



## 2016 DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS AT-A-GLANCE

**What:** The **2016 SMILE ON DOWN SYNDROME SMILE MILE** (*previously known as the Buddy Walk*) will include a 1-mile walk through the grounds of the Vanderburgh County 4-H Center. Following the SMILE MILE, there will be food, entertainment, fun activities for the children, an opportunity for team photos, and information tables for the adults.

**Why:** The goal of the **2016 SMILE ON DOWN SYNDROME SMILE MILE** is to celebrate National Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. Nationally, the Down syndrome awareness walks and events raise more than \$8.5 million, and on a local level we will raise money to support critical programs and services. Locally, our goal is to raise \$70,000 to help support the goals of S.M.I.L.E. on Down Syndrome. SMILE serves hundreds of families who have a loved one with Down syndrome, and has expanded to reach the disability community as a whole. The SMILE Center was opened in 2011 at 105 NW 4th St., Evansville, IN and continues to provide vital opportunities to newborns through adults with Down syndrome and their families and our community.

**How:** Funds are raised through corporate sponsorship and walkers' pledges for our local walk.

**When:** Walk registration begins at 9:00 AM, with the SMILE MILE activities starting at 10:00 AM. There will be food and entertainment after the walk. The day's events will end at 12:00 PM.

**Where:** The **2016 SMILE ON DOWN SYNDROME SMILE MILE** will be held **Saturday, October 1, 2016 at the Vanderburgh County 4-H Center**, 201 East Boonville-New Harmony Road, Evansville, IN 47725.

**Who:** Tens of thousands of people have participated in this event since our first walk, including children, young adults with Down syndrome, family members, friends, politicians, healthcare professionals, business leaders, high school and college students, fraternities, sororities, corporate teams and other community members. Around 3,000 people are expected to participate in the **2016 SMILE ON DOWN SYNDROME SMILE MILE** this year. We will also have media coverage which expands our local audience, bringing awareness to the entire community and the Tri-State.

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**What:** The **2016 SMILE ON DOWN SYNDROME TRUCKS & HEROES** will be an opportunity for young and old alike to come check out some of the Tri-State area's biggest and most fun trucks and working vehicles. It will also be an opportunity for the young and young at heart to meet up close some of our area's finest police, fire, medical, and military heroes.

**Why:** Our goal is to raise \$10,000 with this fundraiser to help support the goals of S.M.I.L.E. on Down Syndrome, a 501c3 under the umbrella of Youth, Inc. S.M.I.L.E. on Down Syndrome is committed to providing a network of support services to meet the physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational needs of people of all ages with Down syndrome, their families and communities.

**How:** Funds are raised through corporate sponsorships. The event will be free to attend, but a donation of non-perishable food items will be accepted to help stock the food pantry at Patchwork Central.

**When:** The **2016 SMILE ON DOWN SYNDROME TRUCKS & HEROES** event is scheduled at 9am-12pm on Saturday, October 15, 2016. The first hour will be siren-and-lights-free for our friends with sensory issues, including our guests who are on the autism spectrum.

**Where:** Parking Lot of the Deaconess Gateway Hospital, Newburgh, IN

**Who:** Everyone is welcome! This event is open to the public, and we look forward to seeing young and old alike enjoying the vehicles and meeting our local heroes. We will also have media coverage which expands our local audience, bringing awareness to the entire community and the Tri-State.

*All funds for both events are tax deductible as allowed by law through SMILE on Down Syndrome, a 501-c3 not for profit organization.*