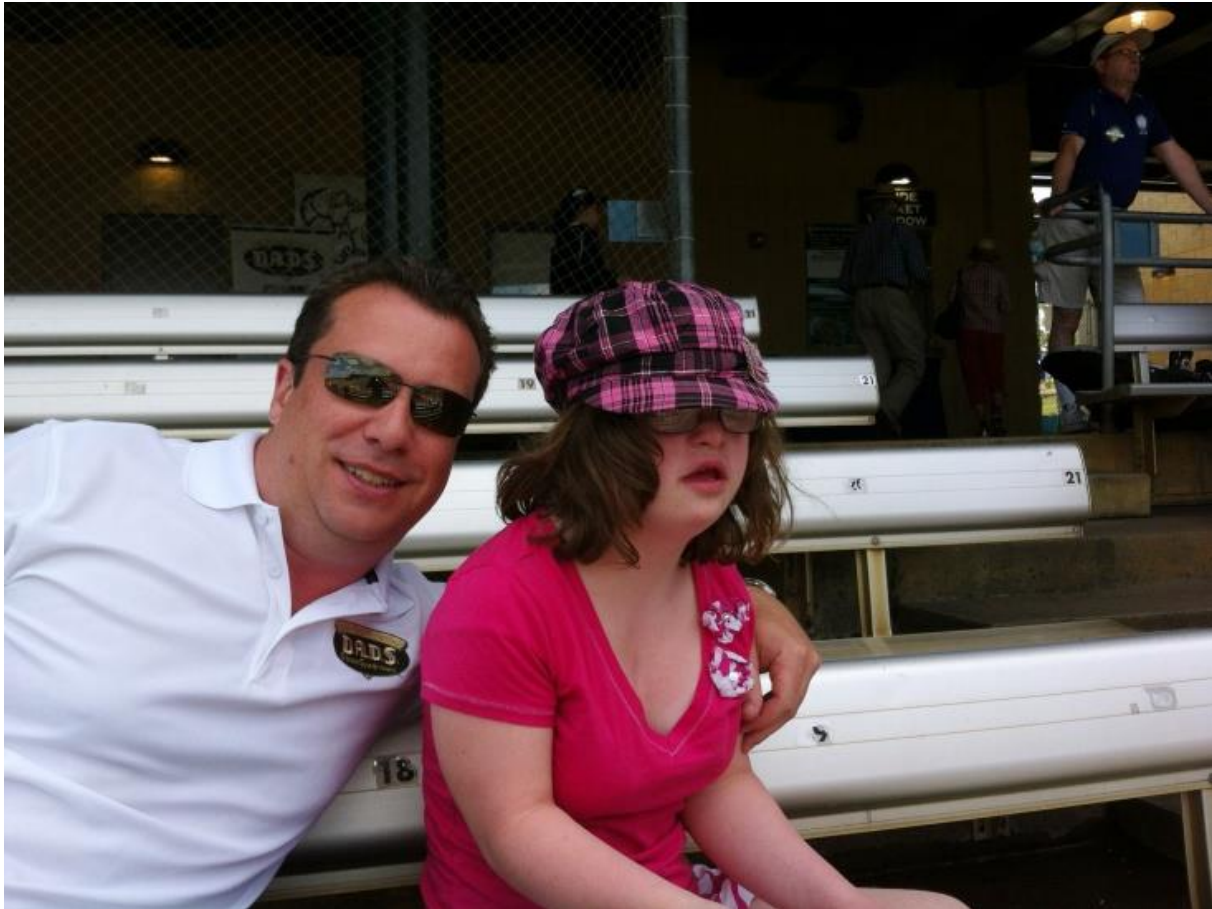
# Sebastian and Matt



© 2012 Wm. D'Arcy



# Avery and Steve



# Cody, Ryan and Aaron





# Dad's Guidance



© 2012 Wm. D'Arcy

# Dad's Guidance



# Dad's Guidance





# Dad's Guidance



*...find the opportunity.*



# Here Is What We Are Not

- **Too Serious**
- **A Clique**
- **Just For The Western Suburbs!**



# Let's have a D.A.D.S. meeting

**“The safe forum for sharing, bragging, learning and growing with other fathers who truly understand.”**

Share **YOUR** story, tell us about your journey and your child

**Please be respectful time so everyone gets a turn**

# Contact Info

[www.chicagoland-dads.org](http://www.chicagoland-dads.org)

<http://www.nads.org/resources/local-support-groups/>

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