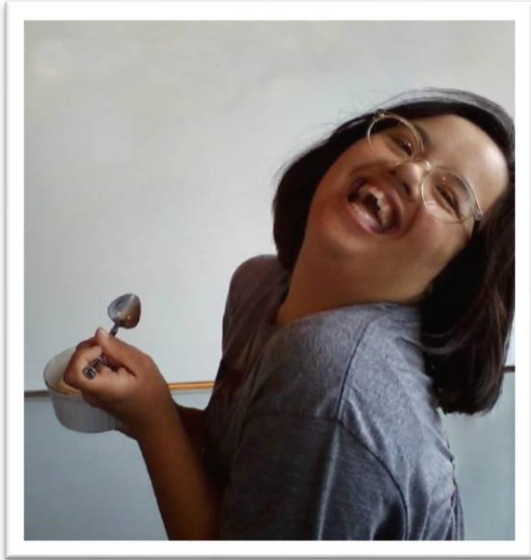




DSA | Los Angeles

Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles, Inc.

support | awareness | connections



Eden Rapp is an active 21-year-old with many passions. She loves the stage and has performed with the Junior Born to Act Players, in school productions, and with the local children's theater. Eden expresses her love for music by playing the piano and performing with Musical Connection through Inclusion.

She enjoys making a difference in people's lives. One of the many ways she makes a difference is by co-leading SuperSigners to teach children with Down syndrome sign language for Total Communication. She also incorporates signs in her church praise team and helps host a Bible Study in ASL.

In addition, Eden is trained as a Next Chapter Book Club facilitator and serves as a peer assistant in a Next Chapter Book Club for DSALA. In 2016, she launched UpVoice, which adapts this book club model, including activities that empower members as self-advocates.

As an employee, Eden has worked making health bars, tutoring kindergarteners in writing, and prepping school cafeteria trays. She currently serves as an office work intern with Project Search at Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center.

"I would like to grow as a Self-Advocate to help people with Down syndrome learn how to continue to blossom and stand up for themselves... I learned that even with different stories of people's lives you can make a difference if you are more observant and look around beyond yourself. You have to think about what is going on around the world. Sometimes I read about Down syndrome and sometimes about the world. It is very fascinating but also a little bit sad because there are people all over the world with disabilities who don't know what to do or to say and it is hard for them to stand up for themselves. We need to be more independent, and do things on our own without our parents. And that is hard to do. But we can try."- Edén Rapp