



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

Down Syndrome Awareness Centers
www.gigisplayhouse.com

Now with two locations!!!

5K attracts record numbers!!



Over one thousand people came out to support our Third Annual Down Syndrome Awareness 5k Fun Run 1 Mile Walk!! The total acceptance and support was incredible! The race may have seemed like a celebration for children with Down syndrome, but what this celebration did for the siblings, parents and extended family goes far beyond words. Pride, inspiration and determination seemed to be fueling this event (with lots of love, laughter, and tears mixed in!!)

GiGi's Playhouse
July, 2006

Congratulations!!



Sarah Bak, age 6, won the award for reading the most pages during "T.V. free week" at Abraham Lincoln school in Glen Ellyn.

Sarah, who is in kindergarten, read over 1,200 pages! Only four other students in the school, all 4th and 5th graders, read more than 1,000 pages!! We are so proud of you Sarah!!!!



Christine Maxwell, 29 with Down syndrome, is ready for high fives after completing her first 5k!! She has been training with the GiGi's Playhouse "Couch to 5k" program for 12 weeks!! Christine Maxwell and Rudy Geilim (father of Max 5 years old with Down syndrome) are two of the faithful that met the challenge and crossed the finish line with the rest of the crowd. Way to go Christine and Rudy. Your hard work and determination has allowed both of you to accomplish your goal to finish a 5K!!! Thank you to Gayle Gianopulos, Jim Czarniak & Mimi Hills for leading this awesome training program!



Calvin, 16 with Down syndrome, flew through the 5k like it was nothing!!! He is in great shape and runs under a nine minute mile!!



**I THINK I CAN,
I THINK I CAN,
AND HE DID!!**
*The entire mile!!
Way to go Noah!!*

A HUGE THANK YOU TO SOME OF OUR SPECIAL GUESTS!

A special thank you to all of our sponsors, our awesome Starbucks volunteers, the Jaycees, the Boy Scouts, professional football player Pat Terrell and his family and everyone who helped make this day a huge success!



Ramblin Ray from US99!!!



Jeff Tweedy, lead singer of Wilco, ran the 5k!! Sorry about your knee!!



Joe Ahern, president of CBS, who ran the 5k with his family! (black hats)



Our buddy Ronald!!



Sam Lenihan for great high fives at the finish line!

The GiGi's Playhouse FREE "Learn to Read" Literacy program will be starting it's summer schedule on June 12. The most significant change for the summer schedule includes small group reading/teaching vs. individual sessions. The small groups will meet on a weekly basis.

This will accommodate more kids and will allow for flexibility with vacations. If you are interested in the literacy program, please call Shari at the Playhouse. 847-885-PLAY.

Remember!! All funds raised from the 5k went to the literacy program. Which teaches reading and promotes Down syndrome awareness!!

There is something for everyone at GiGi's Playhouse!



The Thursday play group is hoppin' this summer! The kids head to the park after a pizza lunch! School is out and we can't wait to see the big kids again!

GiGi's Playhouse is going to the Schaumburg Flyers game!

Sunday, August 20 is "Kid's Day" and we will be **marching around the outside of the field before the game.** The children will also sing the seventh inning stretch! There will be face painting, balloons, and the kids get to run the bases when the game is over.

The tickets are \$7.50 per person. The game is @ 12:05. Families should get there at 11 am. The Flyers game is located at Alexian Field 1999 S. Springinsguth Road Schaumburg, IL 60193 Please call the Playhouse to reserve your tickets now!!

Come out to cheer for your Playhouse!!

GiGi's Playhouse vs. GiGi's Playhouse Too 1st Annual Softball Game!!!!

The game will take place on **Saturday, August 12, 2006** at Centennial Park 1776 W. Centennial Place Addison, IL. 3:00 - 5:00. Following the game will be a pizza party at Home Run Pizza also in Addison. Please call the Playhouse with any questions.

A concert in the Park and Clifford the big red dog will help kick off our book fair!
See flyer on back of calendar!

For any fundraising ideas please contact Debbie Ross at Soldya1@aol.com or call the Playhouse



The Hispanic play group has new families joining them all the time! They meet the 2nd Sunday of the month from 11:00 A.M. -1:00 P.M.

We are currently working on translating all of our literature into Spanish. If you are interested in helping with this project, please call us!

The Hop, Skip and Jumpers (ages 3-5) had a great time this month! There were new friends, old friends, bubbles, parachute time, games, singing and FUN!!

We will be changing the date and time starting in July. We will meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:00 - 11:30. The first date will be Saturday, July 15. A developmental therapist will lead the group in fun activities and crafts.



Down syndrome research!

Dr. Susan Daley collected urine samples at the Playhouse from children with Down syndrome and their siblings. The samples will allow her to conduct a study 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. We had a steady flow of participants all day!! Thank you to all of you who participated and to Dr. Daley for heading up this much needed research for our kids.



The Daley family at the Playhouse

It's not too late to participate!! If you have an appointment at Children's Memorial Hospital in the next six months please consider taking part in this research study. Please contact Gayle at gaylegio@yahoo.com for more information.

The 5k was a huge success thanks to dedicated volunteers!



Goody bag stuffers, sign holders, watering station, games, activities, photography, trainers, registration, stuffing envelopes etc... no job was too small or under appreciated. We had sibling, extended families, teachers, professionals and the list goes on. Thank you for taking the time to help us and for seeing the potential in our children! We couldn't have done it without you!!!!



Over 1,000 people celebrate Down syndrome at the 3rd annual GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Awareness 5k Fun Run 1 Mile Walk!!!!

PROUD WALKERS



PROUD RUNNERS



Thank you to our sponsors!

GiGi's Playhouse
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 E-mail: Gianni4567@aol.com

www.gigisplayhouse.com

GiGi's Playhouse too
 Plainfield, IL 630-778-PLAY

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Our Hoffman Estates location is 3 miles west of Woodfield in the Brandess Center next to Schaumburg Toyota.



Paul Gianni was a walking bill board for the GiGi's golf outing!! They are still looking for hole sponsors, and, raffle prizes if anyone can help!!

Monday, July 31
 Royal Hawk
 St. Charles
 Sponsored by GiGi's Playhouse Too



We would also like to thank:
 BUTERA MARKETS
 STARBUCKS
 AND ALL OF OUR INCREDIBLE
 VOLUNTEERS!



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