

Emma Jean's Story

In May of 2016, at 12 weeks pregnant, I received the test results from my panorama test. I was told the test was positive for T21, and I was having a little girl. That moment, my life as I knew it would change.

I was six months pregnant when I reached out to DSAM. This would be my first time actually speaking with someone who I knew had a lot of the answers I so needed. I remember being excited and nervous all at the same time. As a mother, you want the very best for your child, and I knew I was about to walk down a path I had never known. I spoke with Martine Hobson that day, and I remember she had comfort, yet excitement, in her voice when I explained to her my story. She invited me to come to the office so we could meet and talk. This would be the start of a beautiful journey that would give my daughter and myself tools, resources, and support.

The donations that the DSAM makes help in so many ways. Every three months, DSAM hosts a new family brunch that provides a speaker to discuss specific medical, financial, and emotional issues associated with having a child with special needs. DSAM assists parents as they navigate the Early Intervention System and provides transitional information by introducing toys and activities that help with the development of our children. DSAM organizes events that give new families a chance to meet one another and form relationships that would not normally happen. The DSAM also books special speakers that come from all over to educate parents on new information that is out there and help us incorporate this great information into our lives. We receive a newsletter and emails keeping us updated on upcoming events and other information. The DSAM has programs like Reading is Key and Vocational and Employment Service Programs.

I envision a world where all people with Down syndrome have the opportunity to enhance their quality of life, find their life ambitions, and become respected members of our society. What parent does not want this for their children? This organizations provides the opportunity for children like mine to grow and learn just like any other child.

We need your support to continue the wonderful resources that the DSAM provides to our children. Our goal to secure a new home is \$500,000. With your support, we CAN secure a new home to expand our programs, services, and resources. Help us make a better community for all. A good life is one of love and purpose. All children deserve that. So please donate to our Capital Campaign this year.

I personally thank you for the contributions you make to this wonderful organization. It has helped my family in so many ways. You can truly make a difference in someone's life by just giving. Again, thank you for thinking of us.