



June 2022

DSDN Executive Director, Jen Jacob, has shown tireless dedication and leadership through the years. It is with immense gratitude for her service, that we gladly honor her desire to pass the torch to the next leader of DSDN.

As co-founder and first Executive Director of DSDN, Jen's fingerprints are on nearly every idea, program, and initiative that this organization has embarked on. Her leadership over the last 8+ years can be characterized by big ideas and innovation, focus and follow-through, and a heart to connect and serve families.

Under Jen's leadership, DSDN has grown into the largest organized network of parents with a new or recent Down syndrome diagnosis. Today, our Rockin' Mom™ and Rockin' Dad™ online communities reach 22% of new families with a Down syndrome diagnosis, and have over 17,000 members. DSDN is also instrumental in impacting the diagnosis experience for families. Every year, we provide hundreds of medical providers the tools and resources needed to discuss Down syndrome in a way that is supportive and educational. Most recently, we were recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics – a testament to the years of hard work of Jen and the DSDN team.

Jen lives out our mission and strives toward our vision in all that she does. This is her legacy. While she can never truly be replaced, she has laid an incredibly strong foundation for those who follow her in this position.

We are forever grateful to Jen and appreciate her commitment to helping us find the next Executive Director and transition over the course of this year. Jen will continue in her current role until a new Executive Director is in place.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you, Jen.

More details on next steps will be shared next week.

On behalf of the DSDN Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Shutwell", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Melissa Shutwell  
DSDN Board President