



GiGi's Playhouse™  
Down Syndrome Awareness Centers

www.gigisplayhouse.org

# GIGI'S NEWS

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

Hoffman Estates

Fox Valley

McHenry

Chicago

Now Serving **4** Locations

MARCH 2009

## Wow, What a Party!

The 3rd annual Spread the Love Gala was so much more than a Gala. It was an inspirational event that touched everyone who attended!

Rob Johnson, CBS channel 2 anchor, captivated the audience as



he shared his experiences growing up with a brother with Down syndrome and what GiGi's Playhouse means to him. He also narrated the Sibling video which made its' debut at the Gala. The video featured

over 12 siblings of individuals with Down syndrome as they shared, in their own words, what life was like for them

having a sibling with Down syndrome. The common theme was that their life was

enhanced and they wished that they could share that with all their school-aged peers. In fact, that is what the video was created to do! It will be used in schools and other educational settings to share the reality of



what Down syndrome is and how individuals with Down

syndrome are a gift to the lives they encounter.

*Thanks to Lora Bak, her committee, Rob Johnson, all the generous sponsors, the volunteers from the Schaumburg Jaycees, Barrington High School Video Class and all our incredible guests. The Gala was an event to remember. Look inside (page 2) to see pictures of the event and all the sponsors who made the event possible!*

"I just saw that you were named one of the Chicagoans of the year and wanted to say congratulations. Most of all I want to say thank you. When I had Cristian I had no idea what was in store for me or how fulfilling his life would and could be. When he was born and they told me that he had Down syndrome I just cried. I was not crying because he had Down syndrome but because I did not want people to judge Cristian for the way he looked before they got to know him and being a first time mom, I was terrified. When I first met you, I was greeted with that big smile and hug that you give everyone you meet. Due to your vision through GiGi's Playhouse, the

## Thank You

volunteers, the playgroups and the other parents that we have met, we are able to embrace Cristian and cope with his good, bad and stubborn moments. It is always good to



know that you are not alone. Through the calendar and other projects the world is able to see Cristian how we see him as this beautiful little boy with the world at his fingertips. With guidance, support and acceptance, he is able to achieve all his little heart desires. As I am typing this Cristian is taking a nap and I can't believe how incredibly blessed we are and I couldn't let another moment go by without expressing our deepest gratitude. PS. I am fighting back tears while writing this. GiGi's holds a very special place in our hearts and without you guys we would not have had the opportunities that we have had."

*Love, Vivian, Eric & Cristian*

# Spread the Love Gala

Wow, What a Party



## Thank you to our 2009 Sponsors

## Spread The Love Gala

Benefiting GIG's Playhouse Down Syndrome Awareness Centers

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# GiGi's Playhouse Sioux City, Iowa

GiGi's Playhouse is officially expanding from Illinois to Iowa! This will be the **5th location** and we are excited to be the first outside of the Chicago area!

## Grand Opening March 21, 2009 10am-1pm

1551 Indian Hills Drive, Suite 7  
Sioux City, Iowa 51104  
[siouxcity@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:siouxcity@gigisplayhouse.org)  
712.226.PLAY

### Join Us for our Educator & Therapist Open House!

**Tues., March 10th,  
5:30-7pm**

Are you a therapist or educator and want to find out more about the programs GiGi's Playhouse has to offer? We invite therapists and teachers to learn more about GiGi's Playhouse and the wonderful programs that are available.

For more information, call **712.226.PLAY** or email [siouxcity@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:siouxcity@gigisplayhouse.org)



### Open Play

**Sat., March 28, 10-Noon**

Everyone is Welcome! Stop by for cookies, juice & fun!

### Help Wanted

We are looking for Volunteers and Therapists to help run playgroups, crafts and activities! Call **712.226.PLAY** or email [siouxcity@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:siouxcity@gigisplayhouse.org)

### Chicago — Polar Plunge

We are plunging in GiGi's name this year at the annual Polar Plunge benefit-

ting Special Olympics programs! We invite all GiGi's families to come out and cheer on these folks on **March 1st, 9am** at North Avenue Beach in

Chicago (free parking available) – GiGi's will be meeting in the registration tent! Wear your GiGi's gear!!!

Please contact **773.428.7272** for more information.

## Programs & Activities!

Look at all of our free educational programs and activities!  
Check your local Playhouse calendar to see times and dates.

**2 & Under Playgroup** ♦ Families with children 2 and under get together and play while the parents network with each other. Siblings always welcome.

**Crawlers** ♦ This group focuses on crawling skills as well as fine motor skills, social interaction with peers in a semi-structured environment.

**Walkers** ♦ This group focuses on post walking skills with peers to prepare children for school activities (balance beam, kicking, throwing, jumping, etc.).

**Hop, Skip & Jumpers** ♦ This program helps promote friendships, social skills, and interactive play through fun creative activities! For pre-school and kindergartners (3-5yr olds).

**Playhouse Pals** ♦ This structured playgroup focuses on developing friendships and confidence all while having a great time! 1st -3rd grades (6-8yr olds).

**Kids Club** ♦ This fast paced group incorporates social, communication and confidence-building skills and activities! 4th-8th grades (9-12 yr olds)

**Teen-Tastic** ♦ What a party! We order pizza for dinner and have lots of fun watching movies and playing games with each other. 9th-12th grades (13-17 year olds).

**Friday Friends** ♦ Karaoke, dances, softball games — the fun never ends! Adults 18 + over.

**Nuestros Angeles** ♦ Spanish speaking families gather for food, fun, friendship and education!

**Polish Group** ♦ What a party! Many Polish speaking families attend this group each month to meet other families and have a great time together!

**Open Play** ♦ Come on over for pizza, pop and fun! Everyone is welcome to this weekly gathering of networking and friendship building.

**Literacy** ♦ Our free Literacy program teaches kids with Down syndrome how to read the way that they learn best!! This is by appointment only — call your local Playhouse for more info.

**Daddy & Me** ♦ Dads, bring your kids and meet other fathers in your area! What a great time to hang out with your kids while meeting new people.

**Reserve it!** ♦ The Playhouse can be reserved for any Down syndrome function or other special needs group. Call your local Playhouse for more info.

\*Children must always be accompanied by a parent/adult

### McHenry — No Accidents

by Aimee Veith

"Hi... I got the newsletter last night and as I read the portion on volunteers I thought Wow.... I think that is my good friend Jeri Reed. Sure enough it was. Jeri and I taught together at ISD for 15 years before she moved back up north to be near her family. When my daughter Ella was born she was and continues to be a great support. When Ella was very young I found your website and told Jeri she should volunteer for you, since her girls were older now and I could not get her great support, others should! So it was not but a few days later you came to her church to ask for support for your site. She was really curious and then when you opened a site in McHenry, closer to her home, she was struck and loves her work there! There are not accidents in life and everything and everyone has a purpose... just like when you told my good friend to send her daughter here to ISD. Know you are doing great things!"

### Flourish in the Footlights Presents

#### Three Little Pigs: "The Musical"

Join us for a special evening of drinks, hors d'oeuvres and dessert — all to

benefit GiGi's Playhouse. Presented by Metropolis Outreach Programs and Arlington Pediatric Therapy.

**Saturday, May 9th, at 7pm** at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in

Arlington Heights.

Tickets will be \$30 (includes 2 drinks, hors d'oeuvres and dessert) and can be purchased online at

[www.gigisplayhouse.org](http://www.gigisplayhouse.org)

# HOFFMAN ESTATES

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Literacy Program 6-7:30pm	2 Literacy Program 1:30-3pm	3 Literacy Program 10am-2:15pm Special Intentions Meeting 7-9pm	4 Literacy Program 11-11:45am Open Play 12:30-2pm Literacy 5:15-7:30pm	5 Literacy Program 1:30-3pm	6 Literacy Program 10am-2:15pm Literacy 3-5:15pm	7 Literacy Program 11-11:45am Literacy 5:15-7:30pm
8 Nuestros Angeles Hispanic Playgroup 11am-1pm	9 Meeting 7pm	10 Literacy Program 1:30-3pm	11 Literacy Program 10am-2:15pm Literacy 3-5:15pm	12 Open Play 12:30-2pm Wendy's Night Golf & Roselle Rd 4-8pm Literacy 5:15-7:30pm	13 Literacy Program 10am-2:15pm Literacy 3-5:15pm	14 Crawlers 9-9:45am 2 & Under 10-11:30am Hop, Skip & Jumpers Noon-1:30pm Playhouse Pals 2-3:30pm Literacy 3:30-4:45pm Teen-Tastic 5-7pm
15 Literacy Program 6-7:30pm	16 Literacy Program 10am-2:15pm	17 Literacy Program 1:30-3pm	18 Literacy Program 10am-2:15pm	19 Open Play 12:30-2pm Literacy 11-11:45am Literacy 5:15-7:30pm	20 Literacy Program 1:30-3pm	21 Literacy Program 10am-2:15pm Literacy 3-5:15pm
22 Polish Group 11am-1pm	23 Literacy Program 10am-2:15pm	24 Literacy Program 1:30-3pm	25 Literacy Program 3-5:15pm Literacy Bookmaking 6:30-8:30pm	26 Open Play 12:30-2pm Wendy's Night Golf & Roselle Rd. 4-8pm Literacy 5:15-7:30pm	27 Friday Friends Laser Tag 7-9pm	28 Kids Club 10-11:30am Literacy 3:30-5:45pm
29 Literacy Program 6-7:30pm	30 Literacy Program 10am-2:15pm	31 Literacy Program 1:30-3pm	<h1>March@Hoffman</h1>			

## Kids Club

Thank you, Cub Scouts! We enjoyed seeing the Pinewood Derby cars made by the Scouts and then we raced cars! The Scouts also made sure that everyone at Kids Club had a car to take home. All 9-12 year old kids are invited to join the fun on the fourth Saturday of every month!



Cub Scout Pack 287  
—Webelos den

## Welcome Sara Rose, Our New Hoffman Estates Programs Coordinator!

Hi! I am so thrilled to have been invited to join this incredible GiGi's family! With a background in clinical social work, specifically working with children and teens with disabilities, I am pleased to have been passed the torch of facilitating the Hop, Skip & Jumpers and Playhouse Pals playgroups, as well as re-igniting the 13-17 teen tastic! I have experience in creating and facilitating therapeutic playgroups, which incorporate the ever important sensory integration, social

interaction and most of all, celebrating personal triumphs as a community.

*Sara Rose*



## Wendy's Night

Mark your calendar! Meet us on **March 12th & 26th** between **4-8pm** for dinner at Wendy's! Invite your family and all of your friends from GiGi's! The manager generously provides proceeds from these evenings back to the Hoffman Estates Playhouse. Wendy's is located at the corner of Golf and Roselle Roads.

## Calling All Teens!

We're bringing Teen-Tastic to the Hoffman Playhouse. Come to an Open House at the Hoffman Playhouse on **Saturday, March 14th** from **5-7pm!** 13-17 year olds are invited to meet Sara Rose and help plan all of the exciting programs for this new group! Teens will plan future activities.

## FridayFriends@LaserTag

We will go to Laser Tag in March and have a jam session in April! Meet at 860 N. Roselle Rd., Hoffman Estates.

## Peter & the Wolf

The Barrington Youth Dance Ensemble will perform Peter and the Wolf at the Hoffman Playhouse.

**Wed., April 15th** from **5-6pm!**  
Stay after for a pizza party! RSVP to [info@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:info@gigisplayhouse.org)



# FOX VALLEY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Literacy Program 4-5pm 	<b>2</b> Literacy Program 4-5pm 	<b>3</b> Literacy Program 5:30-6pm 	<b>4</b> Literacy Program 12:30-1:30pm Literacy Program 4:30-5:30pm 	<b>5</b> Literacy Program 4-6pm 	<b>6</b> Teen-Tastic 7-9pm. RSVP 630.778.PLAY 	<b>7</b> 2 & Under 9:30-11am 3-4 year old Playgroup 11am-Noon
<b>8</b> Literacy Program 4-5pm 	<b>9</b> Literacy Program 4-5pm 	<b>10</b> Literacy Program 5:30-6pm 	<b>11</b> Literacy Program 12:30-1:30pm Literacy Program 4:30-5:30pm 	<b>12</b> Literacy Program 4-6pm <b>Wendy's Night</b> 5-8pm 	<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b> Walkers Group 9:30-11am Daddy & Me 3-4:30pm 
<b>15</b> Volunteer Appreciation	<b>16</b> Literacy Program 4-5pm 	<b>17</b> Literacy Program 5:30-6pm 	<b>18</b> Literacy Program 12:30-1:30pm Literacy Program 4:30-5:30pm 	<b>19</b> Literacy Program 4-6pm 	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> Hop Skip & Jumpers 9:30am-Noon Playhouse Pals 2-4pm World Down Syndrome Day
<b>22</b> Literacy Program 4-5pm 	<b>23</b> Literacy Program 4-5pm 	<b>24</b> <b>Ribbon Cutting Ceremony</b> 4pm Literacy 5:30-6pm	<b>25</b> Literacy Program 12:30-1:30pm Literacy Program 4:30-5:30pm 	<b>26</b> Literacy Program 4-6pm 	<b>27</b> Evening Open Play 6-8pm RSVP 630.844.1720 or Genia at glatka@gigisplayhouse.org	<b>28</b> Crawlers 9:30-11am RSVP 630.423.4035 Hop, Skip & Jumpers 10:30am-Noon RSVP 630.335.4824
<b>29</b> Nuestros Angeles Hispanic Play Group 11am-1pm 	<b>30</b> Literacy Program 4-5pm 	<b>31</b> Literacy Program 5:30-6pm 	<b>March@FoxValley</b>			

## Plainfield Now Calls Fox Valley "Home"

As many of you know, we have moved to a new location! The Playhouse is now located in the strip mall, just to the west of Toys-R-U's at Fox Valley Mall. Our new address is: **4024 Fox Valley Center Drive Aurora, IL 60504**

It has been a long road with lots of challenges and obstacles. With the timing of the new renovations and demolition of the old location, we are quite glad we are finally there!!!

We appreciate your patience as the Playhouse continues to settle into our new home. We will continue to update you regarding any program developments. Many, many thanks to

all volunteers who helped make the move and demolition possible. We look forward to seeing you all soon at our new GiGi's Playhouse Fox Valley location!

Special thanks to our new landlord, owner of Plaza Square, Steve Dawidiuk for the kindness and cooperation that he has showed all of us. We are grateful to Steve for accommodating all the future needs of our Playhouse.

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Tues., March 24th, 2009  
4pm!**

## Goodbye to Plainfield Playhouse






















## Welcome Amanda!

We would like to welcome Amanda Marquardt to GiGi's Playhouse-Fox Valley. Amanda had worked in the corporate world of Marketing and Design before entering the non-profit world. She managed nine different youth programs including; special ed, literacy, tutoring and social recreational programs. Amanda found us through a local job site and researched the Playhouses. She realized that the Playhouse's needs matched her experience and met her needs as well. In making her decision to move she made sure she stayed in non-profit and would be serving a population where she would continue to make a difference in lives. Amanda will be at the Fox Valley location as the site coordinator Monday through Thursday from 11am-3:30pm.



Thank you Amanda for coming to help us! We look forward to creating the environment you have envisioned. Email her at: **foxvalley@gigisplayhouse.org**

# McHENRY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>Nuestros Angeles</b> <i>Hispanic Playgroup</i> 10am-Noon 	<b>2</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 4-6:30pm 	<b>3</b> <b>Open Play</b> 10am-Noon <b>Literacy</b> 4-6:30pm 	<b>4</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 5-6:30pm 	<b>5</b> <b>Literacy</b> 10-11am <b>Literacy</b> 1-3pm <b>Literacy</b> 5-7pm 	<b>6</b> <b>Literacy</b> 4-5pm <b>Signing 'til Dawn</b> 5:30-6:30pm 	<b>7</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 11am-2pm 
<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 4-6:30pm 	<b>10</b> <b>Open Play</b> 10am-Noon <b>Literacy</b> 4-6:30pm <b>Wendy's Night</b> 5-8pm 	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b> <b>Literacy</b> 10-11am <b>Options &amp; Advocacy</b> 10-11:30am <b>Literacy</b> 1-3pm <b>Literacy</b> 5-7pm 	<b>13</b> <b>Literacy</b> 4-5pm <b>Signing 'til Dawn</b> 5:30-6:30pm <b>Teen Tastics</b> 7-8pm 	<b>14</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 11am-2pm 
<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 4-6:30pm 	<b>17</b> <b>Open Play</b> 10am-Noon <b>Literacy</b> 4-6:30pm 	<b>18</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 5-6:30pm 	<b>19</b> <b>Literacy</b> 10-11am <b>Literacy</b> 1-3pm <b>Literacy</b> 5-7pm 	<b>20</b> <b>Literacy</b> 4-5pm <b>Signing 'til Dawn</b> 5:30-6:30pm <b>Kids Club &amp; FFF</b> 6:30-8pm 	<b>21</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 11am-2pm <i>World Down Syndrome Day</i> 
<b>22</b> <b>Daddy &amp; Me</b> 9-11am 	<b>23</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 4-6:30pm 	<b>24</b> <b>Open Play</b> 10am-Noon <b>Literacy</b> 4-6:30pm 	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>Literacy</b> 10-11am <b>Literacy</b> 1-3pm <b>Literacy</b> 5-7pm <b>Book Making</b> <i>Make &amp; Take Night</i> 6:30-8pm 	<b>27</b> <b>Literacy</b> 4-5pm <b>Signing 'til Dawn</b> 5:30-6:30pm <b>Friday Friends</b> 7-9pm 	<b>28</b> <b>Open Play</b> <i>St. Patrick's Day Fun!</i> 10-11:30am <b>Literacy</b> 11am-2pm <b>Skill Builder Saturday</b> 1-3pm 
<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 4-6:30pm 	<b>31</b> <b>Open Play</b> 10am-Noon <b>Literacy</b> 4-6:30pm 				

## GiGi's to the Rescue

We all know of the LOVE that surrounds our Playhouse communities and GiGi's Playhouse had the chance to share that love with people in need. Recently in McHenry, there was a fire that consumed a 14-unit apartment building, leaving 38 people temporarily homeless. One of our PH volunteers read the story in the daily paper and knowing that we have resources that

might help, called to see if there was anything we could do. Just as the Red Cross and the McHenry County Housing Authority have stepped in to help, so have our Playhouses. The Hoffman Estates Playhouse received a large clothing-toy-book donation that was to be used for some of the Nuestros Angeles families. As we relayed the story between Playhouses, we were able to share the gifts with the

families in need. We delivered the donations to a very thankful group people. One resident tearfully expressed her appreciation, "There is nothing more terrifying than losing your home to a fire, losing everything. It is very kind of you to care enough about us (strangers) and give us these things." Thank you to all you contributed donations from the Hoffman Estates and McHenry PH's. This time, we spread the love in a very special way!

## Skill Builder Saturday Proves to be a Great Success!

Developed by Carrie Lucas, a trial program has proved successful in our first run! Skill Builder Saturday is an opportunity for children on any age to work on a variety of skills. Students and

their parents moved between stations to work on programs such as *Touch Math* and *Handwriting Without Tears*. Many parents commented that the session "completely reinforced exactly what the kids were working on in school!" and that "the kids showed

amazing focus and enjoyment of learning during all of the activities." A round of THANKS to Carrie and the teachers who volunteered to make this program so amazingly successful for us. We will be hosting Skill Builders the fourth Saturday of each month. Please join in the fun of learning!



**Tues., March 10th**  
**Wendy's Nite**  
**Fundraiser @ 5-8pm**  
 Join us at Wendy's in McHenry. A portion of all proceeds benefit the McHenry Playhouse. 2433 N. Richmond Rd. (by the Home Depot)

# CHICAGO

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>Nuestros Angeles</b> <i>Hispanic Group</i> 11:15am-1:15pm 	<b>2</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 9-11am 	<b>3</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 4-6:15pm 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Open Play</b> 11:30am-1pm 	<b>6</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 9-11am 	<b>7</b> <b>Open Play</b> 10:15-11:30am 
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 9-11am 	<b>10</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 4-6:15pm 	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 9-11am 	<b>14</b> <b>Playhouse Pals</b> 11:15am-12:45pm 
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 9-11am 	<b>17</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 4-6:15pm 	<b>18</b> <b>3-D IEP Meeting</b> 7pm	<b>19</b> <b>Open Play</b> 11:30am-1pm <b>Volunteer Night</b> <i>New Parent Packet Creation</i> 6:30-8:30pm	<b>20</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 9-11am 	<b>21</b> <b>Open Play</b> 10:15-11:30am <b>Kids Club</b> Noon-1:30pm <i>World Down Syndrome Day</i>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 9-11am 	<b>24</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 4-6:15pm 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 9-11am 	<b>28</b> <b>Crawlers</b> 10-10:45am <b>2 &amp; Under</b> 11am-12:15pm <b>Hop Skip &amp; Jumpers</b> 12:30-2pm
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 9-11am 	<b>31</b> <b>Literacy Program</b> 4-6:15pm 	<h1>March@Chicago</h1>			

## 2nd Annual Game Night

Are you ready for the 2nd Annual Game Night? Well, start warming up! Game night begins at **6pm** on **Saturday, April 25** at the Chicago location. Admission is **FREE** but you've got to "pay to play"! Drinks and food will be provided to sustain you while you try your hand at Blackjack, Jenga, Wii and more. Always thought you should be royalty? Come on down and play! At the end of the evening we will crown the big winner Game Night King/Queen.

Go to [www.gigisplayhouse.org](http://www.gigisplayhouse.org) and click on Game Night to register!

## Literacy

At the beginning of Hop Skip and Jumpers, Veronica stood up and sang her favorite song (besides any Hannah Montana song), the "Stand Up" song. After we sang some more, did our art and crafts and had a snack I had several different parents come up to me asking what I am doing with Veronica because she talks so much and in full sentences. I told them all the same thing. Since I have had her in the literacy program and she is learning how to read, her speech has exploded! I mentioned I feel there is a direct correlation between her reading full sentences and speaking full sentences. Every night as part of her bedtime ritual, before I read her a book, she reads one of her literacy books to me. She picks which book she wants to read, gets the flashcards out and proceeds to read with enthusiasm.

Of course her increased speech is not the only positive thing that has come from the literacy program. She is able to keep up with her peers in her kindergarten class and her teachers are



using the literacy program concept to help her with her Language Arts IEP goals. Would her speech be what it is if she wasn't participating in the literacy program? I don't know. But I'm glad to have the option.

## 21 Club

GiGi's Chicago is thrilled that the 21 Club has been using the Playhouse. We have this great space that is adored by both children and parents. Although the space alone is quite amazing, it is the people who fill it that make it spectacular! Remember, the Playhouse can also be reserved for private parties.





**Hoffman Estates**  
1069 W. Golf Rd.  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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**save the date**  
**Chicago Game Night**  
**April 25, 2009 @ 6pm**  
register now online at  
[gigisplayhouse.org](http://gigisplayhouse.org)

**Sat., April 4**  
**10am - Noon**



Join us to color eggs,  
meet the Easter  
Bunny & go on an  
Easter Egg Hunt!

**Hoffman Playhouse**  
RSVP at [info@  
gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:info@gigisplayhouse.org)

**Get Those  
Teams Together!**

The **5K** is just around the corner and every step counts! Get your friends, family, and co-workers together to start a team! This year, we will have awards for the top team fundraisers!



**i have a voice**

**On Exhibit at the Ela Library**

The "*i have a voice*" Gallery will be featured at the Ela library in Lake Zurich for the entire month of March! Come and see this powerful display and witness the impact it has on all of its' bystanders!



Chicago —

**3-Dimensional  
IEP Meeting**

Come learn strategies for effectively talking about your child at the IEP meeting, building a partnership with your school, and creating an educational environment for your child where he or she can truly thrive. This meeting will be held at the Chicago Playhouse on **March 18th** at **7pm**.

**Hoffman Estates locations**

1069 West Golf Road  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169  
**847.885.PLAY**

**Fox Valley**  
4024 Fox Valley Drive  
Aurora, IL 60504  
**630.778.PLAY**

**McHenry**  
1720 North Richmond Road  
McHenry, IL 60050  
**815.385.PLAY**

**Chicago**  
3660 West Irving Park Road  
Chicago, IL 60618  
**773.583.PLAY**

soon  
to be 5  
locations  
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