



June 2022

With a grateful heart, I'm honored to announce that we will be looking for a new Executive Director for DSDN.

Helping to grow this organization has truly been one of the greatest experiences of my life. It has been nearly a decade of learning and problem-solving as our team worked to create an organization that we felt was so deeply needed. To see where we're at today is incredibly humbling. To think about the hundreds of volunteers who have spent their time and energy over the last decade to get us here is nearly inconceivable.

I don't know that you're ever truly ready to move on from something you've helped create and grow, but this surely feels like the right direction for my path. I have such confidence in the individuals within and around our organization that this is the time. Their passion and ideas to continue moving DSDN further towards our mission and vision confirms that what we started will continue for years to come and support thousands more new families and medical providers.

A wise woman told me this is not stepping down - this is a passing of the torch. I really love that idea. I have such pride for the work that we have done; how intentional we've been with our mission and how much we've accomplished because of that clear focus.

I am in awe of the past decade. What started off with such fear and sadness and confusion has turned into something more than I ever could've imagined for my life. Every day is not full of rainbows and unicorns, but every day I know for certain that I have people that I can count on to celebrate with, to vent to, to understand me and the extra parts of our life. That is a gift - the lifeline - that has been DSDN and that is something I will never forget or take for granted.

I do not think I could ever express the enormity of my gratitude often enough to all of the people that got DSDN to this point today. From my family, to the friends who have grown into family- THANK YOU. Whether it was a kind word, a bouncing of ideas, late night support, new resources to connect to, expert advice, or encouragement to keep going- so many people have helped to create this amazing DSDN culture and community. Since day one, it really has been "you've got this and we've got you."

While I'll miss the everyday connections in our community at such an exclusive level, I really look forward to focusing on my own family in this next season of life. As I pass the torch, I'll never be too far to light a flame or fan a flicker as new ideas spark and grow. I never imagined being a Rockin' mom, a co-founder of anything, or an Executive Director of the largest nonprofit supporting new families with a Down syndrome diagnosis recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics; but this has been one of the best journeys of my life. I can't wait to watch the continued growth for years to come.

With gratitude and pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jen Jacob". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jen Jacob

DSDN Co-founder and Executive Director