

News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County of Summit Recognizes World Down Syndrome Day

On Monday, March 18, 2019, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Summit County Council passed a resolution recognizing March 21, 2019 as World Down Syndrome Day (WSD) in Summit County. WSD seeks to raise awareness of what Down syndrome is, what it means to have Down syndrome, and how people with Down syndrome play a vital role in our lives and communities. WSD has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The 21st day of the 3rd month was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome. The theme for WSD 2019 is Leave No One Behind. This theme calls on all nations to ensure people with Down syndrome have opportunities to live fulfilling lives and are included on a full and equal basis with others, in all aspects of society.

Summit County residents Debby and Todd Eisinger were present to address Council. Todd, who was born with Down syndrome, spoke about the many opportunities he has had to live a fulfilling life, including the opportunity to operate his own business. He is the President of Inspires 2 Aspire, an inspirational communications company that produces greeting cards and posters with positive messages.

“World Down Syndrome Day is a special opportunity to shine a light on our family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others living with Down syndrome and contributing to our communities,” said Executive Shapiro. “Advocates like Todd Eisinger remind us that people of all circumstances and abilities are ready and able to live full and rich lives.”

Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that is present in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics or health. According to the United Nations, each year approximately 3,000 to 5,000 children are born with this chromosome disorder and there are an estimated 250,000 families in the United States who are affected by Down syndrome.

“In declaring World Down Syndrome Day, Summit County recognizes the dignity, rights and well-being of people living with Down syndrome in our community,” said Summit County Council

President Jeff Wilhite. “I encourage all Summit County residents to raise awareness about Down syndrome and consider how they can support this important campaign.”

To learn more about World Down Syndrome Day, please visit <https://www.worlddownsyndromeday2.org/>.



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