



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicagoland Charity Hosts Annual GiGi Fest Family Event | GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers

HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL – September 8, 2014 – October is **Down Syndrome Awareness Month** and all during the month we celebrate individuals with Down syndrome and make people aware of their abilities and accomplishments. Therefore, **GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers** is excited to announce that our annual *"GiGi Fest" Family Fun Event* will be held Sunday, October 5th from 12:00pm to 3:00pm at GiGi's Playhouse National Achievement Center in Hoffman Estates, located at 2350 W. Higgins Road.

GiGi Fest will include a little something for everyone as we celebrate 11 years of GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers. We unveil our award-winning annual calendar by featuring our Calendar Kids. Come watch as they walk the Red Carpet, which provides them the opportunity to demonstrate their personal style and self-confidence.

"We are so proud of the accomplishment of all of our GiGi's participants and their families, and delighted to host GiGi's annual *Friend-Raiser*," says Nancy Gianni, Founder of GiGi's Playhouse. "We invite the entire community to help us spread the word and further GiGi's vision to see a world where individuals with Down syndrome are accepted and embraced in their families, schools, and communities."

Food is being provided courtesy of local vendors, including Garibaldi's Pizza. Plus there will be activities for all ages, including a petting zoo, balloon artist, face painting, bounce houses, games and more. All attendees are invited to tour the Playhouse facility and stop in to our **Hugs + Mugs Career Center & Gift Shop** to purchase our very own V-21 Vitamin Cookies, make a custom mug or water bottle with your family, or purchase GiGi's attire. The entire community is invited - You won't want to miss out!

***About GiGi's Playhouse:** GiGi's Playhouse is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization founded in 2003. GiGi's Playhouse is a series of unique Achievement Centers serving children and adults with Down syndrome. Each Playhouse makes a lifetime commitment to participants and their families, and each location provides unique educational and therapeutic programs in a format that individuals with Down syndrome learn best. All programs aim to maximize acceptance and self-confidence, and intend to empower children and adults to achieve their greatest potential. All educational, therapeutic and career training programs are offered to families at no charge. GiGi's Playhouse currently has 17 Playhouses in the US and Mexico. Plans are in place to bring the total number of Playhouses to 30 by the end of 2015. Last year, over 16,000 participants benefited from Playhouse programs. GiGi's Playhouse has been featured on *NBC Nightly News* with Kate Snow and Tom Brokaw's "An American Story" Radio Show. Currently there are more than 100 inquiries for new Playhouses worldwide.*

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