



Dear RRVVSS supporter:

As you are probably aware, the Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society (RRVDSS) was founded 13 years ago by families of individuals with Down syndrome, and for many years, RRVVSS was concerned primarily with serving that particular community. As the years passed, this core constituency generously began to expand the mission of RRVVSS to include serving individuals with other intellectual and developmental disabilities such as autism, ADHD and many others. We have a wonderful opportunity approaching to honor both our origins as an advocacy group for people with Down syndrome and our current mission to serve the disability community at large, and we feel that you as an individual, your business, or your school, can help us to do so.

March 21 (3.21, in honor of the third copy of the twenty-first chromosome) is World Down Syndrome Day. It is a day where all over the world people with Down syndrome are celebrated. We at RRVVSS will be celebrating the entire month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, but within that month, we will also be observing World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st. In our version, we will be celebrating all of our members, whatever their disabilities may be.

RRVDSS would like your help in implementing our third annual "Dress Down for Disabilities," which we will observe on World Down Syndrome Day in honor of our history and of our founding constituency. We invite businesses and schools in our area to allow their employees to dress casually, on March 21st in honor of your support of individuals with disabilities.

RRVDSS is offering t-shirts for this campaign. **For a donation of \$15 (please add \$1 for extra-large size shirts), each participant will receive a t-shirt.** Any donation that we receive will go towards programs that RRVVSS implements in our service areas. An order form is attached. All orders and payments must be sent to our office at PO Box 6455 Paris, TX 75461, no later than Tuesday, February 28, 2017. You can also place your order for shirts online at www.rrvdss.org/dressdown. Once shirts arrive, we will deliver them to your location Monday, March 20th. Arrangements to pick up donations **MUST BE** made by contacting our office at 903-783-1922 or emailing kcrites@rrvdss.org.

School personnel – We'd like for you to involve your students in this Campaign. You can use any of the ideas below to do this. If you need any books, materials or information for any of these activities; please contact RRVVSS and we'll provide these.

- Have students pay \$1 to wear a cap to school
- Share facts about developmental disabilities with your students
- Read books to your students about disabilities
- Write a letter or create a card for somebody with a disability (you can deliver these to RRVVSS and we'll disperse them to our members)

We'd also like to make t-shirt orders available for students at the schools this year. I have attached a flyer that can be printed and sent home with the students. Please let me know if you are allowing the student's on your campus to participate. We will have volunteers available to help pass t-shirts out to those students that order.

Again, RRVVSS is always grateful for your support. Thank you!
Krissy Crites
Executive Director

