

# MEN2B Social 2026

**July 10–12, 2026**

Welcome to an unforgettable weekend of connection, learning, support, and fun! We are excited to bring together individuals living with MEN2B, their families, and leading healthcare professionals for a weekend dedicated to community, education, friendship, and celebration. Together, we will share experiences, gain valuable insights, build lasting connections, and strengthen the support network that makes our MEN2B community so special.

## Friday, July 10, 2026

### Welcome & Red-Carpet Night

**4:00 PM EST – Doors Open & Check-In**

Welcome to MEN2B Social 2026!

Step onto the red carpet and have your photograph taken—you are the star of the show!

**Attire:** Business Casual or Casual

Dress for the occasion and choose an outfit that makes you feel confident and camera-ready.

This evening is all about meeting new friends, reconnecting with familiar faces, and getting to know the MEN2B community. We are taking a group photo so come with smiles!

**6:30 PM EST – Welcome Dinner**

Join us for a delicious dinner and great conversation as we kick off an exciting weekend together.

### Dessert Celebration

Enjoy our special Ice Cream Bar featuring a variety of toppings and sweet treats.

### Evening Social

Relax by the fire, unwind from your travels, and enjoy:

- Margaritas
- Wine
- Beer
- Great conversation
- Time with new and old friends

# Saturday, July 11, 2026

## Education, Support & Family Fun Day

### 10:00 AM EST – Doors Open (Attire – Backyard comfortable)

Grab a coffee or an iced beverage, get settled in, and prepare for a full day of learning, connection, and activities.

### 11:00 AM EST – Expert Town Hall Meeting

Hear directly from leading MEN2B specialists during an interactive town hall discussion.

#### Special Guest Speakers

- Dr. John Glod – National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD)
- Dr. Ronald Cohen – University of Chicago
- Dr. Helen Kim – Northwestern University
- Dr. John Fortunato – Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear expert insights and have questions addressed in an open forum discussion.

### Kids Support Group Session (Ages 4+)

While adults participate in the Town Hall, children will meet with our outstanding therapy team:

- Gary Littlefield, LCSW
- Christina Schrems, LCSW, CADAC, CTP

Through age-appropriate small group discussions, children will explore:

- What impact MEN2b has on them
- Their thoughts and feelings
- Challenges they experience
- Positive experiences and successes
- The importance of community and belonging

Our goal is to provide a safe, encouraging environment where every child feels heard, supported, and connected.

There will be childcare for those 3 and under.

## **1:00 PM EST – Lunch**

### **Build-Your-Own Taco Bar**

Choose from:

- Chicken
- Beef

Served with delicious homemade sides and all the toppings needed to create your perfect taco.

## **2:00 PM EST – Surprise Activity For All**

We have a special surprise planned for everyone!

You'll have to be there to find out what it is—don't miss it!

## **2:30 PM EST – Family Breakout Sessions**

### **Children's Game Experience (Ages 4–9)**

Kids will learn and play a new board game with:

- Mr. Ben Bertoli, Creator and Owner of Radish Games
- Officer Weber, Danville Middle School
- Hadley, Student Volunteer

### **Teen Game Experience (Ages 12–16)**

Teens will enjoy a dedicated gaming session led by Mr. Ben Bertoli and Officer Weber.

## **Adult Roundtable Discussions**

Adults may choose from several interactive discussion groups:

### **Dr. Helen Kim**

#### **IVF & PGD Testing**

- Understanding reproductive options
- Preventing transmission of the MEN2B gene

## **Gary Littlefield, LCSW**

### **Parent & Family Discussions**

- Emotional and social challenges of MEN2B
- Child development and family support

## **Christina Schrems, LCSW, CADC, CTP**

### **Spouse Support Discussion**

- Open conversation for spouses and partners of individuals with MEN2B

## **Dr. John Fortunato**

### **GI Motility & Research**

- Current research
- Data and treatment discussions
- Questions and answers

## **Dr. Ronald Cohen**

### **Endocrine & MTC Discussion**

- Medullary Thyroid Cancer (MTC)
- Endocrine-related topics
- Open Q&A

## **Relaxation & Recreation Area**

Looking for a quieter activity?

Enjoy:

- Yard games
- Puzzles
- Adult coloring
- Reading magazines
- Casual conversation

## **3:00 PM EST – Snow Cone Break**

Take a break and cool off with a refreshing snow cone!

## **5:00 PM EST – Sweepstakes Drawing**

Join us for our exciting Sweepstakes Drawing, which will be streamed live.

Time to celebrate and see who takes home the prizes!

## **6:30 PM EST – Special Fondue Dinner Experience**

Dinner will be prepared and served by the incredible team from Geja's Cafe.

Jeff and Darla have traveled from Chicago to provide an unforgettable dining experience featuring:

- Cheese Fondue
- Delicious Entrées
- Signature Chocolate Fondue

A perfect evening of food, friendship, and celebration.

## **Evening Social**

Spend the remainder of the evening however you choose:

- Relax by the fire
- Enjoy a cocktail
- Play yard games
- Join a card game
- Connect with fellow attendees

# **Sunday, July 12, 2026**

## **Indianapolis Motor Speedway Adventure Day**

**9:30 AM EST – Meet at the Track and Wear your T-shirt!**

Please plan to arrive at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway by 9:30 AM EST.

Detailed directions and meeting information will be provided during the Social on Saturday.

We will spend the day together at the legendary Indianapolis Motor Speedway, enjoying a memorable experience that includes a special behind-the-scenes tour arranged exclusively for the MEN2B Foundation. Additional details about the tour will be shared on Saturday.

**1:00 PM EST – Lunch at Big Woods Speedway**

Big Woods Speedway  
1002 N. Main Street  
Speedway, Indiana 46224  
(317) 757-3250

Take a break and enjoy lunch with fellow attendees before continuing your day at your own pace. Lunch is NOT covered by the Foundation.

### **Afternoon at Your Leisure**

Following lunch, attendees who would like to continue exploring are welcome to visit the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum.

The museum is open until 5:00 PM, and guests are welcome to stay as long as they wish and enjoy the exhibits at their own pace.

Thank you for being part of the MEN2B Social 2026. We hope this weekend creates lasting memories, meaningful connections, valuable insights, and a stronger sense of community for everyone involved. The next social will be in July of 2028.

# A BIG Thank you

A special and heartfelt thank you goes out to the many individuals, volunteers, professionals, and sponsors whose generosity, expertise, and dedication have made this event possible. Your support helps create an unforgettable experience for our MEN2B families.

## Volunteers & Support Team

- Ms. Linda Marion – Kitchen Team
- Mrs. Kari Breal – Kitchen Team
- Mrs. Judy and Mr. Tom Argyrakis – Transportation Team
- Officer Weber – Danville Middle School
- Mrs. Ashley Ross, RN – Danville Middle School Nurse
- Hadley Ross – Volunteer

## Medical & Professional Contributors

- Dr. John Glod – National Institutes of Health
- Dr. John Fortunato – Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- Dr. Helen Kim – Northwestern University
- Dr. Ronald Cohen – University of Chicago
- Mr. Gary Littlefield, LCSW
- Ms. Christina Schrems, LCSW, CADC, CTP
- Mr. Ben Bertoli – Owner, Radish Games
- Mr. Troy Weber – Indianapolis Motor Speedway
- Ms. Teresa Cicala – Writer, Editor, Producer across multiple platforms

## Food Sponsors

- Geja's Café – Owners Jeff and Darla Lawler Chicago, IL
- Urban Oven – Owner Brendan Messer Danville, IN
- Kathy & Greg Frister, Geneva, IL

## MEN2B Foundation Board of Directors

- **Mr. Dennis Argyrakis** – Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- **Mrs. Shelly Argyrakis** – Co-Founder & Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- **Mrs. Meredith Zimmerman** – Secretary
- **Mr. Mike LaGoe** – Director of Communications
- **Ms. Linda Marion** – Bookkeeper
- **Mrs. Angela Sloman** – Canadian Liaison

Your time, talents, kindness, and commitment to the MEN2B community are deeply appreciated. Thank you for helping make MEN2B Social 2026 a weekend filled with education, support, friendship, and hope.