



Joint Proclamation

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal abnormality. One in every 800 to 1,000 babies is born with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) is a nonprofit organization with more than 200 affiliates nationwide representing the more than 350,000 Americans who have this genetic condition; and

WHEREAS, NDSS is committed to being the national leader in supporting and enhancing the quality of life, and realizing the potential of all people with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, The Buddy Walk was established by the NDSS in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October; and

WHEREAS, The Buddy Walk has three primary goals: to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome; to raise funds locally and nationally for education, research and advocacy programs; and to enhance the position of the Down syndrome community, enabling us to positively influence local and national policy and practice; and

WHEREAS, Anyone who wants to support acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome can participate in the Buddy Walk;

NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE, Dan Pike, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Pete Kremen, Whatcom County Executive, proclaim the month of October 2008, to be

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County, and call upon all citizens to join us in recognizing this event by supporting the 5th Annual Buddy Walk of Whatcom County on Saturday, October 4, 2008, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Maritime Heritage Park.

Signed this _____ day of June 2008

Dan Pike, Mayor
City of Bellingham

Pete Kremen, County Executive
County of Whatcom