

Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society

Annual Report

2013

2013 Board of Directors & Staff

Officers:

President, Sabra Vaughan
Vice-President, Diane Nation
Secretary, Vicki Trenado, Past
Treasurer, Cindy McDowell

Directors:

Stephanie Harris
Summer Allan
Paula Serrano, Past
Annie Downs, Past

Staff:

Krissy Crites, Executive Director
Gina Crawford, Administrative Assistant, Past



Educate
Advocate
Believe

The mission of the Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society is to improve the lives of individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities through support, education, awareness and advocacy.

Our programs and services are aimed to enrich the lives of those we serve as well as their families and friends.

We envision a society where all persons are valued for their individuality, respected for their contributing roles in the community and guaranteed the opportunities to choose their own direction in life.

Message from the Executive Director

The Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society (RRVDSS) has been supporting families and professionals impacted by Down syndrome since 2004. Our mission is to improve the lives of individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities through support, education, awareness and advocacy. We do this by offering our services to:

- individuals with Down syndrome
- individuals with any type of disability
- new or expectant parents
- families across the lifespan
- educators and paraprofessionals in classrooms
- community groups
- legislators
- church's

We respond to all the needs expressed by our community and are always offering a listening ear, developing relationships and serving as a strong arm along to those in our community. We offer resources, support, and hope during challenging times and celebrate the accomplishments and milestones our members achieve. We respond when and where help is needed and have worked hard to create critical programs and services to support the families, educators, and members to come.

It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child. That village becomes an extended family and a respond to help when the child has an intellectual disability. Friendships are formed, alliances made, and collaborations occur through RRVDSS. These relationships offer peace of mind, build on successes, and enhance opportunities for individuals with disabilities to achieve their full potential. Our 2013 annual report is for all of those who are walking this journey with us.

Each of our supporters has arrived at RRVDSS for different reasons. Our Buddy Baseball volunteers always tell us they receive more from their experience than they give. Our donors recognize those we serve as their neighbors and that helping them helps the whole community grow stronger. Many of our parents, who have been a part of RRVDSS for many years, now take on roles to help those that are just now joining us. We all have something to give, and something to gain, when supporting our members together.

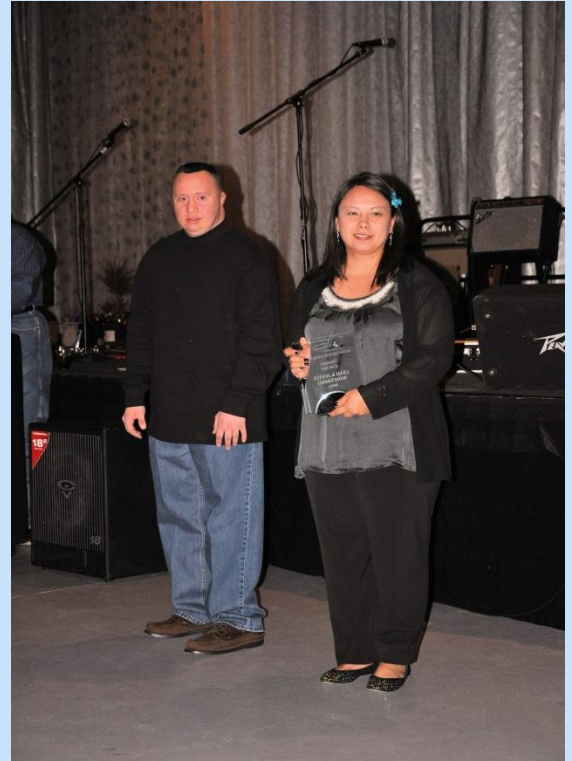
Our supporter's gifts of time, talent, and resources are changing the Paris community and making it a place where all people with disabilities have an opportunity to live up to their full potential. We hope you enjoy reviewing RRVDSS's recent accomplishments and look forward to continuing the relationship you have established with RRVDSS for years to come.

Volunteers

In 2013, RRVDS has had a total of 94 volunteers supporting the work we do!

From Buddy Baseball to folding newsletters, our volunteers are some of the most important contributors that help RRVDS fulfill its mission.

- 32 Buddy Baseball Volunteers contributed one hr. every Saturday morning in the spring for 8 weeks.
- 4 Volunteers folded newsletters and prepared items for fundraising
- 45 Volunteers made the 2013 REACH rally a success for 250 individuals
- 13 Volunteers helped with the 2013 Gala



Outreach

Outreach support was provided to 11 individuals through the RRVDS Medical/Parent Outreach program.

Whether you are an expectant parent, a new parent, an old parent, or a professional; RRVDS provides outreach to anyone that has a need.

- Two new parents that had given birth to babies with Down syndrome were provided with new parent packets full of resources and information as well as blankets, a calendar, bib, etc.
- One mother was given support and resources after her 9 yr. old son was diagnosed as having an intellectual disability.
- One mother was given support and resources after she was told she'll be delivering a daughter with Down syndrome.
- Four pediatricians were given information about Down syndrome and other disabilities and about RRVDS so they can share our information with their patients.



Awareness

RRVDSS promotes awareness year round with its many awareness activities and events!

RRVDSS believes it is equally important to promote awareness and acceptance of individuals with disabilities.

- RRVDSS sold 442 Dress Down for Down Syndrome T-Shirts and made \$2,521.66 during Down syndrome Awareness Day on March 21, 2013.
- We had 13 participants in the 2013 RRVDSS Awareness Calendar.
- Our 2013 Awareness walk had over 200 participants and 11 teams participated. This event made \$21,456.
- The attendees from the 2013 Snowflakes and Diamonds Gala learned where RRVDSS came from and where it was going while helping raise \$20,495.





RRVDSS provides a way for ALL individuals to participate in America's favorite sport!

Buddy Baseball is played in the spring from March through May. Each player has a buddy to help them accomplish their goals.

- 4 Coaches Volunteered their time on Saturday mornings.
- 21 Individuals with a physical or intellectual disability participated.
- 60 players, family members, volunteers, and friends attended the trophy ceremony and end of year picnic.

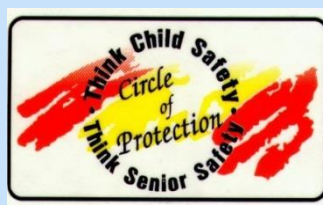


What one mom had to say about Buddy Baseball!

With this being our 1st year to participate in RRVDSS, we obviously have much to learn. What I have learned thus far is that this organization opens so many doors for families like ours, with children like mine, in which would otherwise be closed. My son Justin had the right hemisphere of his brain disconnected in 2011. The surgery (which was to treat a rare brain disorder that caused extreme seizure activity) left him with complete paralysis on the left side of his body. He has since learned to walk but continues to recover daily. Justin was diagnosed when he was only 3yo and is now 9. Thanks to this organization Justin was able to participate in his very first season of baseball. I now feel that everyone should attend a buddy baseball games, because you will leave truly inspired by every person on that field. I feel every person is entitled to a "normal" life and RRVDSS helps provide these experiences that these guys would otherwise miss out on more than likely. I am aware, now, that these things take time and money to organize. I feel that considering what they have to deal with on a daily basis, and witnessing it with my own child, it isn't asking a lot to donate my time to help ensure they have as much in life as possible.



**Paris Police Officers
Association**



Paris Optimist

Support

All of RRVDS's members receive support in many ways.

- RRVDS had four social events with a combined total of 75 attendees.
- There are over 200 books available for checkout in our Resource Library.
- 500+ quarterly newsletters have gone out to members in 5 different states.
- 24 new families joined RRVDS and received information packets.



Education

We strive to educate not only our children but also those in the community and the professionals that interact with people who have Down syndrome, or any disability.

RRVDS believes in the full inclusion of all individuals with disabilities and provides several educational opportunities to allow our members to REACH their full potential.

- RRVDS increased its one-on-one tutoring enrollment from 5 students to 11 students in 2013.
- 85 individuals attended the NE TX Educational Conference on Special Needs.
- 49 teens took the R-word Pledge
- The RRVDS website was updated.
- RRVDS moved its REACH (Reaching Expectations and Creating Hope) education center from a 1200 square foot office space to a 7300 square foot building.
- RRVDS' REACH Center was chosen as the project for the 2012-2013 Leadership Lamar County Class; renovations began in November.

REACH Education Center

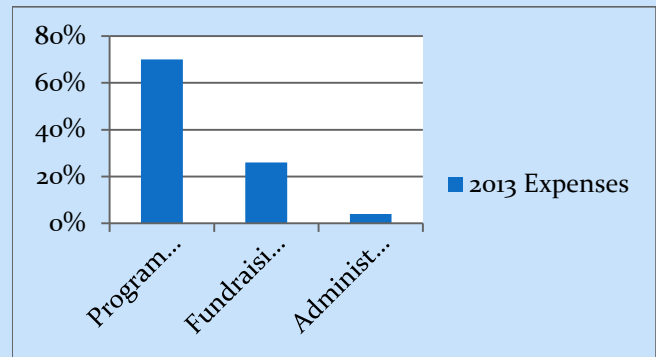
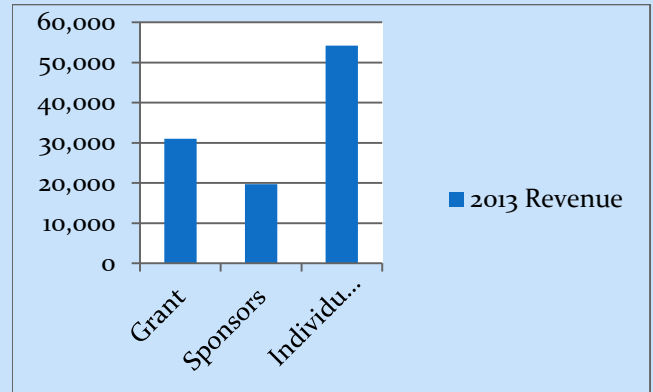
funded by:



Financials

It's because of YOU; our donors, grantors, and sponsors that RRVDSS has the financial means to support, educate, advocate, and bring about awareness of and for individuals with disabilities.

- The total revenue received in 2013 was \$104,899.19
- \$31,006 revenue in grants, \$19,700 in corporate sponsorships, and \$54,193.19 in individual donations throughout the year.
- The total expenses for RRVDSS in 2013 was \$86,668.29
- \$60,216.38, 70% of the expenses, were spent on programming, \$22,388.80, 26% of expenses, were spent on fundraising and only \$4,063.11, 4% of expenses, was spent on administrative costs



2013 Sponsors



Future Happenings

RRVDSS plans to expand its programs to meet the changing needs of our community and continue to serve those families, new families, educators, and community members that interact with individuals with Down syndrome and other types of disabilities.

- Continue renovations on REACH Center
- Create After School/After Work Recreational Program
- Increase the membership by 10%
- Increase REACH Tutoring Program by 10%