

# Down in the Southland

Friends Don't Count Chromosomes!

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 2011

## A Note from the Chair

Information on the latest organizational happenings

### Juliette De Nova

President

The past few weeks have been very busy behind the scenes of our group. The rough draft of our Articles of Incorporation & by-laws are being revised by the lawyer as I type. The next step is to file with the state, and then we can apply for our 501©3 status!

Thank you to everyone who has responded to all of the emails that have been sent looking for input! Your responses are vital to Down in the Southland having events that fit your family's needs and busy schedule! Keep those prompt replies coming!

## Our Spring and Summer Calendar is Ready!

We have added some new fun and exciting activities to our usual fun summer events! If you see an event on the calendar, and you don't receive an Evite at least one week prior to the event, please contact one of the board members to make sure your information is correct in the Evite system.

See pages 2-3 for our Spring/Summer calendar or check our [website!](#)

*continued on page 2*

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## Bowling Sessions a First!

Join 'Kids Bowl Free' for free bowling

Down in the Southland will be having our first ever 'series' event! We will be offering weekly bowling for our children with Ds and their siblings on Thursday's at 1:30pm, at Oak Forest Bowl. The best price we could find is for each family to join the "[Kids Bowl Free](#)" program. When you register in the program, each child will receive a coupon for two free games for EVERY DAY of the week! You may use any or all of the coupons and only need to pay for shoes (\$3.75) whenever you bowl! (See the [Kids Bowl Free](#) website for all of the details.) Each family is required to print and bring their coupons in order to receive free games.

Down in the Southland has reserved lanes every Thursday at 1:30 pm from 6/16-8/18/2011.



This program is also offered at Thunderbowl in Mokena! Lanes will be reserved for member of Down in the Southland, based on interest. If you would like to bowl at Thunderbowl with the group, please complete the survey at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LRBLRCZ>

and contact Juliette at [owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com](mailto:owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com) if you can not complete the survey on line.

If you plan on bowling with us at [Oak Forest Bowl](#), *be sure to register with Kids Bowl Free BEFORE Saturday May14th*, so that you will have access to your coupons and can print them before you head to the bowling alley! Evites will be sent so we know who to wait for!

## Down in the Southland May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10 4p Choo Choo Johnny's	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 4p Bowling - Oak Forest Bowl	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 3:30p '02-'04 Monthly Playdate	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				

## June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day	15 11a Wacky Wed.- Orland Civic Center-ice cream  <u>3pm gym &amp; swim</u>	16 1:30p Bowling - Oak Forest Bowl	17	18 1:30p Polish @ Rita's
19 Father's Day	20	21	22	23 1:30p Bowling Oak Forest Bowl	24 1:30p '02-'04 Monthly Playdate	25
26 6:05pm Windy City Thunderbolts	27	28	29 3pm TENTATIVE Gym & Swim	30 1:30p Bowling - Oak Forest Bowl		

## July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6 3pm TENTATIVE Gym & Swim	7 1:30p Bowling Oak Forest Bowl	8	9
10	11	12 11a Fun in the Park - Orland	13 3pm TENTATIVE Gym & Swim	14 1:30p Bowling Oak Forest Bowl	15	16
17	18	19 1p Walk at Lake Katherine	20 3pm TENTATIVE Gym & Swim	21 1:30p Bowling Oak Forest Bowl	22	23
24	25	26 11a Fun in the Park - Orland	27 3pm TENTATIVE Gym & Swim	28 1:30p Bowling Oak Forest Bowl	29 1:30p '02-'04 Monthly Playdate	30
31						

## August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 3pm TENTATIVE Gym & Swim	4 1:30p Bowling Oak Forest Bowl	5	6
7	8	9 Jump Zone	10 3pm TENTATIVE Gym & Swim	11 1:30p Bowling Oak Forest Bowl	12	13
14	15	16	17 3pm TENTATIVE Gym & Swim	18 1:30p Bowling Oak Forest Bowl	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 1:30p '02-'04 Monthly Playdate	27
28	29	30	31			

## Looking To the Future:

Children with Special Needs, have just that, Special Needs! Some of those needs can be expensive, and no child should have to do without things like a trust, or items to help them educationally, simply because of money. This is where Down in the Southland can help!

One of the things that is in the works for the not so distant future is a program we are calling our 'Directed Donation Program' (DDP). This program will be a way for Down in the Southland to help our families meet financial needs for our children through tax deductible fundraising. Some examples of expenses that would fall under the Directed Donation Program (DDP) would be assistance in obtaining technological items of educational value (such as ipads) and helping to pay for expenses not generally incurred by typically developing children (such legal fees for setting up a special needs trust).

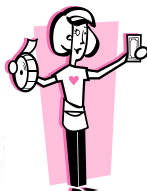
The Directed Donation Program will allow for a family to participate in a predetermined fundraiser which will be structured in such a way that the proceeds raised by that family will directly help their child.

All of the details of this program have not been worked out just yet, but look for more details after our Walk in September! If you would like to help get this program off the ground, or have resources or ideas that might help, please contact one of the board members.

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*Directed Donation Program will help families meet financial needs of their children through tax deductible fundraising.*

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## Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Brings the kids out for some family summer fun as we head out to the Windy City Thunderbolts game against the Lake Erie Crushers on Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The game starts at 6:05pm. Our group has reserved upper deck box seats, and the playgroup will be providing a subsidy for each ticket, so the final price is \$3 each. Parking is an additional \$2 per car. To tentatively reserve your tickets, please [click here](#) to complete the survey or copy and paste <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/257YNKZ> as soon as possible. We need 25 people to reserve the seats. Payment will be required no later than Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cancellations after that date will be refunded at 50%. No refunds can be issued after Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>, according to Thunderbolt rules. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation!



## LITERACY/TUTORING PROGRAM

### OUR MONTHLY UPDATE ON THE TUTORING PROGRAM

The literacy/tutoring program is getting started. We are in the process of drafting volunteers to tutor as well as looking for a few children to serve as students as we pilot the program. If you are interested in having your child participate in the tutoring program, please watch your email for a survey coming soon! Once the pilot program is full, we will create a waiting list, so don't delay in completing the survey! [Click here for survey.](#)



## ANNUAL PICNIC/WALK/FUNDRAISER

### SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual picnic/walk/fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Jaycee Grove (aka McCarthy Park) which is located at 168<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> Ave in Tinley Park. Mark your calendars!!

### MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

Our picnic/walk will only be as good as those who volunteer to help! We are looking for people to serve on the planning committee, as well as people to serve on subcommittees. Some of these jobs won't take a lot of your time, and WON'T necessarily take you away from your families on the day of the picnic either. If you can help, watch your email for a survey coming your way! (or click [here](#))

### ON LINE FUNDRAISING

We will be using the same company that the Chicagoland Buddy Walk uses to create our on-line fundraiser. Hopefully this will provide us with a seamless transition from the Buddy Walk to our own walk.

### What's in a Name?

PLENTY! We need a catchy 'name' for our walk, so if you have a good idea, please let one of the board members know!

## GYM AND SWIM IN CRESTWOOD

You will note tentative dates on the calendar for regular gym & swim on Wednesdays throughout the summer! These tentative dates are based on the success of our first date, June 15<sup>th</sup>, so come on out and let's get the kids moving!! Siblings are also welcome and the fee is \$5 per child. To express interest in attending, simply complete the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LRBLRCZ> If you can't access the survey, please email [owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com](mailto:owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com) with your responses.

## Polished Girlz is Coming to Chicagoland!

In addition to their mission of hand washing and infection reduction, the [Polished Girlz](#) "...job (is) to leave our clients feeling more special more fabulous more "Polished" than when we arrived..." Down in the Southland is the first Chicagoland recipient of this unique and fun mission from this Ohio based organization!

On Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00pm 15 of our lucky 'girlz' (ages 5+) will be learning about hand washing and hygiene followed by the Polished Girlz signature "Polish" nail treatments! We already have 5 spots taken, and this is likely to fill up fast, so make sure you complete [this survey](#) to reserve your spot! (If you can't access the survey, please email your name to [owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com](mailto:owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com)) Evites will be sent to the first 10 people who respond, so that we can fill any cancellations with people from the waiting list.

## Down in the Southland Board of Directors:

President: Juliette De Nova

Vice President: Lisa Pringle

Secretary: Rita Barnes

Treasurer: Peggy Marchionda

Member-at-Large: Rachel Thornberry

For more information about Down in the Southland email [owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com](mailto:owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com)

Or Call

Juliette 708-614-6118

Lisa 708-535-1438

# Happy Birthday!!!

## *May Birthdays*

*Nicholas De Nova 5/1*

*Gianna Bucci 5/18*

## *Belated April Birthdays*

*Jack Blouin 4/1*

*Bill Chisholm 4/7*

*Joseph Rogers 4/29*

*Evan Thornberry 4/3*

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

IN THIS SECTION OF OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, WE WILL PROVIDE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR GROUP, OUR DIRECTION, OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT ANYONE WANTS TO ASK (RELATING TO DOWN SYNDROME OF COURSE!). PLEASE EMAIL QUESTIONS TO [OWNER-DOWNINTHESOUTHLAND@YAHOO.COM](mailto:OWNER-DOWNINTHESOUTHLAND@YAHOO.COM). IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR QUESTION TO BE ASKED ANONYMOUSLY, PLEASE INDICATE THAT IN YOUR EMAIL.

## **LOOK WHAT I DID!!**

*Each month, this space will be a place to share our children's recent accomplishments. Send your child's recent successes to [owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com](mailto:owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com)*

*Natalie De Nova made her First Holy Communion on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.*

