



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL *I HAVE A VOICE* GALA TO BENEFIT INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SYNDROME

CBS News Anchor Rob Johnson Will Serve as Masters of Ceremonies at the Charity's 12th Annual Fundraising Gala To Be Held at The Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace

HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL – January 22, 2015 – On Saturday, March 14th the most generous hearts will come together to celebrate 12 years of giving to help individuals and their families with Down syndrome. The 2015 international **GiGi's Playhouse / Have a Voice Gala** will be held at The Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. Hosting more than 1,000 guests in the Chicagoland area and emceed by CBS news anchor Rob Johnson, this gala is our most important fundraiser of the year and key to expanding our voice in the world.

GiGi's Playhouse graciously wants to thank all of our very generous gala sponsors and donors, especially our 2015 *I Have A Voice* Global Sponsor John and Mary Manley. The funds raised will support the organization's mission to increase positive awareness of Down syndrome through national campaigns, educational programs, and by empowering individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community. GiGi's Playhouse currently has 24 locations providing FREE educational and therapeutic programs across the US and Mexico.

"Eleven years ago, when my daughter GiGi was born, I did not see her birth as the miracle I know it is today. I had no idea she was going to change the world," said GiGi's founder Nancy Gianni. "This year's gala represents a major milestone for us a GiGi's Playhouse. I opened the first GiGi's Playhouse immediately after GiGi's first birthday and I remember my husband telling me that if I did this, we could not have any more kids. I needed to make a decision and GiGi's Playhouse was more important than a larger family. GiGi's Playhouse was going to be my last baby. Little did I know that I would have 30 more kids (GiGi's Playhouses) across the US and Mexico, by the end of the year with inquiries for a 100 more locations worldwide."

You are cordially invited to join us as we celebrate a new year of belief and achievement. This year's event will also feature entertainment by the band 7th Heaven and provides our individuals and families the opportunity to celebrate their achievements and continue to change the way people view Down syndrome through their amazing self-confidence - and of course, their great dance moves!

To learn more about GiGi's Playhouse, to purchase tickets and learn about sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.gigisplayhouse.org/chicagoland-gala.

About GiGi's Playhouse: *GiGi's is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization founded in 2003. GiGi's Playhouse is a series of unique Achievement Centers serving children and adults with Down syndrome. Each Playhouse makes a lifetime commitment to participants and their families. All programs aim to maximize acceptance and self-confidence, and empower children and adults to achieve their greatest potential. All educational, therapeutic and career training programs are offered to families at no charge.*

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