

**For immediate release:**

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Down Syndrome Achievement Centers  
educate. inspire. believe.

### **GiGi's Playhouse Receives \$50,000 Donation from Voya Foundation**

**April 27, 2020 (Hoffman Estates, Ill.)** – GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers ("GiGi's Playhouse") is excited to announce it has received a \$50,000 donation from Voya Foundation — Voya Financial's charitable giving arm — to support GiGi's ongoing math program.

With COVID-19 forcing the temporary closure of 48 GiGi's Playhouse locations across the country, this donation comes when it is most needed. GiGi's directly serves over 25,000 individuals with Down syndrome with free therapeutic and educational programming. With social distancing and the recent, temporary shift from "on site" to "virtual" services, the Voya donation will help bring GiGi's free math program to families across the country.

The GiGi's Playhouse One-on-One Math tutoring program was launched over eight years ago. The program was recently streamlined to offer a comprehensive curriculum guide and an online activity base, making it easier for volunteer tutors to create lesson plans for students that are meaningful, relevant and purposeful in creating "Math in the Real World" skills including time, money, measurement, shapes, fractions and data concepts.

Nancy Gianni, GiGi's Playhouse Founder and Chief Belief Officer said, "We are so grateful to the Voya Foundation for recognizing the need for help in this area, especially during these unprecedented times. Kids with Down syndrome are visual learners and work best in a structured environment. We combine multiple approaches to math that utilize multi-sensory teaching to help them succeed. When you teach people the way they learn, the results are incredible!"

"We are very proud to support GiGi's as they execute efforts to help those with Down syndrome learn the critical math and problem-solving skills that can help them achieve success in the classroom," said Angela Harrell, Chief Diversity and Corporate Responsibility Officer, and President, Voya Foundation. "We believe that these skills are necessary and can lead to individuals making smart financial decisions — a factor that drives Voya Foundation's mission."

### **About Voya Foundation**

Voya Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in communities where Voya Financial operates and its employees and customers live. Voya Foundation provides grants and establishes signature partnerships in the areas of financial literacy and children's education and fosters employee engagement to deepen our positive impact on the community. For more information, visit [www.VoyaFoundation.com](http://www.VoyaFoundation.com)

### **About GiGi's Playhouse**

GiGi's Playhouse is the only international network of Down Syndrome Achievement Centers created to provide free life-changing therapeutic and educational programs for all ages. With over 48 locations across the U.S. and Mexico, and a demand to open 200 more, GiGi's Playhouse is on a mission to change the way the world views Down syndrome and to send a global message of acceptance for all. Learn more at [www.GiGisPlayhouse.org](http://www.GiGisPlayhouse.org).