



NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS

2008 Annual Report

Dear Members and Friends:

How we see things depends on our perspective. So, 2008 can be seen as a terrific year.

Or as challenge-laced.

From the point of view of the programs and services of the National Down Syndrome Congress, 2008 was a fabulous year in which we:

- Launched the *We're More Alike Than Different* national awareness campaign for Down syndrome.
- Completed the match of the \$250,000 challenge grant awarded in 2007 thanks to the generosity of our members, friends and affiliated organizations. Between the 2007 and 2008 conventions we raised more than \$600,000.
- Saw our Hispanic membership rise to ten percent of our total.
- Reached out to local and regional Down syndrome organizations by establishing The Partnership Alliance.
- Expanded the NDSC Self-advocate Council to ensure the on-going participation of self-advocate leaders in all of our activities.

- Celebrated the passage of the Kennedy-Brownback legislation by the U.S. Congress.
- Provided leadership to a coalition of disabilities rights groups committed to purging the offensive "R" word from everyday language.
- Increased visibility of the NDSC with a growing presence at health-care and genetics conferences.
- Held a fabulous 36th annual NDSC convention in Boston.

When seen from the financial perspective, the picture was not quite as rosy. Not surprisingly, NDSC's revenue and financial reserves were reduced due to the meltdown in the equity markets. Without minimizing the impact, however, it could have been worse.

By year end major market indexes had dropped by about 50 percent and many non-profit organizations took the full brunt of the collapse.

Due to a careful and prudent investment strategy, our losses - the vast majority of which are paper losses only - were less than half of

those of the markets in general. Thus, the NDSC entered 2009 bruised but financially healthy.

In January of 2009, the NDSC Board approved a conservative annual budget for 2009, but, unlike many of our peer organizations, we have not reduced programs or services. In fact, we added a full-time development director to ensure that we will remain financially strong and grow.

As we approach the halfway point of 2009, the markets have restored some of the value eroded during 2009, but the economic outlook remains murky. That, coupled with the economic stress we all experienced, makes the NDSC doubly grateful for the support of our members and friends.

Thank you for all you do to keep NDSC strong and growing.

With appreciation,

National Down Syndrome Congress
Board of Directors and Staff

National Down Syndrome Congress

Consolidated Annual Report Revenue and Expense Analysis December 31, 2008 and 2007

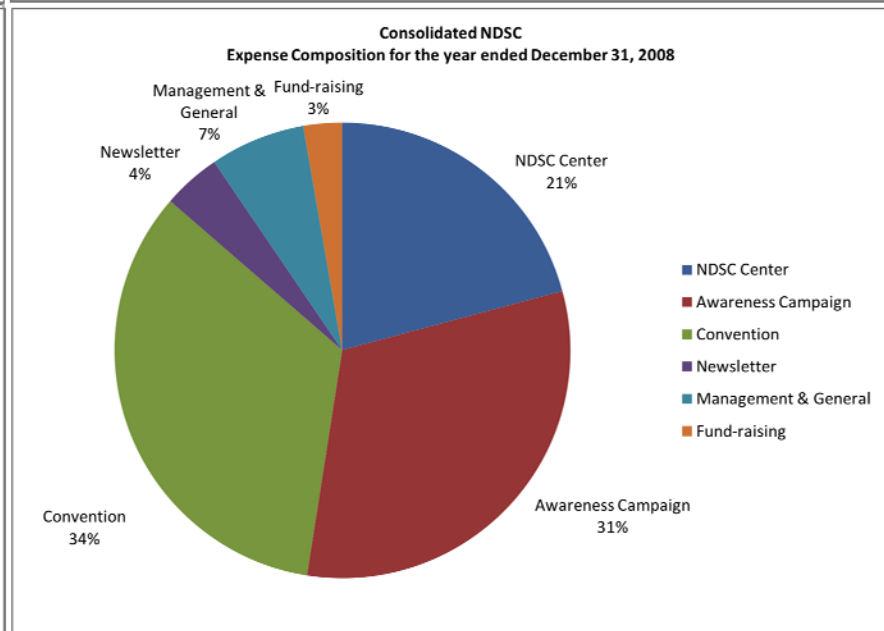
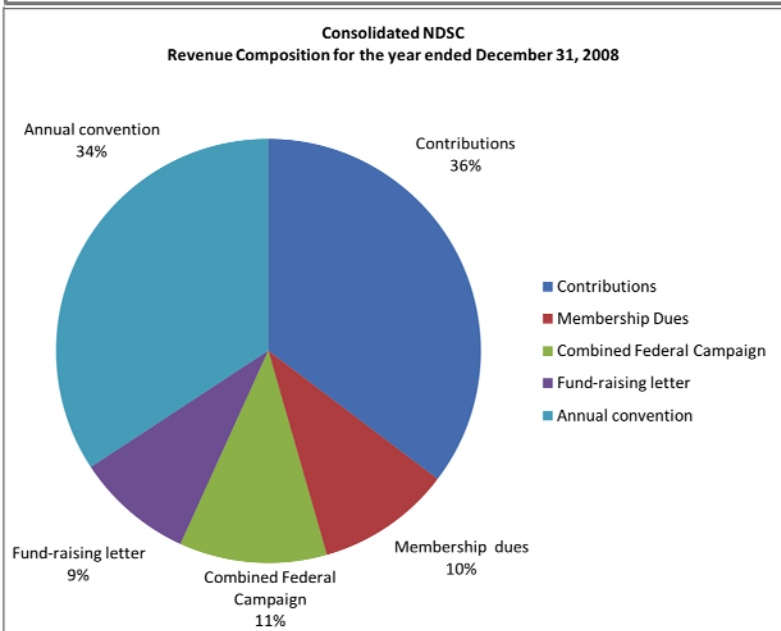
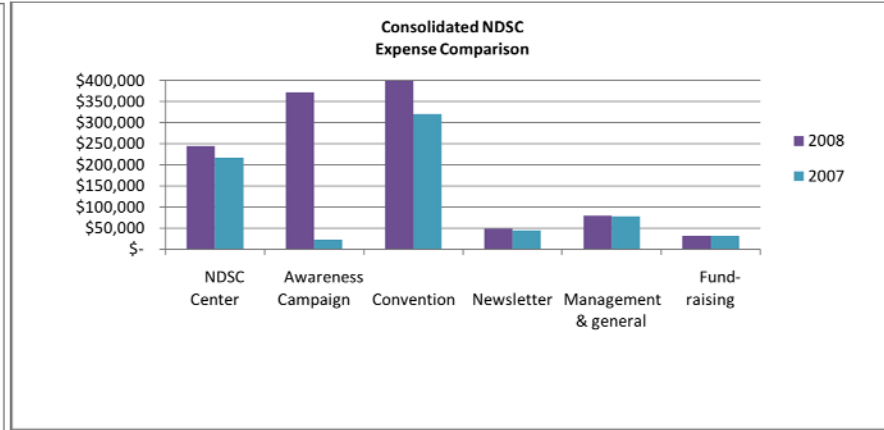
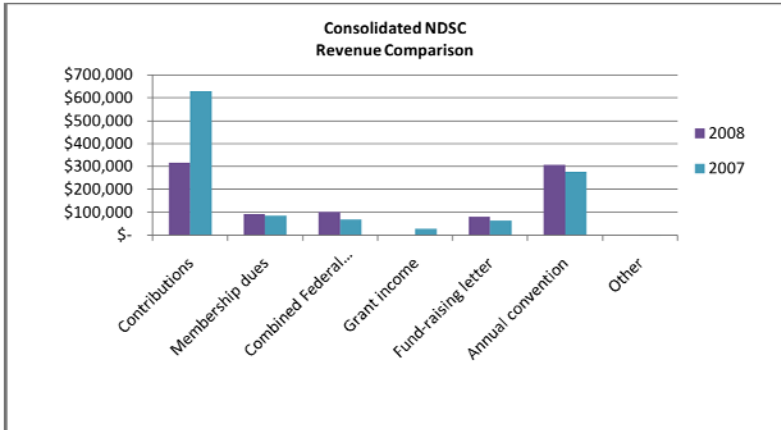
Consolidated NDSC Revenue Comparison

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Contributions	\$ 316,685	\$ 629,903
Membership dues	91,767	84,740
Combined Federal Campaign	100,888	68,274
Grant income	-	30,000
Fund-raising letter	80,044	64,288
Annual convention	306,930	277,135
Other	-	504
Revenue before investment (loss) gain	<u>896,314</u>	<u>1,154,844</u>
Investment (loss) gain	<u>(648,205)</u>	<u>309,717</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 248,109	\$1,464,561

Consolidated NDSC Expense Comparison

NDSC Center	\$ 244,304	\$ 217,145
Awareness Campaign	371,964	23,459
Convention	398,084	319,938
Newsletter	48,454	44,524
Management & general	79,296	78,246
Fund-raising	<u>32,334</u>	<u>31,646</u>
Total Expense	\$1,174,436	\$ 714,958

National Down Syndrome Congress Consolidated Annual Report Revenue and Expense Analysis December 31, 2008 and 2007



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Board of Directors & Staff**

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David Forney, Communications Consultant

Coleen Popp, Convention Coordinator



We're Changing How People Think

The NDSC's national awareness campaign, now in its second year, is replacing ancient myths about people with Down syndrome with a simple truth - our sons, daughters and friends with Down syndrome are like pretty much like anybody else.

No surprise to us, but it is new news to many health-care and education professionals. And to prospective employers and a big part of the general public.

Won't you help us send our positive message to more people?

Please go to NDSCcenter.org and make your contribution.



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