



DSA | Los Angeles

Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles, Inc.
support | awareness | connections



Nancy Hall was born and raised in Reading, Pennsylvania where she received all her education. For the next 18 years, she worked in various hospitals and laboratories in Wilmington, DE, Pasadena, CA and finally Woodland Hills, CA. Since childhood, she has always been involved in church activities, in preparation for her work with DSALA. She married Clarence Hall in 1957 and his job in the chemical field and finally the pharmaceutical field, moved them cross country three times, finally landing in Northridge, CA in 1974.

In May of 1976, she and Clarence were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Andrea, diagnosed with Down syndrome at birth. Valley Presbyterian Hospital directed them to the Down's Syndrome Parents Group (eventually became DSALA) and they began attending their monthly

meetings at Children's Hospital where they experienced the support of other parents. The group had been organized the previous year and incorporated just before Andrea was born. So, a wonderful mother became their peer counselor, taking Nancy to the Early Intervention Program that Andrea joined immediately giving her an excellent early developmental start. Lifelong friendships were begun for both Andrea and her parents.

A sister, Anita, born in 1978, proved to be a further training opportunity and a life-long friendship for both girls. When Anita was 3, Nancy agreed to join the board of the parents' group, eventually becoming its President. At that point there were many things the group wanted to begin and felt that the best way would be to have someone specifically working on them. Nancy was appointed, working one day a week- out of her house. Later, a parent, provided a small (dusty, furniture making) space for the group. Thanks to some wonderful fundraisers they were able to rent larger and larger offices and increase the Director's time to five days a week. During the 15 years that Nancy served as Director, she organized the office, developed a library, which she took to the monthly meetings in the L.A. area. With the assistance of many wonderful friends, there were ongoing peer counselor training sessions and several very successful family conferences titled "The Six Stages of Down Syndrome" which provided information to all age groups. She also presented to medical groups, high school and college classes. She held a workshop on DSALA's peer counseling service at an annual meeting of the National Down Syndrome Congress and facilitated several programs in L.A. for the National Down Syndrome Society, including the annual Buddy Walk.

After retiring in 2001 Nancy shifted her energy to programs at her church.