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**Media Contact:**

Michelle Sagan

media@ndss.org

301-728-0447

**Local Contact:**

Arlene Chandler

Office: 630.427.4685
arlene@spectrumfamilytalks.com

spectrumfamilytalks.com

**Chicago RESIDENT TO BE FEATURED IN TIMES SQUARE**

*Maasai MAC Chandler To Represent the Down Syndrome Community in Unique Annual National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) Video Presentation*

**NEW YORK, New York** August 18, 2026 - Maasai MAC Chandler of Chicago, IL, will appear in the bright lights of Times Square on Saturday, September 12, as part of the annual National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) Times Square Video Presentation. The one-hour video of 500+ photographs includes children, teens, and adults with Down syndrome from all 50 states and 12 countries. These collective images highlight individuals with Down syndrome in the most visible way – on two screens in the heart of Times Square.

Selected from more than 2,700 entries in the NDSS worldwide call for photos, MAC's photo will be shown on two Jumbotron screens thanks to the support of Clear Channel Outdoor. The two screens are above Dos Caminos restaurant in Father Duffy Square. The presentation will be livestreamed on the NDSS Facebook page from 8:30-9:30am ET on September 12.

MAC is pictured beaming with joy in his signature glasses and plaid shirt. He is the inspiration behind *MAC MOVES: Down Right Confident*, a movement-based coloring book created to help

children see themselves authentically represented through movement, confidence, friendship, and everyday life. His mother, Arlene Chandler, is the founder of Chicago-based **Spectrum Family Talks**, an organization where lived experience shapes vital conversations around disability, inclusion, sensory regulation strategies, access, and community support.

"This is an incredible honor for MAC, and as parents, we are truly proud," says Arlene Chandler. "Representation matters, and no child or person should ever be put in a box or limited based on a diagnosis. A diagnosis is only one identifier—it doesn't make up the whole person. Being featured in Times Square gives us a platform to normalize deep conversations about all levels of life challenges and celebrate every achievement with confidence. Through Spectrum Family Talks and MAC MOVES, our goal is to ensure every neurodivergent child feels seen, valued, and empowered to move confidently through the world."

The Times Square Video Presentation kicks off the flagship New York City Buddy Walk® in Central Park, which has taken place since 1995 as part of the National Buddy Walk® Program. Over 150 Buddy Walk events are held annually in communities across the country. For more information, please visit www.ndss.org.

**About Spectrum Family Talks**

Spectrum Family Talks creates meaningful connections between families, schools, healthcare providers, and community systems that shape opportunities for neurodivergent individuals and their families. Through lived experience, advocacy apparel, educational resources, and grassroots outreach, Spectrum Family Talks builds bridges toward total acceptance, representation, and inclusion. To learn more, visit www.spectrumfamilytalks.com.

**About NDSS**

Founded in 1979, the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) empowers individuals with Down syndrome and their families by driving policy change, providing resources, engaging with local communities, and shifting public perceptions. NDSS engages grassroots advocates across the lifespan on topics including education, employment, health and wellness, and aging. Visit www.ndss.org to learn more.

**About the National Buddy Walk® Program**

Since 1995, the National Buddy Walk® Program has been the premier Down syndrome awareness, advocacy, and peer-to-peer fundraising program in the world. Created by NDSS to promote acceptance and inclusion, roughly 150 Buddy Walk® events take place in cities across the country and select international locations. To learn more, visit https://ndss.org/national-buddy-walk-program.