**How to Participate: Tips for Organizations to Engage their Communities**

* Collaborate with a local theater to provide sensory friendly movie showings. If your community does not already have this option, it would be a great way to raise awareness of the sensory issue some people with developmental disabilities face. To read more about sensory friendly programs and its history: http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/events/sensory-friendly-films/
* Have local restaurants host a restaurant crawl where families and friends can meet for each meal at a different place or sample small dishes at various venues. Restaurants can prominently feature a dish in honor of the day which could be tied into fundraising for your chapter.
* Organize a day at the park. Reach out to local Special Olympics chapters to plan activities at a park/community center that feature inclusive activities, i.e. recreation leagues and adaptive leagues playing together, fun run/walk, obstacle courses, etc.
* Bring people together to volunteer to do something for the community such as a beautification, mural, or gleaning project.
* Agree to meet at your favorite places with your friends and family, stroll through the local farmer’s market, gather at the bowling alley, meet at the mall, or just make plans to see a new place or do something new. Just get out and enjoy the day.
* Use social media to invite supporters to your events and spread the word. And don’t forget to take photos and tweet about the day using the hashtag #DDAware
* Update your status on Facebook or blog during the month of March about DD Awareness, then plan an event like the ones above and invite your followers to do the same in their communities
* Send invitations for your event to the local media, submit an op-ed column to the editor about DD Awareness month and invite the community to your event, send a :30 second script to your local radio station to record a PSA to air during the month of March and highlight your event on March 29.