

ANNA Sie,
MICHELLE
sie whitten,

SOPHIA
whitten,

Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome

When my granddaughter Sophia was born, my life changed completely. John (her husband) and I were retiring and wanted to give back to our community, and suddenly we knew exactly where we wanted to put our efforts. I realized if not us, not the family, not the grandparents of a child with Down syndrome, then who? Sophia inspires me every day to be a better person, to embrace people with differences, to create a society that accepts her and a medical community that will create a brighter future for children with Down syndrome.

— Anna Sie

My inspiration is a bit obvious! In June 2003 my brilliant and beautiful daughter, Sophia Kay Whitten, was born with Down syndrome. My preconceptions about Down syndrome and the developmentally disabled were blown away in one fell swoop, and I began a journey of learning and loving unlike anything I had ever imagined. I am extremely passionate about advocating for people with Down syndrome, not only because of my daughter but also due to the sad fact that Down syndrome is the least funded genetic condition despite being the most frequent chromosomal disorder.

Being a woman and an ethnic minority I have always had a deep sensibility in terms of injustices and inequality. So in that sense Sophia and Down syndrome have led me to my true calling.

— Michelle Sie Whitten

My name is Sophia Kay Whitten. I am 6 years old. I live in Colorado with my mommy, daddy, baby brother Patrick, nonna and yeye. I love school, music, swimming and dancing. I happen to have Down syndrome, but I am not Down syndrome! Please help me spread the word that IT IS TIME! Time for me and millions like me to have fundamental human and civil rights.

— Sophia Kay Whitten

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