



Jack's Basket is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to celebrate babies with Down syndrome. We strive to ensure that every new and expectant parent is provided resources and avenues of support within the community. We aim to equip medical providers with tools to discuss the diagnosis in an unbiased way, in hopes that having a baby with Down syndrome is celebrated like any other.



COPELAN'S STORY

When you find out your child has Down syndrome, you feel like you have been shipped to a deserted island. You feel like all your friends with typical children get to carry on while your world stops spinning on its axis. Then a basket arrives at your door. While it is filled with beautiful things, more importantly, you realize you're not alone. There is an entire organization standing behind you celebrating the birth of your perfect child. Jack's Basket brings more than gifts for your new baby. It brings love, understanding, and joy to a family embarking on a new journey. - *Lauren, Copelan's Mom (South Carolina)*

ABOUT US ✨ ✨ ✨

In March 2013, Jack's family received his Down syndrome diagnosis at birth, in an abrupt and assumptive way. They were given no information about the genetic condition. Processing an unexpected diagnosis was overwhelming and daunting to them as new parents. They found their best resource and encouragement was connecting with other parents raising a child with Down syndrome. After a year of finding the joy in the unexpected, Jack's family wanted to celebrate his life by bringing hope and encouragement to another family starting their journey. In March 2014, Jack's family delivered their first Jack's Basket at the same hospital in Minnesota where Jack was born. Since 2014, Jack's Basket has celebrated over 6,500 babies in all 50 states and over 40 countries by providing families with gifts, support, and up-to-date resources.

JACK'S BASKET PURPOSE

Jack's Basket celebrates babies with Down syndrome. Our work begins from the time of diagnosis (prenatal or at-birth) to a baby's 1st birthday and we do this better than any other organization by focusing on three primary activities:

1.

Engaging and equipping medical providers with tools to communicate and discuss Down syndrome accurately without bias.

2.

Connecting new parents with other families and resources through our basket delivery program.

3.

Sharing powerful stories to change the narrative around Down syndrome.





KAHNU'S STORY

Jack's Basket was more than beautiful baby gifts. It was a wealth of resources and assurance that all would be well. Our daughter was capable, perfect, here for a reason, and was worthy of celebration. We were the perfect family to welcome this remarkable child. We were not alone and we had been handed an incredible gift that would reveal its value with every passing moment. This has been true ever since.

- Heather, Kahnu's Mom (Minnesota)

MEDICAL OUTREACH



Jack's Basket is committed to celebrating babies with Down syndrome by impacting how their stories begin. Families often describe how they wish their healthcare providers had shared their child's diagnosis differently. As part of our mission, we:

- Equip providers with tools to communicate the diagnosis accurately without bias through provider-to-provider training, medical modules, and peer-reviewed journal publications.
- Encourage providers to recognize the critical role they play in a family's story and to reshape these discussions from "breaking bad news" to "sharing unexpected news."
- Reframe the narrative around Down syndrome by sharing stories of families who overwhelmingly come to view their child's diagnosis with positivity and optimism, even after experiencing shock or grief when first learning of the diagnosis.



CELEBRATE



Jack's Basket celebrates babies with Down syndrome by providing families with a basket full of gifts and resources. Baskets include:

- A personal letter from families raising a child with Down syndrome.
- Resources from local and national Down syndrome organizations.
- Early intervention programs and books to encourage parents on their new, and sometimes unexpected, journey.
- A variety of gifts including a blanket, small toy, board book, and onesie.



BECKETT'S STORY

After our prenatal diagnosis I went on a path of discovery with “what is my family dynamic going to be” instead of down the rabbit hole of everything that could go wrong. I wanted the positivity to shine through in a really scary time. Seeing all the families that have been brought into this lucky club, and to see how Jack's Basket has impacted other families gave me hope. Hope that my child could be anything he wanted to be. Hope that he could make a change in the world if he set his mind to it. Hope that no matter what happens, there is an amazing community of support. - *Katie, Beckett's Mom (Nevada)*

REQUEST A BASKET

- The complimentary basket may be requested on our website by the parent of the new child, a care provider, a friend or family member, or a representative of another Down syndrome community organization. We are thrilled to be able to give these anytime from diagnosis (prenatal or at-birth) up to baby's first birthday.
- In communities around the United States, baskets are delivered in-person by one of our trained volunteers, all of whom are parents of a child with Down syndrome.
- When a parent volunteer is not available, we ship the basket directly to the family home, including any appropriate local materials or contacts we have. Baskets are shipped nationally and internationally.

SUPPORT

We simply cannot carry out the mission of Jack's Basket without financial support. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and are funded solely by donations. There are a variety of ways to support Jack's Basket:

- Sponsor a basket for \$150 each.
- In-kind donations of gifts for our baskets.
- Company match programs or business partnerships.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our greatest desire is that all babies with Down syndrome are celebrated and their families encouraged. Together we can change the narrative around Down syndrome!

- Request a basket for a new family welcoming a baby with Down syndrome.
- Expand our medical outreach program by connecting us with providers that would benefit from our presentations and resources.
- Follow us on social media and sign up for our newsletter.
- Join the Birth Day Club! For just \$15 per month, you can join a club of committed advocates and help us celebrate all year long!



CONNECT

Founder and Executive Director, Carissa Carroll, has spoken to numerous hospitals and physicians about Jack's Basket and her diagnosis experience with her son, Jack. Pediatric nurse practitioner and founding board member, Rebecca Olson, says, *"Jack's Basket has positively impacted so many of my patients and their families by celebrating the birth of babies with Down syndrome and providing support, up-to-date information, and community resources to parents at the time of diagnosis. Carissa does an exceptional job speaking to medical team members in a narrative fashion, telling the story of Jack's arrival in such a way that you can picture yourself there. She brings to light the parent's perspective of how the medical team impacts families experiences at the time of diagnosis, and in turn, reflects on what parents would benefit from hearing."*

Contact us if you would like to have Carissa speak at your event, parent group, department meeting, or healthcare provider education opportunity.

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