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

# What Will the Future Bring?

*Every parent has expectations and concerns about the experience that their child will have in school. Read about Sarah's experiences!*

"I always expected Sarah to be treated like every other student in the school. The biggest surprise is that it is a non-issue. The kids just accept her because she is part of their class", said Lora, Sarah's mom. "I talk to the class every year



about Down syndrome. In Kindergarten, I made a scrapbook called "I Can" with pictures of everything Sarah CAN do — ride a bike, roller skate. I brought personalized Activity Books from GiGi's Playhouse to pass out to all the kids. It had Sarah's picture in it and information about her that showed how she was just like her classmates. When it came to the Q & A portion of that

class, I braced myself for the questions they would ask. "Why does she have a green shirt on in every one of those pictures?" Lora had taken all of the pictures on one day and that is what the kids focused on. In other years, the questions were things like, "Does Sarah like to go to the zoo?" or "How can Sarah do the monkey bars so fast?". Now that the kids are older, a recent question was "will she always have Down syndrome?" As the kids get older and the questions get harder, Lora still feels that Sarah will be part of the class and feels that providing an open forum to ask questions is what has helped Sarah fit in. Sarah is active in Kids Club and the Literacy program at GiGi's and Lora is the accountant for the Playhouse. *Call your local Playhouse to get information on awareness materials that can be used at your school or in your child's classroom.*

# How Blessing Became Inspiration

Who knew that at only 3 months old, you can inspire a crowd of 2,500 people? That's what Katelynn did at the GiGi's 5K! When she was born, the doctors unfortunately didn't see the blessing that had been given to Katelynn's parents. Luckily her grandmother turned up the lights, put the shades up, and bought out the entire gift store with balloons, flowers and 'congratulations' cards. After all, they were celebrating a birth!! That spirit must run in the family because at only 3 months old, Katelynn inspired so many people to join her 5K team and came in 3rd place out of 70 teams! Here is what her mom posted on the event website:



*"The mom's of GiGi's helped us build an incredible team of doctors for Katelynn and guided us through the Early Intervention Process."*

On 2/28/09 we were blessed with our daughter Katelynn Eleanore, she is our first baby and was diagnosed with Down syndrome at birth. Our first time learning of GiGi's was when we

received a celebration package in the mail and then received a call just a few days later congratulating us on our new baby girl & inviting us to Open Play that week! Chris, my mom, Katelynn & I all went not knowing what to expect and the car ride there was quiet. When we walked in, WOW, it was a so warm, so caring, so genuine and all the parents there listened with open hearts and all asked, "What can we do for you?" The mom's of GiGi's helped us build an incredible team of doctors for Katelynn and guided us through the Early Intervention Process. With support and the help from GiGi's Playhouse we will have the opportunity to help Katelynn reach her full potential and become even more amazing everyday.

*Congrats to Katelynn and all the other amazing inspirational teams we saw showing support!*

# Congrats Once Again to Jim Dickerson!

For the 3rd year in a row, Jim won the 5K race. When asked what his motivation for participating in the GiGi's 5K awareness event each year is, he replied simply, "My son, Charlie." He stated that each mile he sees his son's face and that's what keeps him going as a runner. He can't wait for the day when Charlie runs the race with him! *Congratulations Jim!*



*This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Lisa's father, Andrew Loscayk. Lisa's literacy success was featured in the June newsletter and our thoughts go out to her and her family.*

# Literacy Corner

## Phun with Phonics

Lydia and Madison enjoy the group sessions in Phonics! They encourage each other and push each other in all areas including social skills (turn-taking, encouragement, and conversation) and reading skills!!



## Therapists and Educator Open House! September 29th, 7pm at Hoffman Playhouse

Together as a team — parents, educators and therapists — we are the best advocates to surround a child and we can learn from each other!

Come to GiGi's Playhouse to learn about some of the ways a child with

Down syndrome learns to read and hear about the educational and therapeutic programs we have to offer. We can support your efforts in your work with children with Down syndrome. RSVP to [info@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:info@gigisplayhouse.org)

## Changing the Next Generation of Educators!

Elmhurst college has had a long standing partnership with GiGi's. Several times a year, GiGi's speaks to classes at Elmhurst about our literacy program. This helps the future educators understand first and foremost that children with Down syndrome can and do learn to read as well as the way they learn how to read. But it doesn't stop there! Each year, those students come to a GiGi's Playhouse to meet the parents of kids with Down syndrome as well as the kids themselves! This hands-on training is invaluable! As

one of the students stated, "It's one thing to read a book about teaching children with special needs and it's a whole other reality to meet these



amazing individuals — both the parents and the kids!" Or as the teacher emphasized, "Each time I come I am again impacted by the way my students grasp the importance of not relying solely on documentation (text-book definitions, IEP's etc) but to really appreciate the child as individuals." Thanks Elmhurst! We love to share the true reality about Down syndrome with the community — especially future educators, medical professionals and parents! The blessing always supersedes the challenges!

## Soccer Clinic

A Soccer Clinic that was hosted by



**GenWorth Financial and Athletes for Hope** was a huge success! Thank you to the Chicago Storm players for such great coaching for our kids! St. Edwards Catholic High School opened their doors so the clinic could go on in spite of the rain, and provided balls and practice jerseys! The drills focused on physical activity, listening skills and team work.

**Join us August 5th for our second clinic. RSVP at: [info@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:info@gigisplayhouse.org)**

## Springfield Rally!

Once again GiGi's, NADS and Ups for Downs came together to storm the capitol — this time in Springfield. Many meetings with state senators and representatives took place asking for support of the Blueprint for Re-design in Illinois. It is so important for the Down syndrome community to come together with one voice for our opinions to be heard!



## Programs & Activities!

**2 & Under Playgroup** ♦ Families with children 2 and under play while the parents network with each other.

**Crawlers** ♦ This group focuses on crawling, fine motor skills and social interaction with peers.

**Walkers** ♦ This group focuses on post walking skills with peers to prepare children for school activities.

**Hop, Skip & Jumpers** ♦ This program helps promote friendships, social skills, and interactive play through fun creative activities! (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).

**To view a full description of our program, go to our website. Our programs emphasize socialization, motor skills and language development — all within a playful environment!**

**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** ♦ Polish speaking families gather for food, fun, friendship and education!

**Open Play** ♦ 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. This is by appointment only — call your local Playhouse.

**Daddy & Me** ♦ Dads, bring your kids and meet other fathers in your area!

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

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

**Check your local Playhouse calendar to see times and dates.**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<h1>AUGUST</h1>						<b>1</b> Literacy 9-11am Park Potluck Day Noon at Leif Erickson Park
<b>2</b> Friendship Day	<b>3</b> Open Play 10:30am-Noon	<b>4</b> Literacy 9-10am Literacy 4:45-7pm	<b>5</b> Open Play 6-7pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Literacy 9-11am Hop, Skip & Jumpers 10:30-11:30am
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Literacy 9-10am Literacy 4:45-7pm	<b>12</b> Open Play 6-7pm	<b>13</b> Teen Tastic 6-8pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Literacy 9-11am
<b>16</b> Open Play 9-10am	<b>17</b> Kid's Club 6-7pm	<b>18</b> Literacy 9-10am Literacy 4:45-7pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Literacy 9-11am
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Literacy 9-10am Literacy 4:45-7pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Open Play 6-7pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Literacy 9-11am
<b>30</b> Birthday Pals 1-2:30pm July, Aug., Sept.	<b>31</b>					

## Swimming in Special Olympics

Tasha Conklin (16 yrs) received Gold Medals in Breaststroke & Backstroke at the Iowa Special Olympics in May! Tasha is a student of the GiGi's Playhouse Literacy Program and active

in the Teen Tastic/Friday Friends Programs. Tasha's Mom commented: "Swimming is what Tasha does well, she taught herself to swim about 5 yrs ago and took formal lessons & started

competing about 4 years ago." Tasha continues to prove that it is not about the color of the medal or your placement but about your ability and willingness to try while feeling good about who you are!

## Park, Potluck & Fun — August 1st at Noon

Join us at Leif Erickson Park (31st & Court Street) in Sioux City. Bring a dish

to share with everyone, the entire family for games and fun!



## Walk for Awareness

This years Ambassador Family is Todd & Rhea Greve & their children Michaela & Brandon.

Michaela is very active in GiGi's Playhouse Teen Tastic and Open Play. Rhea has been volunteering at GiGi's Playhouse and is a great contact for both GiGi's Playhouse & Buddies For Life new families in Nebraska. This years walk will be held on **Saturday, September 19** at North Middle School from **9am-Noon!** Pre-Registration Forms are available now. 75% of funds raised will be donated to GiGi's Playhouse to help support programs for all ages and overhead expenses.



## Birthday Pals

If you have a Birthday in July, August or September you won't want to miss our Birthday Pals Celebration at GiGi's Playhouse!

RSVP to enjoy Treats, Games & Friends, bring your family along **712.226.PLAY!**



## Thank You

We received a grant from Gateway Foundation for 5 laptop computers for our growing Literacy program in Sioux City. **Thanks Gateway Foundation!**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT						
<h1>AUGUST</h1>						<b>1</b>						
<b>2</b>	Literacy 2:30-6pm	<b>3</b>	Literacy 10am-3pm 	<b>4</b>	Literacy 3-5:15pm Special Intentions Meeting 7-9pm 	<b>5</b>	Open Play 12:30-2pm Meeting 2-3pm Literacy 4-7pm 	<b>6</b>	Literacy 10-11:15am Literacy 2-2:45pm	<b>7</b>	Crawlers 9-9:45am 2 & Under 10-11:30am Hop, Skip & Jumpers Noon-1:30pm Playhouse Pals 2-3:30pm Teen-Tastic 4-5:30pm	
Nuestros Angeles Hispanic Playgroup 11am-1pm 	<b>9</b>	Literacy 5:15-6pm	<b>10</b>	Literacy 10am-2pm 	<b>11</b>	Literacy 3-5:15pm 	<b>12</b>	Open Play 12:30-2pm Literacy 5:30-7pm Wendy's Night 4-8pm 	<b>13</b>	Literacy 10-11:15am Literacy 2-2:45pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	Literacy 2:30-6pm Meeting 7pm	<b>17</b>	Literacy 10am-3pm 	<b>18</b>	Literacy 3-5:15pm 	<b>19</b>	Open Play 12:30-2pm Literacy 4-7pm 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	Kids Club 10-11:30am 	<b>22</b>	
Polish Group 11am-1pm Pizza Party - RSVP to Krystyna at 847.962.4820	<b>23</b>	Literacy 5:15-6pm Meeting 7pm	<b>24</b>	Literacy 10am-2pm	<b>25</b>	Literacy 3-5:15pm Literacy 6:30-8:30pm Bookmaking all are invited! 	<b>26</b>	Open Play 12:30-2pm Literacy 5:30-7pm Wendy's Night 4-8pm 	<b>27</b>	Friday Friends Softball Game & Ice Cream Social 7pm 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>											

### Hop, Skip & Jumpers and Playhouse Pals

Join us for an end of the summer picnic on **August 8** from **1-3pm**. We are bringing both groups together, bring your lunch for our potluck picnic!



### Friday Friends

**August 28 at 7pm** — Invite your family, friends and coworkers to meet you at the Playhouse — we are taking them on — in a friendly kind of way! We're playing softball, then will have an ice cream social. See you then!!!

### Teens (13-17 years old)

GiGi's Playhouse and Best Buddies are teaming up for a back to school celebration on **August 8**, from **4-5:30pm**. We are having a summer jam session with music, karaoke, food, laughs & friendship!

### Special Olympics World Champion Visits Kids Club!

Marc Janovics, a Special Olympics Gymnastics World Champion was our special guest, and talked about his Olympic experience in China! He demonstrated some gymnastics for us, and then Marc and local gymnasts Karina and Adrianna taught us all some great gymnastics skills. It was a great program about how much potential kids with Down syndrome have! Hosts Ellyn &



Gary involve the parents in some of the decision making and events and are always available to answer questions or help. All 9-12 year old kids are invited — bring your friends from school.

### Literacy Bookmaking Night

Once a month, volunteers come to the Hoffman Playhouse to help support the kids in our Literacy program. Custom materials for all reading levels are created for literacy students by our volunteers. Increasing reading and comprehension skills builds confidence and self esteem for individuals with Down syndrome. Senior Girl Scout Troop 2203 joined other volunteers this month to help our kids. Interested in helping? Join us on the last Wednesday

of each month between 6:30-8:30pm. Please RSVP by email to [info@gigisplayhouse.com](mailto:info@gigisplayhouse.com) or call the Playhouse at **847.885.7529** so we have materials prepared for you.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<h1>AUGUST</h1>						<b>1</b> 2 & Under 9:30-11am 3-4 yr old Playgroup 11am-Noon
<b>2</b> Tot Class 9:30-11am RSVP 630.778.PLAY Open Play 11am-1pm RSVP 630.778.PLAY	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> NEW Mom's Night Out 7pm Pampered Chef RSVP 815.685.1164	<b>7</b> Teen-Tastic 7-9pm RSVP 630.778.PLAY	<b>8</b> Walkers Group 9-10:30am Daddy & Me 3-4:30pm
<b>9</b> Tot Class 9:30-11am RSVP 630.778.PLAY Open Play 11am-1pm RSVP 630.778.PLAY	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Special Olympic Young Athletes 4:15-5pm 5-5:45pm	<b>13</b> Wendy's Fundraiser 5-8pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Playhouse Pals 2-4pm
<b>16</b> Tot Class 9:30-11am RSVP 630.778.PLAY Open Play 11am-1pm RSVP 630.778.PLAY	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Karate Kickers Ages 8-12: 5:15-5:45pm 13 and up: 6-6:30pm RSVP 815.436.3817	<b>20</b> NEW Mom's Night Out 7pm Discovery Toys RSVP 630.778.PLAY	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Tot Class 9:30-11am Open Play 11am-1pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> GiGi's Family Night 6-8pm RSVP 630.844.1720	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Nuestros Angeles Hispanic Playgroup 11am-1pm	<b>31</b>					

## 2 and Under

One of the best things that I ever did was regularly attend the 2 & Under playgroup. I am now the host of this group at the Fox Valley location. The information that I gathered at this monthly playgroup has been wonderful in contributing to my son's development.



I learned about different therapies, as well as clinics and other evaluations that have benefited my son.

When moms get together to share information, you're guaranteed some great ideas that will help your little one with the goals you are trying to help them achieve!! Come to the 2 & Under playgroup at the Fox Valley location on the **first Saturday** of the month, **9:30-11am**. Please feel free to contact Sue Cicero with any questions on this group, **630.836.1892**.

## NEW Mom's Night Out...

### Pampered Chef

Join us for a Pampered Chef Fundraiser and a Pamper yourself party. Invite a friend or neighbor (no kids).

Come to our "Keep it Cool and Pamper Yourself" show **August 6th**, at **7pm** where we will learn how to make impressive no-bake desserts. We would also like to pamper our "moms" with an express manicure donated by Mehndi Spa!

If you're interested in joining us for a fun evening, please RSVP to **pottinger@comcast.net** or call **815.685.1164**. Hope to see you there!

If you are not able to attend and would like to order to help support our Playhouse programs, please go to **www.pamperedchef.biz/anitap**.

Hit SHOP ONLINE on the bottom left then enter GiGi's Playhouse Fox Valley as Host name in the first box. Click our location when it pops up and begin shopping!



### Discovery Toys Event

Come to "Mom's Night Out" on **August 20th at 7pm** at GiGi's Playhouse. Patti Underwood is presenting a Parent Workshop entitled "Learning Thru Play". This workshop will provide: insight on how children think/learn, positive hands on parenting skills, tools that will enhance your child's development, ways to enhance your child's self-esteem, and encourage family interaction thru play. She will feature Discovery Toys, which are safe, durable, educational and developmental toys, games and books for all ages.











discoverytoys



A portion of the proceeds from purchases ordered at the Parent Workshop will help fund our programs.

Please RSVP to Annie at: **foxvalley@gigisplayhouse.org**

SUN		MON		TUE		WED		THUR		FRI		SAT			
<b>McHENRY</b>															
<b>AUGUST</b>															
1		2 <b>Nuestros Angeles</b> Hispanic Playgroup 10am-Noon 		3 <b>Literacy</b> 4:30pm		4 <b>Open Play</b> 10am-Noon <b>Literacy</b> 1:30pm 		5		6 <b>GiGi's Cheer</b> 4pm <i>at Layton Athletics</i>		7 <b>Signing til' Dawn</b> 5:30-6:30pm 		8	
9		10 <b>Literacy</b> 4:30pm		11 <b>Open Play</b> 10am-Noon <b>Literacy</b> 1:30pm <b>Wendy's Night</b> 5-8pm		12		13 <b>Options &amp; Advocacy</b> 10am <b>GiGi's Cheer</b> 4pm <i>at Layton Athletics</i>		14 <b>Signing til' Dawn</b> 5:30-6:30pm <b>Teen Tastics</b> 7pm 		15			
16		17 <b>Literacy</b> 4:30pm		18 <b>Open Play</b> 10am-Noon <b>Literacy</b> 1:30pm 		19		20 <b>GiGi's Cheer</b> 4pm <i>at Layton Athletics</i>		21 <b>Signing til' Dawn</b> 5:30-6:30pm <b>FFF &amp; Kids Club</b> 6:30pm 		22 <b>Skill Builder</b> 10am-Noon			
23 <b>Daddy &amp; Me</b> 9-11am 		24 <b>Literacy</b> 4:30pm		25 <b>Open Play</b> 10am-Noon <b>Literacy</b> 1:30pm 		26 <b>Book Making</b> Nite 6:30pm		27 <b>GiGi's Cheer</b> 4pm <i>at Layton Athletics</i>		28 <b>Signing til' Dawn</b> 5:30-6:30pm		29 <b>Themed Open Play</b> 10-11:30am			
30		31 <b>Literacy</b> 4:30pm													

## Hawgs & Hot Rods Krusin 4 the Kids Ice Cream Poker Run

Motorcyclists and Cars collectors came together on Sunday June 28th to Spread the Love across an 85-mile route through Northwest Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. We were all winners due to the generous sponsorship by the Road Pirates and the Woodstock Harley-Davidson Buell Group. Almost 150 vehicles and hundreds of on-lookers participated in the event, riding, enjoying a picnic lunch, listening to great music which set the scene and a buzz of excitement for playing poker and picking out raffle prizes. The event was the dream of Mandie's dad, Steve Polizzi. "Our lives have been so blessed



by being involved in the Playhouse; we just wanted to give something back." When he pitched the idea to his 80-member motorcycle riding group they didn't even blink an eye and took ownership of a planning committee right away. The Road Pirates showed unconditional love to join our mission to spread awareness of Down syndrome. All of us at the McHenry Playhouse open our arms and extend a big GiGi's Hug of Appreciation!



## FFF & Kid's Club is Heating Up for the Summer!

Kids 5-12 meet the 3rd Friday of the month from 6:30-8:30pm for a craft, snack the children make themselves, a group activity that requires cooperation and a game that is just plain fun, with some therapy hidden in.



## New programs in McHenry leads to S-U-C-C-E-S-S!

It's hard to be humble, when you can jump, stunt, and tumble!

The GiGi's Cheer LXC squad has taken flight! We have 14 members in the squad who meet every Thursday to work out in preparation for the upcoming competition season this fall!

CHICAGO							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	
<b>AUGUST</b>							<b>1</b> Open Play 11:15am-12:30pm 
<b>2</b> Nuestros Angeles Hispanic Playgroup 11:15am-1:15pm 	<b>3</b> Literacy 9-11am 	<b>4</b> Literacy 4-6:15pm 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Open Play 11:30am-1pm 	<b>7</b> Literacy 9-11am 	<b>8</b> Playhouse Pals 11:15am-12:45pm 	
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Literacy 9-11am 	<b>11</b> Literacy 4-6:15pm 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Literacy 9-11am 	<b>15</b> Open Play 11:15am-12:30pm Kids Club 4-5:30pm 	
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Literacy 9-11am Motivational Monday 7-9pm 	<b>18</b> Literacy 4-6:15pm 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Open Play 11:30am-1pm 	<b>21</b> Literacy 9-11am 	<b>22</b> Crawlers 10-10:45am 2 & Under 11am-12:15pm Hop Skip & Jumpers 12:30-2pm	
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Literacy 9-11am	<b>25</b> Literacy 4-6:15pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Literacy 9-11am 	<b>29</b>	
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Literacy 9-11am 						

## What a Party!



Veronica invited her classmates and friends to the Chicago Playhouse for her 6th birthday party! They had a great time playing games, using the obstacle course there and hanging out together! What a great way to spread awareness to Veronica's classmates and their families as they come into the Playhouse and learn about Down syndrome! Are you interested in having a party at the Playhouse?

Call **773.385.7529** for more info!



## Motivational Mondays The Series

This series at the Chicago Playhouse is off to a great start. The programs have been well received and attendance is growing! Since beginning this program we have welcomed a variety of speakers in the following areas:

- April** IEP's
- May** Sibling Relationships
- June** Speech Therapy
- July** Physical Therapy

Now it's your turn to provide us with topics you would like to see discussed at a Motivational Monday. Please submit your topic suggestions to the Motivational Monday's coordinator, Peggy Delaney at: [PDelaney@klcorp.com](mailto:PDelaney@klcorp.com)

## In September

Special Needs Trust — Learn about the importance of estate planning for your child and family. We will review the different types of trusts and the resources available for assisting with writing wills. A Special Needs Trust allows you to set aside inheritance without disqualifying your child from receiving government benefits such as SSI and Medicaid. The date of the session will be announced in the September newsletter.

## Update

On **Monday, August 17th at 7pm** we will view the documentary "Shorty — One Simple Wish. One

extraordinary man." Produced by Michael Furno and Danny Aiello.

"Shorty is an inspirational documentary film about Walter "Shorty" Simms, a 55 year old man with Down syndrome, and the Hampden-Sydney Tigers football team's #1 fan." This documentary chronicles Walters 56th birthday wish to beat Randolph Macon Yellow Jackets. As we experience his season with the team we learn about his family's commitment to providing a fulfilling life for Walter and how Hampden-Sydney embraced Walter and honored him in their Hall of Fame. Please join us in viewing this moving film. Popcorn will be served!



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Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

**SAVE THESE DATES**

- July 30th ■ FOX VALLEY**  
**Golf Outing — Register Now!**
- Sept. 19th ■ SIOUX CITY, IA**  
**Walk For Awareness 9am-Noon**
- Sept. 19th ■ FOX VALLEY**  
**Charity Bike Ride**
- Sept. 27th ■ FOX VALLEY**  
**Bag Toss Tournament**
- Oct. 4th ■ HOFFMAN ESTATES**  
**GiGiFest**  
**6th Anniversary Celebration**
- Oct. 24th ■ CHICAGO**  
**2nd Annual Taste of GiGi's**
- Nov. 1st ■ McHENRY**  
**2nd Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon**

*Hoffman Estates —*

**GiGi's Wins First Place!**

Thank you, Patrick Sommer! Patrick chose GiGi's Playhouse for his Eagle Scout project. He designed and built a great float for our 4th of July Parade and we won first place!

The theme was "Great Things are Blooming at GiGi's Playhouse" and the float featured many pictures of our kids "blooming" among the flowers.



The Scouts joined Playhouse families in the parade to help spread awareness about Down syndrome throughout the community.



**Join us Oct. 4th for GiGiFest:  
Our 6th Anniversary Celebration!**

**Noon-3pm**

- BounceHouses • Petting Zoo • Ronald McDonald**
- Pony Rides • Our 2010 Calendar Models!**



**Therapist & Educator Open House!**

**Sept. 29th, 7pm, Hoffman Playhouse**

Come and learn about ways a child with Down syndrome learns to read and hear about the educational and therapeutic programs we have to offer! As a team of educators, therapists and parents, we can work together for the success of all children with Down syndrome!

**Soccer Clinic All Playhouses**

All kids age 6-18 are invited, including friends and siblings (6-18).

RSVP to [info@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:info@gigisplayhouse.org).

**August 5th** in Elgin.

**DDC Buddy Walk**  
**September 20th**

Lambs Farm  
Libertyville, IL

