



Down Syndrome Awareness Centers

educate. inspire. achieve.

August 2010

Newsletter

www.gigisplayhouse.org
info@gigisplayhouse.org

Hoffman Estates Location
1069 W. Golf Rd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
847.885.PLAY (7529)

Fox Valley Location
4024 Fox Valley Center Dr.
Aurora, IL 60504
630.778.PLAY (7529)

McHenry Location
5404 W. Elm St. Suite A.
McHenry, IL 60050
815.385.PLAY (7529)

Rockford Location
8801 N 2nd
Machesney Park, IL 61115

NEW! Chicago Location
3948 N Lincoln Ave
Chicago, IL 60613
773.583.PLAY (7529)

Sioux City Location
1551 Indian Hills Drive,
Suite 7
Sioux City, Iowa 51104
712.226.PLAY (7529)

Des Moines Location
10430 New York Ave
Suite A
Urbandale, IA 50322
515.252.PLAY (7529)



A Dream Come True!

It began on New Years Eve 2009 around the dinner table. Each family member went around and named their New Years resolution. When it was Megan's turn, she announced that hers was to run a 5K! Megan has been following Weight Watchers and has already lost almost 20 lbs! At the beginning of the year, she began meeting with trainers 2x a week. The goal was to run a 5K and she was going to do whatever it takes, she ran and did strength training. She was all set to run the MidWest Heart 5K and then she received a card in the mail stating that

the run was cancelled! She was disappointed to say the least. So she began looking for other places to run and everyone started to give her suggestions. Then a flyer came in the mail for the GiGi's 5K and she decided that was the perfect organization to run for! You see, Megan has Down syndrome so GiGi's is near and dear to her heart. She recruited her 2 sisters to run with her and they were off! Megan called the playhouse to get the details and talked to Nancy. They decided that Megan would start the race.

In her own words...

I wanted to run to make my trainers and family proud. I ended up making myself proud! It was awesome! I have 3 jobs right now working at North Central College, Innovations Hair Salon, and Pheiffer Treatment Center. I would love to work at Starbucks one day too because I love coffee! I want to thank my family and friends—they have been supporting me from the beginning! I want to especially thank my mom and dad since they have been there for me from day 1!!



The i have a voice Traveling Gallery Wows the Crowd!

The Traveling Gallery is busy traveling across the country! In July, it was featured at the National Down Syndrome Conference in Orlando, Florida. Over 5,000 people saw this exhibit and were mesmerized by the beauty in the photos of each individual with Down syndrome. The onlookers included parents, professionals, educators and self advocates.

Some comments we heard...

"What a great way to spread awareness around the country!"

"Thank you for making this for everyone's use! I have so many ideas of places it should go!"

"These larger-than-life portraits really increase my daughters self esteem! Watching her go from picture to picture and reading the quotes was amazing."

"Hey! She looks like me!"



It's finally here, and you are invited to come see what our new GiGi's Math Program can do for your child!

At a series of informational sessions, our Math Program developers will explain how this program may help improve your child's math skills, show you some of what your child will use in our program, and demonstrate some easy things you can do right now at home; and, of course, provide you information on how you can be a part of this exciting educational program!

The program is written to begin at preschool and work up through any age; and will pilot at our Hoffman Estates, Fox Valley and Chicago locations. Please check each of these playhouse calendars for dates, times and RSVP information.

As with all programming at GiGi's, volunteers are the key to success. Please contact your Hoffman Estates, Fox Valley or Chicago Playhouse if you are interested in volunteering in one of the following areas:

- Tutors (minimum one hour per week)
- Scheduling Coordinator (may work from home)
- Copy and material making support
- Materials Manager (ranging between 1-5 hours per week)



2011 Calendar Order Form

name _____ order date _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

phone _____

email address _____

number of calendars _____ X \$12 each = _____

shipping (1-4 qty, \$5) (5-8 qty, \$8) (8+ qty, \$12) _____

order total \$ _____

send check made out to GiGi's Playhouse or money order to:
GiGi's Playhouse, 1069 west golf road, hoffman estates, IL 60169

name on credit card _____

credit card type (visa, mastercard, etc.) _____ card number _____ expiration date _____

signature _____ security code number on back of card _____

Calendars will be mailed in September.
To order this calendar or other products online check our website at www.gigisplayhouse.org

name of calendar kid to credit for this purchase _____

GiGi's phone: 847-885-PLAY



Calling all Mathies!

Parents, teachers, friends, students and ANYONE interested- Come to your Chicago, Fox Valley or Hoffman Estates Playhouse for an informal, informational session on our upcoming GiGi's Math Program. Our program developers would love to provide you more information on how our new Math Program may benefit your child, student, family member, friend or self! Not only will be there to answer your questions, but we will also provide some hands-on stations for everyone to check-out some of the cool activities and tools we will be using to build math skills.

We will also have forms available for you to indicate how you would like to help us make this program the best it can be!

Put it on your calendar, today! And be sure to RSVP one of the following Playhouses if you plan on attending.

Meeting dates are:

- August 16, 7pm – Fox Valley
- August 19, 7pm- HE
- August 21, 11am – Chicago

Sioux City, Iowa

Fall Literacy Program

Register today for our FREE Literacy Program! Fall Literacy Program
Fall Literacy Program will run Sept 7 – Nov 20! Email literacySC@gigisplayhouse.org to register! Literacy Meet & Greet with pizza will be held on Mon, Aug 2 @ 6pm! Please bring your family photos!

Mini Golf

Join us on Sat, Aug 7 @ 2pm for Mini Golf at the North 40 Mini Golf Course in Sioux City! Everyone is invited and lots of FUN for the whole family!!

Join us along the parade route at Pioneer Valley Days in Sgt Bluff on Sat, Aug 14 for an awesome chance to spread awareness! If you would like to walk in the parade with us email eventSC@gigisplayhouse.org! Parade starts at 10:30am!!



Join us on **Saturday, Aug 28** at **Chris Larsen Shelter in Sioux City, IA** for our **Annual Walk for Down syndrome Awareness!** Registration begins at 8am with the 1 mile walk starting at 10am! Silent Auction, Bounce Houses, Crafts & Games from 8:30am-Noon! Registration is \$10 per person and includes a T-shirt! Register your Team, Join a Team or Donate at www.events.org/gigiwalksc! If you are interested in volunteering at the walk email volunteersc@gigisplayhouse.org today!



Chili's Fundraiser

Chili's Fundraiser will be held on Sun, Aug 8! Come to Chili's in Sioux City and tell them you would like to support GiGi's Playhouse. A portion of your total will go to the Playhouse for our FREE activities and programs!

Dine-In, Carry-Out, Dinner, Lunch, Drinks & Appetizers!



Des Moines

I am so excited to be the Literacy Coordinator for GiGi's Playhouse-Des Moines. And, the main reason for my excitement...my amazing son, Joshua. Joshua is seven and absolutely LOVES books!! He can spend hours looking through them and signing all he sees and reads. Joshua is unique in that he has Down syndrome and is also deaf. Joshua attends a school with a Deaf Ed program and communicates solely through sign language. Everyone is amazed at his signing abilities and his huge loving heart. He has a hug and kiss for everyone!! I know Joshua will love coming to GiGi's for the literacy tutoring and all the books, but also because he will make lots of new friends to play and sign with.



Playhouse Pals

On Thursday, August 19th, we will have our first get together with our playhouse pals, which are our children with Down syndrome, ages 6-8 yrs old. We plan to decorate t-shirts with cool stamps and paints, so have your child bring a t-shirt from home. If you want your child to bring his/her Buddy Walk t-shirt to decorate, we will have plenty of supplies to accommodate a "walking" theme!! We will be providing cookies and drinks for your child. We look forward to starting what is sure to be another fun activity at GiGi's!!

End of Summer Splash!!!

Please join us on Sunday, August 15th, to celebrate the end of our first summer at GiGi's!! We will have the wading pool/splash pad reserved 4:30-7:30pm, so pack a picnic for your fam, and we will provide the dessert!!! Please RSVP to Meagan Wortock at wortockjmhh@msn.com if you are able to join us, so we can check you off the list as you come in!! This is fun for all ages, so we hope to see you there!!!!



Hoffman Estates 4th of July Parade

The parade theme this year was Hometown USA, and our float was filled with "Playhouses" full of kids, featuring lots of pictures of our kids! Thank you, Mary Jo and family, for leading our parade this year!!

Thank you, Knights of Columbus!

On June 24th, the Knights of Columbus at St. Matthews Parish in Schaumburg presented the Hoffman Playhouse with a donation; we were a benefactor from Church of the Holy Spirit. Hannah Hefferan and Brett Wheatley accepted the donation on behalf of the Hoffman Playhouse. Thank you so much to the Knights for supporting our Playhouse and all the wonderful things their donation enables us to provide our families!



The Cookbook is here!

Purchase your copy of the best cookbook in town! \$10, proceeds go to the Playhouse!

Kids Club is busy!

We had a great time with our visitor in June – Sophie, a therapy dog! Sophie showed us so many things that she could do! In July, we had a Pretzel Party – Kim & Scott's Gourmet Pretzels donated everything for great pretzels that we created and decorated, thank you! August 28 - we go to the farm! RSVP to hoffmanestates@gigisplayhouse.org or call the Playhouse – we are NOT meeting at the Playhouse!



Polish Group

Join us on August 22 - RSVP to Krystyna at 847.962.4820.

FRIDAY FRIENDS

The football team visited the Playhouse for karaoke, now we're supporting the Schaumburg Football team at their first game on Friday, August 27 at 7pm! Please RSVP with number of parents and number of Friday Friends attending to hoffmanestates@gigisplayhouse.org or call 847-885-7529, we will mail you all of the details! (We are NOT meeting at the Playhouse!)

HSJ and PP TOGETHER!

We are combining forces for the summer! August 10 – we will all meet together from 12:30-1:30!



Thank you, Prince of Peace volunteers! A group from Prince of Prince Lutheran Church volunteered during a recent Open Play – we had a blast together! They donated craft projects and played with all of the kids. We are using some of the donated supplies for our 4th of July float! Thank you so much!!

McHenry

EVERY TUESDAY Open Play 10am – noon ~ come join us for Pizza & Friendship

So Much Support! Since the re-opening of the McHenry Playhouse we have had an outstanding amount of support by individual volunteers and groups. The SPINS Group (Specialty Products of Independent Networkers) hosted a vendor fair at the McHenry Playhouse. There was a great turnout and much awareness was gained for GiGi's mission! Thank you to all who participated in this event your generosity is very much appreciated!

Working together...The McHenry GiGi's Playhouse & FINDS group joined together to participate in the Crystal Lake 4th of July Parade and the McHenry Fiesta Days Parade. The float theme this year was "Beach" together we built a huge sand castle for kids to sit in and "float" down the streets. Everyone had great time waving to the crowds and passing out candy!



Grace has a way with people. She brightens a room when she walks into it... When my mother, Dorothy, was diagnosed with lung cancer last September, my first thought was of my children. I was very concerned about how they were going to handle being without her. She was, after all their only living grandparent. But children are resilient; they bounce back and move on. It's the adults in the family who are left scarred and saddened.



When it became apparent that my mom was not going to beat the cancer and have one of those miraculous "fight the good fight" battles, she stepped up and accepted it. I was still in denial, but she was not. She kept telling me to grab the camera and get some good pictures; she knew time was running out.

On May 4, 2010, she took her last breaths. She was at home, in her bed, with all her children surrounding her and holding her hands. She was peaceful and beautiful we were all in tears. Each of my children came up and said their goodbyes after she had passed. Gracie came into the room, looked around at all of us, and saw my mom on the bed. She gave her a pat on the head, a kiss on the cheek, and said "Feel better soon, Teeta" and scampered out of the room. Everyone knew Grace held a special place in my mom's heart and for a very brief second, the sad mood in the room brightened. At Dorothy's memorial her family had gifts sent to GiGi's Playhouse in memory of Grace's Grandma. Thank you to those who donated in her memory.

Chicago

We have a New Location!

2010 brought the focus on our academic programming and we have found the perfect location for it!

On August 1st, we are moving to our new home! It's a perfect location with windows on both sides – imagine the awareness we will get about Down syndrome! And there is parking available too! We are working hard to build out the space with 2 literacy rooms, program space and materials.

**3948 N Lincoln Ave
Chicago, IL 60613**

**Volunteers needed —
We can't do it without you!**

Regular program hours resume for August—check out the Chicago calendar!



New Math Program being piloted here in the fall!

Wednesdays Open Play and Lunch

Toys, pizza and music all around... but our little Danny and Claire prefer a quiet moment with a good book!



Fox Valley

The First National Lemonade Day

Illinois' 1st Annual National Lemonade Day was on May 2nd, 2010. In honor of this day, Jericho, Dylan and Ella Chiu made a lemonade stand at their home. Their parents, Victor and Gloria, asked them where they would like to donate their earnings, and almost immediately, they responded with GiGi's Playhouse and their church! "This just reinforced our thoughts of what a positive impact GiGi's Playhouse has had on our lives, not only to our Jericho,



but to our whole family!"

Jericho has opened our lives and helped us discover a whole, new world! By connecting with NADS and GiGi's Playhouse, we have experienced events, places and met people that we otherwise would have never experienced or met! We often say that our Jericho is our 'ticket to the world'!

We hope this first Lemonade Day in Illinois will be a step towards greater awareness and support for children with Down's syndrome — helping others discover a whole new world too!"

Tour de GiGi's!

Tour de GiGi's is just around the corner on Saturday, September 18th starting at Fox Valley Kickers in Oswego. Enjoy scenic routes through the countryside of Plainfield and Oswego with 21 mile, 42 mile and New Metric Century (63 mile) rides. Prizes, raffles and exhilarating rides await you!

The cost is \$30.00 per person and all proceeds benefit GiGi's Playhouse Fox Valley. For more details or to register online go to our website at www.gigisplayhouse.org and click on the Tour de GiGi's link.

We are also in need of a handful of volunteers who would enjoy helping at this fantastic event. There are various 'stations' to assist with - and times and responsibilities vary.

Please contact Wendy at weurich@gigisplayhouse.org or call 630-778-PLAY for more details.



The Bakke Family Volunteers @ GiGi's Family Night

Debby and Meghan Bakke have been regular volunteers for GiGi's Family Night. Meghan's little sister, Mary, had her first visit to GiGi's this June!

Debby and Meghan started their volunteer efforts, due to Duane, Debby's brother with Ds. Duane will be 51 years young in August this year! This was also Debby's way to give back, for people giving to her brother and her family when they were growing up! She says "we never had anything like this – it is so awesome!"

Debby's daughter, Meghan, started volunteering with the Special Olympic Young Athletes group since December 2009. She received an award for her volunteer efforts with GiGi's Playhouse. Meghan shares "she is always happy afterwards!" It makes her smile and she really enjoys it.

Thank you to the Bakke Family – Debby, Meghan & Mary – for donating their time to GiGi's!!



Sioux City

- 1 Literacy Program, 4:30-5pm
- 2 Fall Literacy Meet & Greet, 6pm
- 3 Open Play, 9-10:30
- 5 Literacy Program, 9-10am
Literacy Program, 5:30-6:30pm
- 6 Literacy Program, 9-10am
- 7 Literacy Program, 9:30-11am
Mini Golf Outing @ North 40 Mini Golf, 2pm
- 8 All Day Chili's Fundraiser
Literacy Program, 4:30-5pm
- 9 Open Play, 9-10:30am
- 14 Pioneer Valley Days Parade in Sgt Bluff, 10:30am
Family Fun Afternoon with PIZZA, 12:30-2pm
Walk Meeting, 1pm
- 16 Open Play, 5-6:30pm
- 21 Hop, Skip & Jumpers, 9-10:30am
2 and Under Group, 9-10:30am
- 23 Open Play, 9-10:30am
- 28 Walk for Down syndrome Awareness @ Chris Larsen Shelter, 8-Noon
- 30 Open Play, 9-10:30am

Des Moines

- 3 Open Play w/pizza, 6-7:30pm
- 9 Pizza Ranch Tip Night @ Pizza Ranch in Waukee, 5-8pm
- 12 Open Play, 10-11:30
- 13 Friday Friends Bingo Night, 7-9pm
- 14 Music Around the World with Ms Ann, 11am
- 15 End of Summer Splash @ Ashby Wading Pool, 4:30-7:30pm
Pack a picnic, dessert will be provided. RSVP to wortockjmhh@msn.com
- 17 Open Play w/pizza, 6-7:30pm
- 19 Playhouse Pals t-shirt decorating party, 6:30-8:30pm.
Bring a t-shirt to decorate.
- 20 Mom's Night Out, 7-11pm
- 21 Craft & Story Time with Ms Jo, 11am
- 28 Buddy Walk!!!
- 31 Open Play w/pizza, 6-7:30pm

McHenry

- Daddy & Me** (quarterly only, look for October date)
- EVERY TUESDAY** Open Play 10am – noon ~ come join us for Pizza & Friendship
- 3 Polish reading group "Czytamy Po Polsku", 4-6pm must RSVP (847)978-0607 or (815)385-7529
 - 4 New- SMILE (Social & Life Skills group), 4:15pm
 - 5 Art Class, 4 pm
FINDS reading group, 6:30pm
 - 10 Polish reading group "Czytamy Po Polsku", 4-6pm must RSVP (847)978-0607 or (815)385-7529
Baby Yoga, 9:15am
Wendy's Night-McHenry, 5-8pm
 - 11 Evening Open Play, 5-7pm come for fun & friendship
Show Me A Sign, 6pm (basic signing class, all ages welcome)
 - 12 Options & advocacy, 10am
FINDS reading group, 6:30pm
 - 13 Teen Tastics, 7pm games & snacks
 - 14 Crawlers, 10:15am join our Occupational Therapist for movement
 - 16 Wendy's Night Crystal Lake, 5-8pm (Rt. 14 & Main St.)
 - 19 Art Class, 4 pm
 - 20 Kids Club, 6:30pm, bring a friend, games, snacks & more!
 - 21 Bring a friend to play, 2-4pm
 - 24 Baby Yoga, 9:15am
 - 25 Bookmaking, 6:30pm, come help the Literacy program
Show Me A Sign, 6pm (basic signing class, all ages welcome)
 - 27 Friday Friends, 7pm at the playhouse!

Programs & Activities

Open Play – Promotes networking and socializing for families with children of all ages with Down syndrome

Crawlers Program – Helps facilitate and strengthen the skills in children who are at the developmental stage of crawling.

Walkers Program – Facilitates and strengthens the skills in children who are beginning to walk.

2 & Under Group – Promotes positive beginnings for families with an infant or toddler with Down syndrome, with a focus on ongoing support and networking for new and current families

3-4 Play Group – Promotes networking and socializing for families with children with Down syndrome ages 3-4,

Hop, Skip and Jumpers – Promotes friendships, social skills and interactive play through creative and educational activities for pre-school and kindergarten-aged children

Playhouse Pals – Promotes friendships, social skills and interactive play through structured and educational activities for children ages 6-8

Kid's Club – This face-paced program promotes friendships, social skills and communication through creative and educational activities for children ages 9-12

Teen-Tastic – This group promotes friendships, social interaction and communication through a variety of social activities, outings and games for teens aged 13-17

Friday Night Friends – This group promotes friendships, social interaction and communication through a variety

of social activities, outings for adults 18 and over

Daddy and Me – Promotes positive interactions and social networking between children with Down syndrome and their male role models

Family Night – This program promotes positive beginnings for new families with a focus on positive social interactions among peers and siblings

Hispanic Group (Nuestros Angeles) – Provides support, friendship, networking and socializing for Spanish-speaking families

Polish Group – Provides support, friendship, networking and socializing for Polish-speaking families

Literacy Program – This FREE program teaches and reinforces children and adults with Down syndrome reading, comprehension and phonics skills

Hoffman Estates

Every Thursday: Open Play – 12:30 – 2pm

- 3 Literacy, 9-10:30am, 3:30-4:15pm
- 4 Literacy, 1:45-2:30pm, 4-5:30pm, 6-6:45pm
Special Intentions, 7-9pm
- 5 Literacy, 11am-4:45pm
- 6 Family Fun Night!, 6:30-8:30pm – bring the whole family! RSVP to hoffmanestates@gigisplayhouse.org (number of adults and kids)
- 7 Literacy, 9-9:45, 2-2:45
- 8 Nuestros Angeles Hispanic Playgroup, 11:15am-1pm
- 9 Literacy, 5:30-6:15pm
- 10 Literacy, 9-10:30am, 3:30-4:15pm
- 11 Literacy, 5:30-6:15
- 12 Literacy, 1:30-3pm, 7-7:45pm
- 14 Crawlers, 9-9:45, 2 & Under 10-11:30am
HSJ & PP, 12:30-1:30pm
Literacy 2-2:45pm
- 16 Meeting, 7pm
- 17 Literacy, 9-10:30am, 3:30-4:15pm
- 18 Literacy, 1:45-2:30, 4-5:50, 6-6:45pm
- 19 Literacy, 11-4, 4:30-5:15pm
- 21 Literacy, 9-9:45, 2-2:45
- 22 Polish Group, 11am-1pm, RSVP to Krystyna 847-962-4820
- 23 Literacy, 5:30-6:15
- 24 Literacy, 9-10:30am, 3:30-4:15pm
- 25 Literacy, 5:30-6:15
- 26 Literacy, 7-7:45pm
- 27 Friday Friends at the Schaumburg Football Game, RSVP to hoffmanestates@gigisplayhouse.org or 847-885-7529, we will NOT be at the Playhouse.
- 28 Kids Club at the Farm, meet at the farm at 10am! RSVP to hoffmanestates@gigisplayhouse.org or 847-885-7529. We will NOT be at the Playhouse!
- 30 Training, 6-8pm

Chicago

- 2 Literacy Tutoring, 1:00-1:45pm
- 3 Literacy Tutoring, 3:00-3:45pm
- 4 Open Play with Courtney and Nancy, 11am-1pm
Literacy Tutoring, 1:00-1:45pm
- 5 Literacy Tutoring, 10:00-10:45am
- 6 Literacy Tutoring, 12:30-1:15pm
- 7 Open Play, 9-11am
Literacy Tutoring, 10:00-10:45am
- 9 Literacy Tutoring, 6:00-6:45pm
- 10 Literacy Tutoring, 1:00-1:45pm
- 11 Literacy Tutoring, 2:00-2:45pm
Open Play with Courtney and Nancy, 11am-1pm
- 12 Literacy Tutoring, 5:00-5:45pm
- 13 Literacy Tutoring, 3:30-4:15pm
- 16 Literacy Tutoring, 1:00-1:45pm
- 17 Literacy Tutoring, 3:00-3:45pm
- 18 Open Play with Courtney and Nancy, 11am-1pm
Literacy Tutoring, 1:00-1:45pm
- 19 Literacy Tutoring, 10:00-10:45am
- 20 Literacy Tutoring, 12:30-1:15pm
- 21 Literacy Tutoring, 10:00-10:45am
- 23 Literacy Tutoring, 6:00-6:45pm
- 24 Literacy Tutoring, 1:00-1:45pm
- 25 Literacy Tutoring, 2:00-2:45pm
Open Play with Courtney and Nancy, 11am-1pm
- 26 Literacy Tutoring, 5:00-5:45pm
- 27 Literacy Tutoring, 3:30-4:15pm
- 28 Hop, Skip and Jumpers, 3-5pm

Fox Valley

- 2 Tot Class, 9:30-11am, RSVP 630.778. PLAY
- 4 Literacy, 6:45pm
- 7 Literacy, 9:30am
Literacy, 10am
2 & Under, 9:30-11am
- 9 Tot Class, 9:30-11am, RSVP 630.778. PLAY
- 10 Special Olympic Young Athletes, 5:30pm
- 11 Literacy, 10am
Literacy, 10:30am
Literacy, 6:45pm
- 12 Wendy's Fundraiser 5-8pm
Walkers Group 9:30-10:30am
Daddy & Me 3-4:30pm
- 16 Tot Class, 9:30-11am, RSVP 630.778. PLAY
- 18 Karate Kickers, Ages 8-12: 5:15pm - 5:45pm, 13 and up: 6pm - 6:30pm, RSVP 815.436.3817
- 18 Literacy, 6:45pm
- 21 Literacy, 9:30am
Literacy, 10am
Hop, Skip & Jumpers, 10:30am-noon, RSVP 630.335.4824
Playhouse Pals, 2-4pm
- 23 Tot Class, 9:30-11am, RSVP 630.778. PLAY
- 25 Literacy, 10am
Literacy, 10:30am
Literacy, 6:45pm
- 27 Family Night, 6-8pm, RSVP 630.844.1720
- 29 Nuestros Angeles, 11am-1pm
- 30 Tot Class, 9:30-11am, RSVP 630.778. PLAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	AUGUST			



2011 Calendar

Order yours today! This award winning awareness pieces is a great gift to schools, hospitals, friends and family.

Look inside for your order form!

Rockford has a Home!

The GiGi's—Rockford Board of Directors is officially slated and we're off (and fundraising!)

In June, the board officially voted to make 8801 N. Second Street the new home of GiGi's Playhouse—Rockford. The build-out is underway! It'll be 2500 square feet of fabulous play and learning space, fit to serve infants to adults. Donations for build out and programming can be made online or sent to GiGi's Playhouse—Rockford, 8801 N. Second Street, Machesney Park, IL 61115. Questions? Call 815-573-0150.



Congratulations, Christine!

The Board of Directors of the National Down Syndrome Congress is awarding our very own Christine Maxwell with the 2010 Christian Pueschel Memorial Citizen Award. Christine was chosen because of her work as a Special Olympics Global Messenger, an advocate, writer, speaker, and student.



Save the Date

August 28

Walk for Down syndrome Awareness, 9am-Noon — Sioux City, Chris Larsen Shelter

Sept 18

Annual Bike Ride—Fox Valley

October 3

GiGiFest — Hoffman Playhouse

October 10

Chicagoland Buddy Walk — Cantigny, Weaton, IL

