# **GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE** Annual Report 2023

# Because of you...

Our programs are FREE.

We are helping people with Down syndrome live longer and healthier lives.

We are empowering our participants to achieve the unimaginable.

In order to offer our programs 100% free to everyone, we rely on generous donations from people like you.



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers educate. inspire. believe. gigisplayhouse.org



#### Our Growth in Programs and Participation

- 280,000 free program hours. (19% increase over 2022)
- 50,000 hours of free one-onone speech therapy, literacy, and math tutoring. (26% increase over 2022)
- 30,000+ families served!! (9.4% increase over 2022)
- GiGi's Kitchen now in 33 GiGi's locations. (60% increase over 2022)
- 280 new families join GiGi's Playhouse every month.
- Tech initiatives to improve efficiencies and family experience.
- Continue to lower the cost to support each participant.
- Our Largest Annual Leadership Conference.
- Still 99% volunteer run!

Our lives are much richer because of the teamwork GiGi's has... just knowing that the tutors exist warms our hearts and gives us hope that our kids will be included and welcome out in the world even when it's not family.

-Joe's Mother

## **HELLO FRIENDS**

I'm beyond grateful for the incredible support we receive from amazing believers, like all of you, who make our mission possible. Your generosity allows us to offer free programs and create a safe place where families can thrive, learn, and bond together in an atmosphere brimming with love, acceptance, and empowerment!

## Thanks to you, every month, 280 new families join GiGi's and find their forever home.

Right now, we're witnessing the first generation of individuals with Down syndrome to reach retirement age! BUT by the age of 54, a staggering 90% of them will develop Alzheimer's. Yes, a whopping 90%! Despite this alarming statistic, individuals with DS have been overlooked in every Alzheimer's study, despite being instrumental in uncovering its link! (Don't worry, we're working to change that!)

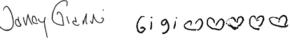
It's crucial to keep their minds and bodies active, and that's exactly what GiGi's programs excel at. From prenatal diagnosis to career skills, we make a lifetime commitment to our families, who now need us more than ever.

Today, we have Playhouses in 63 locations and startups and serve families in 88 countries. Our Virtual Playhouse now extends our reach beyond our Playhouse walls and into new and underserved communities that are in desperate need of our services.

We owe it all to you! Your unwavering support fuels us, and I hope you take pride in

all that you've helped us accomplish. Please read through our annual report, showcasing how, with cutting-edge technology and the dedication of our AMAZING volunteers, we're able to facilitate over 300,000 free program hours annually!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and please, continue to stand by us and spread our message of love and acceptance far and wide!





Love, Nancy and GiGi

P.S. GiGi is growing in ways I never imagined! She recently wrote her first book, with help from her GiGi's literacy tutor, has a boyfriend, and is an up-and-coming influencer! GiGi's Playhouse programs continue to embolden her and her friends, empowering them to embrace their full potential, just as God intended!

#### 99% VOLUNTEER RUN

For every staff member we have over 100 volunteers! To support this incredible team, we've developed an LMS (Learning Management System) to provide comprehensive training for all of them! 40,228+ Courses Completed!

5,363 Volunteers Enrolled in LMS

## **OUR IMPACT**







Locations in the US & Mexico

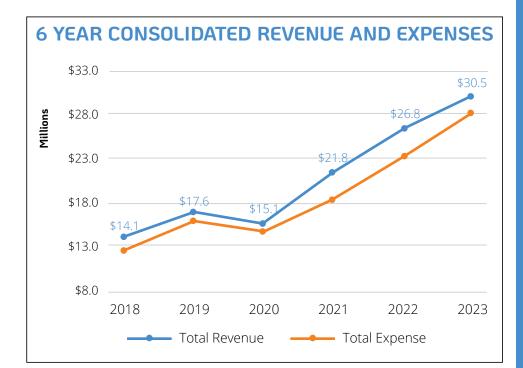




250,000+ FREE Program hours Annually

280+ New Families Join Each Month!







### Expanding the GiGi's Reach

- Opened a second GiGi's location in Mexico.
- Launched the inaugural #GenerationG Magazine.
- Met Qatar dignitaries at the United Nations to expand global acceptance in the Middle East.
- Served people on every continent.
- Social media grew by 600%, reaching tens of millions of people with multiple viral videos.
- Received support from 3 NFL players through the #MyCleatsMyCause campaign.
- GiGi Gianni found a place as an influencer while owning her role as Chief Inspiration Officer.
- Helped grow Down syndrome advocacy and research through global partnerships.
- Became a founding member of United Coalition for Down Syndrome.

## LOOKING AHEAD AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED



#### **GIGIFIT ACCEPTANCE CHALLENGE**

Each year, the GiGiFIT Acceptance Challenge invites people from all over the world to join in a physical and social movement for acceptance to change the way people see those with all unique abilities!

In 2023, more than 63 GiGi's Playhouses and Startups hosted events! We had 275,000 participants, moving us closer to our vision of global acceptance of people with Down syndrome... and people of ALL abilities. We expect an even bigger turnout this year!



ACCEPTANCECHALLENGE.ORG



## CHANGING THE WORLD IS IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.

Take the #GenerationG pledge at iacceptyou.org

I cannot thank GiGi's enough for the tutoring! After 3 weeks of Literacy tutoring, Shelby just picked up books and started reading on her own! It has also helped with her speech and expansion of her vocabulary as well. We cannot thank her tutor enough for all of her patience and hard work. And we especially want to thank GiGi's Playhouse for offering this virtual program and thank you for pairing her with such an amazing person!

—Mother of Shelby, age 18





At our Annual Leadership Conference, GiGi's dedicates 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  days of training and development for our national network of 63 Playhouses and Startups. Attendees include 350+ Playhouse volunteers, staff and board members who come together for networking and learning opportunities related to our mission.

Sessions are targeted to create consistent, effective and measurable outcomes emphasizing a lean, performancebased culture in support of our replicable Playhouse model. Like all services provided by GiGi's, registration is FREE for all attendees.

## November 6-10, 2024 • 350+ Attendees