

Nicole Scott President Announcement Letter:

*I am extremely excited to be serving this community in my new role as President of the Board of Directors for the Down Syndrome Association of Pittsburgh. I have been serving as a Board Director for over two years, and I have seen this organization grow in countless ways. Since I have been serving, we have hired a second full-time employee, launched and grown our Family Connection programs, hosted our educational Speaker Series sessions, and introduced the First Call Program.*

*In addition to First Call serving as a program that mentors expectant or new parents, it also has a component that focuses on two things I am very passionate about - Medical Outreach and Diversity Outreach. It's important that people of color feel acknowledged, respected, and welcomed into this community. As a brown Mama bear, I know how much representation matters. Trust is something that needs to be earned. DSAP continues to grow into an organization that is a resource for every culture in this community. We still have so much work to do. I am the most excited to host diverse events, network with families, and hear all of your ideas.*

*My why is very simple. My daughter, Skylar, is the reason for everything I do for this community. I want to assure her that she and her peers are worthy. Their voices matter and they can have a strong future with endless possibilities.*

*My husband Julius and I dedicate our time shuffling our 4 fabulous kids Jahari (11), Nya (8), Skylar (6) and Ava (3) to dance, ninja, soccer, football, wrestling, therapy, girl scouts...oh and school. Parent life. It's an exhilarating, fulfilling and exhausting life.*

Nicole is a stay-at-home mom, a journalist, an Usborne book lady and an active member of her community. In December of 2007, Nicole graduated from Edinboro University with high honors in Print Journalism. She was a respected contributing writer for the University paper where she wrote anything from editorial pieces, to one-on-one with athletes, to event coverage. She furthered her writing career with the Times Express as a staff writer and with St. Bernadette Catholic Church as the creator and coeditor of the church quarterly newsletter. In 2016, Skylar was born with Down syndrome and Nicole immediately became an active community member of the DSA of Pittsburgh. She attended the past five Buddy Walks with a team, went to the Zoo, to Idlewild, and participated in DSAP Mom's Night and Parent's Night. She continues to strive to build the community and have relationships with other families. Community support is a vital aspect of social and emotional health of families throughout this journey. Nicole spends most of her time with her husband, Julius, and her four kids (Nya, Skylar, Ava, and Jahari), in Monroeville, PA where she runs a very active moms group.