



Down Syndrome Awareness Centers

www.gigisplayhouse.com

GIGI'S NEWS

Serving two locations

Loving a child with Down syndrome is contagious...Help us spread the love!!

Hoffman Estates
1069 W Golf Rd • Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
847-885-PLAY • www.gigisplayhouse.com

Plainfield
10052 S. Bode Rd, Unit D • Plainfield, IL 60585
630-778-PLAY • www.gigisplayhousetoo.com

Sept 2006

Our 1st Annual Golf outing **SOLD OUT!!**

Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Cousins, Businessmen...we had it all! The 100° heat didn't keep our golfers from coming out and supporting our kids! It was so great to see everyone read the posters at each of the holes and learn about the potential of kids with Down syndrome while having a great time! The more we get the word out there the better our kids' future will be!

A big thanks to Doug Collie, Tom May, Nick Caracci, Paul Gianni, Dan Langland, Ross Goodfellow, Brendon Conley, Mike Ross, McCleary and all of our INCREDIBLE volunteers for putting together this awesome event! Also a HUGE shout out to **Ken Stout** for supplying us with the free Heineken and Amstel light and to **Joliet Cabinetry** for supplying the food!

We are already planning next year's outing so if you would like to be involved contact the Playhouse! It was a party and a half!!!



Our awesome volunteers prepared for the sell out crowd!



Partying under the big tent for the silent auction!

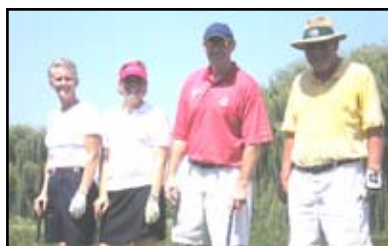
OUR MISSION: to increase awareness of Down syndrome by providing programming, support, and education.



GiGi gave a big squeeze to the DiMucci brothers. They are one of our \$10,000 Platinum Playhouse sponsors!!



What heat? The weather didn't stop anyone from having a great time!



Julie & Ken Stout paired with Katie Renner (whose father came from North Carolina for the outing!)

Literacy Program

It has been over a year that the 2 locations of GiGi's Playhouse have been offering the FREE "Learn to Read" literacy program to individuals with Down syndrome. WOW! What a difference it is making in the lives of over 100 children! Children as young as 2 are reading books and adults as old as 26 are finally **READING!** Parents are excited and kids are proud! There has been so much interest that we have started working in groups for the summer sessions. Our programs offer individualized tutoring for your child with Down syndrome, personalized books and flash cards, parent instruction and teacher consultations (as needed). It is based on Patricia Olerwein's program which shows that kids with Down syndrome **CAN** and **WILL** learn to read if you focus on the methods and strategies they use which are different from other kids. If you would like more information on the program or you would like to volunteer, contact Shari at 847-885-PLAY for Hoffman Estates or Melissa at cleary@wowway.com for Plainfield.

Do you like our new look?

In order to conserve newsletter costs we are combining the GiGi's Playhouse, Hoffman Estates location newsletter with the Plainfield location newsletter!

Each location has its own unique programs which may really interest other people. We all have so much to learn from each other and what better way to do it than working together?

As we continue to grow we could really use your input!! All suggestions whether they are good or bad are very much appreciated.

Down syndrome awareness is going strong! Let's keep up the momentum and continue to show the world the tremendous potential in individuals with Down syndrome!

HOFFMAN ESTATES LOCATION

CAMP FUTURE FRIDAY FRIENDS

As our preschoolers mature and move on to elementary school, there is more demand for them to be socially appropriate. Future Friday Friends provides a safe opportunity for children between the ages of 6 & 8 years old to create new, lasting friendships through facilitated interactive play while promoting social skills.

We're not sure who had more fun; the kids, siblings, parents or counselors! Future Friday Friends had a week long camp this summer and it was a blast! From "I Spy" day to "Obstacle Course & Bug" day, all attendees cooperated and learned some new skills and games. Message balloons were released and we can't wait for a response from someone who finds one! Every day there was a different ice cream treat and a goodie bag to take home. Each child left camp with a memory book filled with photos of their new friends and the great times they had at **Camp FFF**.

Be sure to look in upcoming newsletters for our next Future Friday Friends program.



FALL BIRTHDAY PARTY

Come one, come all! Big or small! Join us to celebrate birthdays this fall!

If you have a fall birthday or just love going to birthday parties, come to GiGi's Playhouse on Sunday, September 17th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. There will be new friends to make, fun & games, and, of course, BIRTHDAY CAKE!!!!



HOP SKIP & JUMPERS

A big "Thank you," to Julie Rodheim, Developmental Therapist, for volunteering her time when she ran our 3-5 Hop Skip & Jumpers Playgroup in July. She was wonderful and the children had a great time! Be sure to join us in September.



SCRAPBOOKING

Call the Playhouse to RSVP for scrapbooking the 4th Monday of every month.

HELP WANTED!

Please call GiGi's Playhouse if you or anyone you know would be able to volunteer some time to help us in any of the following areas.

- 5k Chairperson
- Graphic designer
- Handyman to build a reusable parade float
- Music/choir director
- Activity coordinator
- Hosts for activities and programs

FUNDRAISING

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Jewel Shop & Share Days in June! 88 families purchased \$7,823.71 worth of groceries and GiGi's Playhouse received a check for **\$391.19**. For those who don't normally shop at Jewel we will be having some Dominick's Benefit Days in October. Look for details and coupons in next month's newsletter!



FRIDAY FRIENDS

In July, Friday Friends stayed inside and did scrapbooking and spent time writing this article. Farzin, Allyson and Billy helped write this article while Judd and Marc shared articles on their recent achievements in swimming (Judd) and gymnastics (Marc). Christine let us know that Matt recuperated well from his recent surgery. Molly and Christine celebrated their finish at GiGi's 5k walk/run.

Thanks to Kaitlin, Anne and Kristin who helped us with scrapbooking. We couldn't have done it without them! Take a look at our Friday Friends scrapbook when you visit GiGi's Playhouse; it's **AWESOME!** Upcoming Friday Friends events include: Laser tag in September, Halloween party in October, and our bowling holiday party in December. There will be no Friday Friends in November.

Sincerely,
Friday Friends

HOFFMAN ESTATES LOCATION



September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Friends and family are always welcome!! There is no charge for Playhouse sponsored events.	Playhouse open 9 a.m. -4 p.m. Monday through Friday				Reserved 9-10 ¹	Closed due to the holiday ²
Closed due to the holiday ³	LABOR DAY ⁴	Literacy Program 9:00-12:00 3:30-6:30 ⁵ 	Open 9:00 -4:00 ⁶	Open Play 12:30-2:00 ⁷ 	Reserved 9-10 ⁸ 	& Under Play Group 10:00-11:00 ⁹ Hop, Skip & Jumpers 12:00-1:30
Hispanic Open Play 11:00-1:00 ¹⁰ 	Literacy Program 9:00-3:00 ¹¹ 	Literacy Program 9:00-12:00 3:30-6:30 ¹² 	Open 9:00 -4:00 ¹³	Open Play 12:30-2:00 ¹⁴ 	Reserved 9-10 ¹⁵	¹⁶
Fall Birthday Party 1:00-3:00 ¹⁷ 	Literacy Program 9:00-3:00 ¹⁸ 	Literacy Program 9:00-12:00 3:30-6:30 ¹⁹ 	Open 9:00 -4:00 ²⁰	Open Play 12:30-2:00 ²¹ 	Friday Friends Laser Tag Meet @ Quest 6:30-9:00 ²²	UPS Lunch w/ Kids 11:00-1:00 ²³
Polish Play Group 1:00-3:00 ²⁴ 	Literacy Program 9:00-3:00 ²⁵ Scrapbooking (RSVP) 7:00 	Literacy Program 9:00-12:00 3:30-6:30 ²⁶ 	Open 9:00 -4:00 ²⁷ Support Group 6:30-8:30	Open Play 12:30-2:00 ²⁸ 	²⁹	³⁰

Open Play-Every Thursday! Everyone is welcome! Stop by for pizza, pop and fun! We have volunteers to assist with the kids so the parents can hang out! It is awesome!!!!

The literacy program- GiGi's Playhouse provides FREE private tutoring to children with Down syndrome. Customized materials are provided for each individual student. The program also assists teachers and parents on how to tutor their children.

"Future" Friday Friends- Ages 6-8 only. Kids create lasting friendships through facilitated interactive play, while promoting good social skills. Each session ends with a pizza dinner in which social skills and table manners will be encouraged.

Friday Friends- Ages 18 and up only. Party with the gang! Equal numbers of peers with Down syndrome as without. Karaoke, dances, laser tag, bowling, prom, movie nights, friends and fun!

2 and under group- Families with kids 2 and under get together to play, and have fun while the parents network with each other!

Hop, Skip and Jumpers- For 3-5 year olds, this program will help promote friendships, good social skills and interactive play through fun creative activities!

Hispanic Group- Spanish speaking families gather for food, fun, friendship and education.

Polish Play Group- Polish speaking families gather for an afternoon of fun and friendship.

Fall Birthday Party- If you were born in September, October or November or just love a good party come on by! The birthday child gets a gift and everyone gets a goodie bag.

Reserved- Playhouse may be reserved for private play groups, parties or support groups

The Playhouse can be reserved for any Down syndrome related event.

When it is available it may also be used by other groups with special needs.

Everyone is welcome at GiGi's Playhouse!

Due to the need for scheduling volunteers and acquiring supplies, reservations are greatly appreciated. (847) 885-PLAY, or you can e-mail gianni4567@aol.com or kylieannsaunt@yahoo.com. Feel free to leave a message!

Check the website for constant updates and to see pictures of the activities
www.gigisplayhouse.com!

GiGi's Playhouse is located 3 miles West of Woodfield Shopping Mall next to Schaumburg Toyota in the Brandess Center at
1069 W. Golf Road
Hoffman Estates IL, 60169
847-885-PLAY!

PLAINFIELD LOCATION



Introducing GiGi's newest group **GiGi's ...Watch out Walkers**

We are pleased to announce the start of a new program for children who are walking. To qualify for this group your child must be walking for at least 4-6 months. The group will focus on post-walking skills such as balance beam, jumping, etc. The group will be structured and will promote working and playing together to enhance post walking skills in a fun environment with their peers.

Starts this month! We will meet in the morning on the 4th Sat. of the month from 9-10AM. Space is limited to 10 children so sign up now to reserve your spot in this ongoing group. If you have any questions or wish to reserve your spot please RSVP to Wendy Eurich at weurich@comcast.net or 630-423-4035



GiGi's Playhouse Too First Annual Thrift Sale

The first annual thrift sale was a wonderful success. The sale, which was held in Chebanse, IL on July 22nd, raised over \$2,500. All of which goes directly to the playhouse to support what we do.

Another thank you goes to Beth Schafer and her family. The Schafers planned, organized, promoted and ran the whole show. Some might remember that Beth and her niece (Beth) were responsible for a very generous donation earlier in the year. All tallied, the Schafers are responsible for almost \$10,000 in donations to GiGi's Playhouse Too this year. Thank you to all who volunteered at the event and all who came and shopped.



Soaring to New Heights... Don't Be Surprised 1st Annual NADS Luncheon and Fashion Show!

Sunday, October 22nd, 2006
Oak Brook Marriot • 11:00am-2:00pm
\$50 per ticket or a table of 10 for \$450

This event will be a fundraiser to support the programs that NADS provides for children and adults with Down syndrome and their families. To reserve your seat, visit the NADS website at www.nads.org.



Tot Time

In August the kids enjoyed making their own back to school pencil boxes. Tot time is off for the month of September and will be back in October with a fall activity. See you then.

Down Syndrome Research

Participate in a study to help researchers learn more about Down syndrome! Dr. Susan Daley will be conducting a study on individuals with Down syndrome. She needs to collect urine samples from both children with Down syndrome and their siblings. Your child's participation in the study may help them to better understand some of the abnormalities in the metabolism in Down syndrome and help understand some of the more debilitating aspects of this syndrome.

She will be collecting these samples September 16th at GiGi's Playhouse Too (Plainfield location) from 9am-2pm.

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month



4th Annual DS Support

Oct 8, 2006

1-5 PM

Walker Park

**425 South Wolf Road
Burr Ridge, IL**

Walk for awareness and to raise funds for Down syndrome. For the latest information and to register visit www.dssupport.net or call (815) 439-8693

Registration: Individual \$20 • Team member \$5
Family of 4 \$40 • Includes free T-shirt



PLAINFIELD LOCATION

September 2006

10052 S. Bode Rd, Unit D • Plainfield, IL 60585
630-778-PLAY (7529) • fax (630) 778-7519
www.gigisplayhousetoo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
**Learn to Read is a FREE Literacy Program for all ages (by appointment only, please call 630-904-6960 or email cleary@wowway.com) <i>We are looking for tutors and students.</i>			All Events are Free unless noted. *RSVP to 630-778-PLAY Bring a friend who doesn't have Down syndrome		Private Play Group 12-2pm	 2 and Under 9:30-11:00am
Private Birthday Party 12-6	Learn to Read 3-6 <i>By appointment</i>	Learn to Read 4:30-6 <i>By appointment</i>	Learn to Read 3-6 <i>By appointment</i>	7	Pre-teen time 6-8pm RSVP to 630-416-1820	Daddy & Me 3-4:30pm
	Learn to Read 3-6 <i>By appointment</i>	Learn to Read 4:30-6 <i>By appointment</i>	Learn to Read 3-6 <i>By appointment</i>	Mom's Night Out Scrapbooking 7-10pm 	Private Play Group 12-2pm Teen-Tastic 7-9pm	DS Research Clinic
	Learn to Read 3-6 <i>By appointment</i>	Learn to Read 4:30-6 <i>By appointment</i>	Learn to Read 3-6 <i>By appointment</i>		Private Play Group 12-2pm	GiGi's Walkers 9-10am GiGi's Crawlers 10-11am RSVP to 630-423-4035
Hispanic Group 11am-1pm	Learn to Read 3-6 <i>By appointment</i>	Learn to Read 4:30-6 <i>By appointment</i>	Learn to Read 3-6 <i>By appointment</i>			

GiGi's Crawlers: Prewalkers

GiGi's Walkers: Walkers

2 & Under: Ages birth-2

Tot Time: Ages 2-5

Kid's Club: Grades K-5

Pre-Teen Time: Ages 9-12

Teen-Tastic: Ages 13-17

Friday Friends: Ages 18 and Up

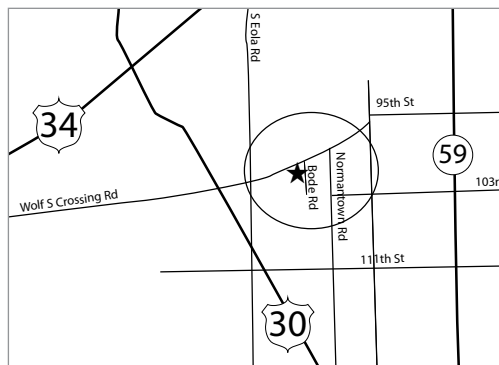
Twin Time: All Ages

Daddy & Me: Dads get out with the kids
and get together with other dads. All ages.

Hispanic Playgroup: All ages

Monthly Birthday Party: All ages

Open Play: Ages 0-10 years



**Keep October 29th open for the Harvest
gathering, more information coming soon**

SAVE these DATES!

September 16

DS Research Clinic

October 1

GiGi Fest (Hoffman Estates)

October 8

DS Support Buddy Walk

October 22

NADS 1st Annual Fashion
Show

November 4

NADS Conference in Rosemont



GIGI FEST

An Annual Playhouse Celebration!

GiGi's Playhouse
1069 West Golf Rd.
Hoffman Estates, IL
60169

(847) 885-PLAY
3 miles west of Woodfield



Sunday
October 1, 2006
12:00-3:00

Live Music!

Pony Rides!

Meet our
2007 Calendar
Kids!


Bubba
The Art Bus!

Moonwalk!


Pumpkin
Decorating!

The 3rd Anniversary of GiGi's Playhouse, "GiGi Fest", is a time to celebrate our child, neighbor or friend with Down syndrome.

Together we have the power to help people see the tremendous potential in individuals with Down syndrome and to show how strong the Down syndrome community is!



Bring your family & friends for
a FREE afternoon of Food,
Fun, Entertainment and
Education!



Face Painting!

Cupcake Walk!

GiGi's Playhouse is a not for profit Down syndrome awareness center providing activities and resources for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community. We are volunteers, committed to enhancing the lives of all people with Down syndrome.

Loving a child with Down syndrome is contagious...help us spread the

♥ LOVE!! ♥

2007 Down Syndrome Awareness Calendar Pre-order Form

Believe...



This year's calendar is designed to showcase the tremendous potential in children with Down syndrome and what will happen when you **Believe....**

This inspirational calendar was produced by GiGi's Playhouse, not for profit Down syndrome awareness centers that offer activities and resources for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community.

100% of the profits from this calendar will go right back into Down syndrome awareness!!!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

of calendars _____ @ \$10 each _____

Shipping \$3.50

Total: _____

Send check (made out to GiGi's Playhouse) or money order to:

GiGi's Playhouse
1069 West Golf Road, Hoffman Estates IL 60169
847-885-PLAY • www.gigisplayhouse.com

Credit Card # _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

Calendars will be mailed out in early September. Be sure to check our web site for other products!



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1069 W Golf Rd
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

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Thanks to all who came out to our
1st Annual Book Fair & Ice Cream
Social!!!



The children had a blast meeting and dancing with Clifford the Big Red Dog to the awesome music donated by The Knight Express! Thanks to Timber Craft Builders who donated the yummy ice cream treats that really beat the heat! The book fair was a HUGE success! With everyone's support, GiGi's Playhouse "Learn to Read" Literacy Program received about \$250.00 worth of books through donations and received \$650.00 worth of vouchers to purchase items for the Literacy Program from Scholastic Inc. We're looking forward to seeing you next year for a rockin' good old fashioned time! Due to the rain we had to move the party to the parking lot! But as you can see the party still went on!



GiGi's Playhouse was an exhibitor during the NDSC Conference in Atlanta. We were the "talk" of the conference and met many individuals interested in helping to open more Playhouses around the country!!

