



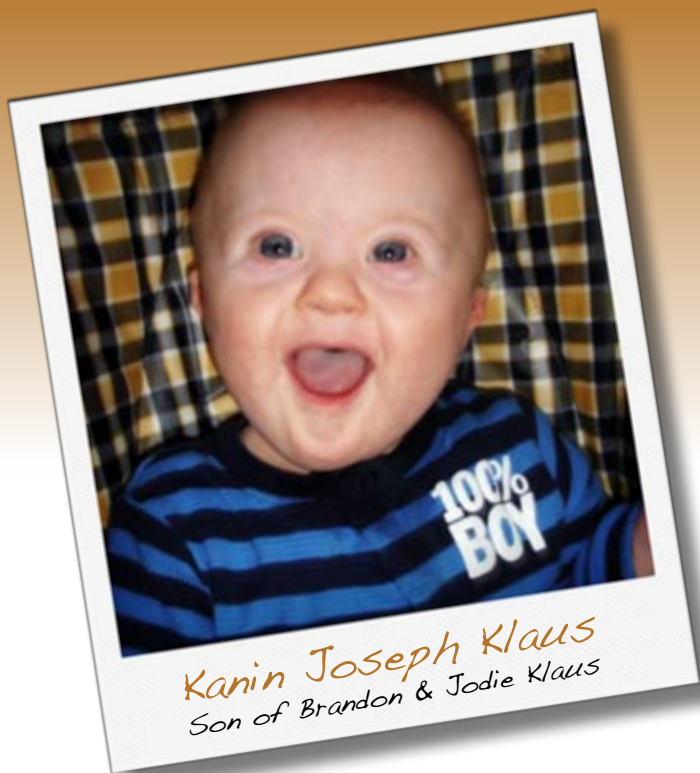
Today, with early intervention programs and medical advances, the possibilities for individuals with Down syndrome are almost limitless. Like all people, those with Down syndrome have a variety of talents and abilities. And, like their siblings, many people with Down syndrome graduate from high school, attend college, hold meaningful jobs, and may learn to drive or get married. All bring unique qualities into the world. With more and more people with Down syndrome included in schools, places of worship, workplaces and even television shows, many Americans now are familiar with this fairly common chromosome variation. However, while many people know of Down syndrome, fewer know much about it. This handout provides an introductory overview about Down syndrome. More detailed information is available at www.ndsccenter.org or the information line at 1-800-232-6372 (NDSC).

FACTS ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

- Down syndrome is a chromosome variation with no known cause.
- It is not related to race, nationality, religion or socio-economic status.
- In the United States, approximately one in every 800 – 1,000 children is born with Down syndrome.
- Between 250,000 and 350,000 families in the United States are affected by Down syndrome.
- About 80 percent of babies with Down syndrome are born to women under age 35.
- People with Down syndrome widely vary in mental abilities, physical development and behavior.
- Individuals with Down syndrome benefit from loving homes, early intervention, education, appropriate medical care and positive public attitudes.
- In adulthood, many people with Down syndrome hold jobs, live independently and enjoy community life, just like everyone else.

CHROMOSOME VARIATION

- **Ninety-five percent of people with Down syndrome have an extra #21 chromosome in every cell of their body. This is known as trisomy 21.**
- Three to four percent have an additional #21 chromosome attached to another chromosome. This is called translocation Down syndrome. In this case, a parent may be a carrier of a balanced translocation.
- About one percent of people with Down syndrome have an extra #21 chromosome in some cells, but not in others. This is called mosaic Down syndrome.



Our Little Blessing

Little did we know how our lives would change that snowy Saturday in March of 2009. Our baby boy wasn't supposed to arrive until May but we were blessed with him 7 weeks early. We knew at that moment that he would have to spend some time in the NICU and although the thought was scary we were preparing ourselves. What we didn't prepare for was the news we received shortly after Kanin was born and taken to the NICU.

Our baby had Down Syndrome.

In the devastation of that moment we had no idea of the true blessing that Kanin was to us and everyone around him. Now, almost a year later, we can't imagine not having Kanin in our lives. He makes us smile everyday and shows us what happiness is all about. Every time he learns something new or is able to accomplish a task is such a proud moment for us. Kanin was given to us for a reason. His eyes sparkle and his smile is infectious.

He truly is Our Little Blessing!

KANIN JOSEPH KLAUS

JK