

October 4, 2011

Massachusetts Area Trisomy X Support Group Meeting held on October 2, 2011 at Baystate Medical Center Pediatric Genetics Department. The meeting was a heartwarming success! We had 20 families interested and 11 families came with 10 girls ranging 15 months to age 23! Ironically the oldest girl and youngest girl won the raffle too!

Thanks to genetic counselor Sara Goldstein and her colleagues for providing activities for the kids during the parent discussions and for the raffle items. Thanks to the Children's Miracle Network for the lunch. Thanks again to Sara Goldstein and Baystate Pediatric Genetic department for hosting the meeting for us.

I began the meeting with an explanation on how I wanted to form a support group in our area and about Jessica's background and diagnosis at age 6. I introduced my daughter Christine who spoke about her Silver award project goal on how she wanted to promote knowledge of Trisomy X, increase awareness, and support girls with Trisomy X and their siblings with her support group called "Scrapping for Siblings" Christine also put together a poster board and scrapbook plus 23 welcome packages for girls with Trisomy X that were interested in joining our support group. She mailed 20 of the packages to 7 different states. I'm so proud of her! I'm so proud of Jessica for helping play with the girls during the parent discussions.

After Christine spoke we started with around the table introduction and background information about our families and our daughter's challenges and strengths. It was very heartwarming and helpful to all.

I plan on sending attachments that I mentioned plus if you want any other information let me know like Jessica Dr list in the area....

I am thankful to all the families for bringing their beautiful daughters to the meeting and traveling several hours to attend. It was a great way for Jessica to meet and get to know the other girls and provide support to each other's families.

Thanks again for attending and sharing in our 2nd Massachusetts Area Trisomy X Support Group! We will keep "Taking It To The MaxXX!"

Sincerely,

Joanne Burke
(Jessica age 12)