



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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 2021 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: Sunday, Oct. 3rd from 1-4pm

WHERE: The MI Great Buddy Walk® will be held at Richland Township Park, Hemlock, Michigan.

Please visit MIGREATBUDDYWALK.COM or contact **Kate Dupuis** at GLBRBuddyWalk@gmail.com or fosterkathryn@att.net for more information. You can like us on Facebook.

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 food trucks, paved walking trail, entertainment, and games.

BACKGROUND: This is the ninth year of the MI Great Buddy Walk®. Our last walk was in 2019. We were unable to have a walk in 2020 due to the pandemic. Since 2019, we have searched for new leadership and a new direction, and found Matt Lockwood and The Great Lakes Bay Area Sports Lions. In the last few months we have been busy trying to put on this event with their help. It is a free event with donations welcomed. We are still supported by the Saginaw Community Foundation.

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.