

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MI Great Buddy Walk®

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*****MEDIA/Radio ALERT*****

**National Buddy Walk® Program Promotes Inclusion for People with Down Syndrome in
Celebration of Down Syndrome Awareness Month**

WHAT: The 2019 MI great Buddy Walk® is one of over 250 Buddy Walk® events planned in cities across the country this fall in and around October in celebration of Down Syndrome Awareness Month. The Buddy Walk® was developed by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) to promote acceptance and inclusion of all people with Down syndrome.

WHEN: Saturday, September 28th from 11am -1pm

WHERE: The MI Great Buddy Walk® will be held at **Carrollton High School Stadium, Carrollton, Michigan.**

Please visit MIGREATBUDDYWALK.COM or contact **Kate Dupuis** at GLBRBuddyWalk@gmail.com or kfoster@gocavs.net for more information.

WHO: Participants include, but are not limited to, people with Down syndrome, other individuals with disabilities, their families, friends, teachers, coworkers and other supporters. Anyone, with or without a direct connection to a member of the Down syndrome community, is welcome to attend.

There will be a silent auction/grab bag game, field games, a DJ, and the local Carrollton/Zilwaukee FOE Eagles Aerie 4413 will be selling hotdogs and chips for \$1.

BACKGROUND: This is the eighth year of the MI Great Buddy Walk®. Last year we were able to fund raise \$5,000 to donate to the Arc of Midland. This year we are using funds raised to support a Place for Grace, a non-profit day care center in Saginaw County that specializes in daycare for children with special needs and their siblings. We are sponsored by Carrollton Community Education, the Saginaw Community Foundation, Bee Inspired and Bellsmith Graphics and the Carrollton/Zilwaukee Eagles FOE Aerie 4413.

Each year, the National Buddy Walk Program touches thousands of lives. When it began in 1995, there were Walks in 17 cities. This year, there are over 250 Buddy Walk® events scheduled, with over 300,000 people expected to participate. Last year alone, Buddy Walk® events raised more than \$11.75 million to benefit local programs and services, and national advocacy initiatives. NDSS is committed to being the national advocate for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.