Down syndrome occurs when an individual has three, rather than two, copies of the 21st chromosome. It affects people of all ages, races and economic levels. The cognitive delays associated with Down syndrome are usually mild to moderate and do not lessen the many strengths and talents that each individual possesses. Quality educational programs, a stimulating home environment, good health care, and encouragement enable people with Down syndrome to lead fulfilling lives.
**MISSION...**

The Down Syndrome Parents Group of Western New York is a non-profit organization consisting of parents and families of individuals with Down syndrome. DSPG seeks to enhance the lives of people with Down syndrome and their families. The organization’s informational and social events provide a broad range of opportunities for families to support and encourage each other.

**OBJECTIVES...**

- Provide support to individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

- Make current information on Down syndrome and on educational programs and community services available for people with Down syndrome and their families.

- Work with other support groups and organizations to improve the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome.

- Increase awareness of the positive contributions that people with Down syndrome make to the community.