



BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!

You can be a part of helping FRIENDS shine a light on the incredible abilities of our loved ones with Down syndrome and Special Needs while raising funds that are critical to continuing programs that are essential for our families. Ninety-seven percent of the net proceeds from the 6th FRIENDS Buddy Walk will go directly back to the critical programs provided by FRIENDS. In addition, we will donate 2.5% to the National Down Syndrome Society to help promote their nationwide efforts. We assist families who receive a prenatal diagnosis, early intervention, the school-aged years, and throughout adulthood. FRIENDS has more than 1,200 individuals, families, and community members who call the FRIENDS family.

SPONSORSHIP RECOGNITION

- Public recognition leading up to and at the Buddy Walk. Donate \$5,000 or more, and you will receive an Appreciation Plaque and have an opportunity to speak to our guests and meet Mayor Jane Castor and Councilman Luis Viera.
- Recognition as a sponsor in printed and promotional materials, including logo placement on participant t-shirts and event signage.
- Logo placement on FRIENDS website with a direct hyperlink to company website.
- Scrolling logo on FRIENDS Buddy Walk homepage and in social media posts.
- Recognition in FRIENDS e-communications sent to event participants and FRIENDS members.
- Opportunity to add your logo on the FRIENDS PARENT PACKETS sent to families and a personal story about one of the beneficiaries and your support shared in FRIENDS communications.

IN-KIND DONATIONS NEEDED!

We need:

- Food for our walkers, volunteers, & vendors
- Water, Gatorade, Soda
- Gift Certificates for our Buddy Walk raffle.

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://www.ds-stride.org/friendsbuddywalk>



6th F.R.I.E.N.D.S. BUDDY WALK



OCTOBER 22, 2022

AL LOPEZ PARK
4810 N. HIMES AVE, TAMPA
FL. 33614

10AM-2PM

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://www.ds-stride.org/friendsbuddywalk>

F.R.I.E.N.D.S.: Families, Respect, Inspire, Education, Networking, Down syndrome Special needs is a 501(C)(3) non-profit that has been a staple of the Tampa Bay area since 2007.

FRIENDS MISSION

- To provide vital special needs information, education, and resources to expectant and new families.
- To offer essential support, understanding, and advice to those with Down syndrome and/or other disabilities.
- To provide fun activities in a safe and accepting atmosphere where our families and individuals can connect. We proudly serve Hillsborough and Pinellas County. Your donations are tax-deductible. Tax EIN #65-1261646.



Since 1995, the National Buddy Walk has been the world's premier Down syndrome awareness, advocacy, and peer-to-peer fundraising program. The Buddy Walk was created by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) to promote education and advocacy and to celebrate our individuals with Down syndrome. The Buddy Walk is also a fundraiser; the funds raised are for local Down syndrome organizations and national incentives. Today, more than 200 Buddy Walk events occur in cities across the country. To learn more and find a Buddy Walk near you, visit www.buddywalk.org.

08:00 AM VOLUNTEER & VENDORS SET UP; PLEASE BE READY TO GO BY 10AM

10:00AM EVENT DAY REGISTRATION IS \$20 SIGNIN AT #310 SHELTER. TAMPA CITY COUNCILMAN LUIS VIERA - OPENS THE BUDDY WALK.

10:00AM - 14:00PM ENJOY THE FESTIVITIES
Registered walkers and Vendors enjoy a free lunch. DJ, Mark Girdwood will be playing the tunes. Mark Oliver is our MCEE! The kids will enjoy the playground, bouncy houses, and meeting their favorite Star Wars & GhostBusters characters! Plus, free face painting and balloons! Bring your tents, chairs, and food/drinks if you wish.

*****NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED*****

TENTS - NEED TO BE SECURED WITH ROPE, WEIGHTS, BUCKETS OF WATER, NO STAKES ALLOWED. ANY TENTS NOT SECURED WITH WEIGHTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAY UP.

10:00AM - 14:00PM VISIT OUR SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCE VENDORS! Our Vendors are ready to give you information about their services here in the Tampa Bay area.

10:15AM RUNGO DANCE TWINKLERS & STARS - A Special Needs Dance Group performs.

10:45AM DYNASTY STARS DANCE TEAM - A Special Needs Ballroom Dance Group performs.

11:15PM MEET TAMPA MAYOR JANE CASTOR

11:30PM VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARDS Please meet us at the stage at 11:15.

1:45PM THE TOP 5 TEAMS & THE LARGEST TEAM AWARD. They receive a F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Appreciation Buddy Walk Plaque, a tent to use during the event, and a cooler full of goodies to enjoy! Did your team raise \$250? Please come and get your Buddy Walk Team Signs. Did you raise over \$500? Don't forget to get your extra raffle tickets.

2:15PM BUDDY WALK MEDAL AWARDS - We celebrate and honor all Special Needs individuals, please come up to the stage to receive your Buddy Walk medal, Buddy Walk Temporary Tattoo, Buddy Walk Wristband, plus get a FRIENDS CowBell or BamBam Noisemaker!

12:30PM ADVOCACY WALK
The incredible Ericka Iglesias will sing the National Anthem. The Top Five Teams, and the Largest Team will lead us for the Advocacy walk. Hold up your Team signs! Grab your noisemakers! We will walk around AL Lopez Park Nature Trail. LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE TAMPA BAY!!

1:00 PM TEAM PICTURES
Stand in front of the BUDDY WALK backdrop to get your free Team Pictures, taken by the wonderful team of Julie Hirsch and Lawrence Clipper with Julie Hirsch Photography!

1:30PM RAFFLE TICKETS
Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets! No need to be present to win. Don't forget to stop by the SELF-ADVOCATES BAKE SALE and get a delicious treat.

2:00PM THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING F.R.I.E.N.D.S. AND OUR DOWN SYNDROME & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY!

VOLUNTEERS WE NEED YOU!



**SIGN UP
for the
6TH FRIENDS
BUDDY WALK
TODAY!**

LOG ONTO

www.ds-stride.org/friendsbuddywalk

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

We welcome Students seeking volunteer hours, adults of all ages and Corporations with Volunteer programs.

Please contact Ann Foyt (813)245-2782, info@friendssupport.org for more information.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HARD WORK
AND DEDICATION!**



***Your donations fund our Mission
in so many ways!***

Ninety-five percent of the money raised during Buddy Walk goes right back into our F.R.I.E.N.D.S. year-round programs, essential support groups, and fun activities. In addition, 2.5% is donated to the National Down Syndrome Society to help with national efforts.

Your donations provide:

- **F.R.I.E.N.D.S. PARENT PACKETS** to families who received a diagnosis of Down syndrome or other special needs. We assemble and donate our Parent Packets to nine Tampa Bay NICU's who in turn distribute them to expectant/new parents.
- **BABY FRIENDS** support & playgroup hosted in Brandon, Tampa, and Largo. For our older kids and tweens we have AFTER SCHOOL SPECIALS in Brandon.
- Your donations provide for our popular **ADULT SPECIAL NEEDS DANCES** held monthly in Riverview and Clearwater.
- Your donations provide **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** to families in need.
- Donations cover the cost of our **WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY PICNIC, DISABILITY AWARENESS POOL PARTY, and HOLIDAY PARTY.**
- Donations cover the cost of printing our brochures, flyers, resource guides, and parent packet materials.
- Donations cover the cost of our yearly event insurance, 990 Taxes, and other required state fees.
- Most importantly, a portion of the money raised is put in a savings account for **THE FRIENDS CENTER** - A special needs facility we hope to open soon. The center will provide all our programs, a Day program, Clinic, and much more.

Thank you for your support, we could not do what we do without you. **REGISTER TODAY!**

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