



grow  
WITH US

educate.  
inspire.  
believe.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

[gigisplayhouse.org/newyork](http://gigisplayhouse.org/newyork)

Hello

Celebrating  
5  
Years

Gigi's  
PLAYHOUSE<sup>™</sup>  
Down Syndrome Achievement Centers  
NYC





# our BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## Board Members

**Debbie Morris, President** | Senior Vice President at AIG

**Jane Providenti, Vice President** | Director within the Global Finance Organization at Deutsche Bank

**Sharon Hart-Fanelli, Secretary** | CPM, General Manager for Cushman & Wakefield, Corporate Occupier & Investment Services

**Jon Connolly, Treasurer** | Managing Director and Senior Counsel within the Legal Department at BNY Mellon

**Saudia Ally, Gala Chair** | Co-Founder, Chief Marketing & Strategy Officer at Marvel US Management and Heart A Cause

**Laura Blau** | Attorney in private practice in New York City

**Ryan Brown, Development Chair** | Wealth Director at BNY Mellon Wealth Management

**Eric Fogarty** | Vice President in the Investment Management Division of Goldman Sachs & Co.

**Liza Galler, Governance Chair** | Director of Job Placement and Development for the Center for Special Needs at the Jewish Community Center (JCC Manhattan)

**Adam Hait** | Entrepreneur and Innovator

**Gretchen Hayes** | Managing Director of Guy Carpenter

**Rebecca Purnick** | Vice President within the Finance Organization at Credit Suisse

**Frank Sawyer** | Co-Founder and Principal at TeleGraphicMedia

## Staff Members

**Nina Gonzalez Sisson** | Site Coordinator

**Benny Kaufman** | Programs Director

## Program Advisory Committee

**Hilda Chusid**

**Kathleen Feeley**

**Tobie Franklin**

**Liza Galler**

**Julia Harquil**

**Bonnie Keilty**

**Jordana Mendelson**

**Tracy Nixon**

**Kristen O'Brien**

**Emily Perl-Kingsley**

**Jane Providenti**

**Cary Williams**





# table OF CONTENTS

Our Vision and Mission	3
From our Board President	4
Our National Network	5
From our Playhouse Staff	6
Our Achievements	7
Our Programs	8
Our Resources & Partners	9
Financials	10
Growing Our Future	11
Take Action	12
Our Supporters & Founders Circle	13
Our Community	14





# our VISION AND MISSION

**OUR VISION:** see a world where individuals with Down syndrome are **accepted** and **embraced** in their families, schools and communities.

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**OUR MISSION:** **increase positive awareness** of Down syndrome through national campaigns, educational programs and by **empowering individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community.**



## WHAT MAKES GIGI's PLAYHOUSE NYC UNIQUE?

- Purposeful Programs – provided at no cost
- Lifelong Commitments – to participants of all ages and their families
- Unbreakable Commitment to Acceptance – through Playhouse leaders and campaigns





# from OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Over the past four years, GiGi's Playhouse NYC has grown to be a home away from home for those with Down syndrome, their families and friends. The programs we run, free of charge, positively impact the lives of those we serve from cradle through adulthood. We couldn't do it without you!

During 2016, we were able to run 13 different programs, including 2 new summer programs. Summer programming for our community while available, can be hard to find and expensive. Through the generosity of our partner, Invest for Children, we were able to launch two summer programs, Summer Adventures and Summer Clubhouse. Summer Clubhouse welcomes our younger participants to the Playhouse for mornings of creativity and socialization through experiences like gardening, painting and healthy food preparation. Our Summer Adventures provides our teens an opportunity to spend a full week with their age group, visiting the sights of NYC, creating healthy meals together, visiting parks, theatres and creative music and painting studios. While having a ton of fun, the focus is on building life skills and developing independence. One mother of a teen boy commented, "Summer Adventures made Shane's summer!"

Throughout 2016 we saw a dramatic increase in program participation and grew our number of dedicated volunteers. We partnered with New York Cares to launch Teen Tastic, a tween and teen social night. We expanded our Busy Bodies Program, which provides mentoring to new parents in addition to important skill building in babies. We held six interactive lectures for our families and caregivers and as always, there was a lot of music and dancing at the multiple community events we held.

The upcoming year promises to be our most exciting yet. We are prepping for the launch of one-to-one literacy tutoring and a new dance class in 2017. We continue to partner with outstanding organizations around the city like The Ideal School and the JCC of Manhattan. These institutions allow us to expand our ability to offer more programming by lending us their space. Additionally we will be partnering with organizations in Brooklyn where we will offer programs to our Brooklyn population.

There aren't enough ways to say thank you to our generous donors, volunteers, and staff. But I do know that with you, we are able to provide the vital services we do for New York's Down syndrome community. We are eternally grateful for your support. Thank you for coming along on this exciting and rewarding journey with us!

Debbie Morris  
BOARD PRESIDENT





# our NATIONAL NETWORK



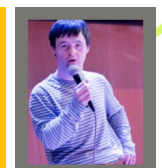
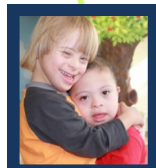
Queretaro, Mexico 🏠

Changing the way the world sees Down syndrome.  
one child. one diagnosis. one community at a time.

Nancy Gianni is the President and Founder of GiGi's Playhouse, Inc. When Nancy gave birth to her daughter, GiGi, years ago, she was inspired to create a place where children with Down syndrome and their families could come together free of charge for education, awareness and fun. Through Nancy's passion and commitment, there are now more than 30 GiGi's Playhouses across the country, with plans for many more. GiGi's Playhouse, Inc. empowers individuals with Down syndrome to reach their greatest potential.

Thanks to Nancy's inspiring vision, and the resources and hard work of our intrepid founders, Tracy Nixon and Debbie Morris and our former Executive Director, Britt Sady, [GiGi's Playhouse NYC](#) opened its doors in 2012. As the only organization in New York City to specifically serve the Down syndrome community, [GiGi's Playhouse NYC](#) has an important mission and a large community to serve.

GiGi's Playhouse, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including GiGi's Playhouse NYC, carry a 501(c)(3) exemption.







# from OUR PLAYHOUSE STAFF

As the onsite staff at GiGi's Playhouse NYC we make sure everything at the Playhouse is running smoothly and oversee all operations that make our programs possible. From volunteer and program management, family engagement, events and fundraisers, we are behind-the-scenes making it all happen!

As such, it has been our pleasure to watch our participants grow through participation in our programs, help the Playhouse grow to better serve our community, and impact the way New Yorkers see Down syndrome. And we continue to grow!

Here are a few of the amazing accomplishments of GiGi's Playhouse NYC in 2016:

- ♥ Our network of families grew from over 450 families to almost 700 families, with 200 of those families attending Playhouse programs and events throughout the year.
- ♥ The size of our network (donors, volunteers, newsletter subscribers, volunteers, professionals, and families) doubled to now over 4,000.
- ♥ Our resources for new and expectant parents have expanded, with parent mentoring and expert lectures.
- ♥ TeenTastic, a monthly program for teens with Down syndrome supported by NYCares, allows our teens to socialize with their friends, to make new one and just have a fun Friday night out.
- ♥ We marched in NYC's Disability Pride Parade (promoting inclusion, awareness and visibility), participated in the National Down Syndrome Society's (NDSS) Buddy Walk, partnered with NDSS again for a wine and cheese night where we hosted Playhouse visitors from across the USA and the globe.
- ♥ We launched our new Adventures and Clubhouse programs to provide free educational summer programs to the Down syndrome community for 5 weeks in July and August!
- ♥ We welcomed the amazing Jasmine Ferrer to our team as our Operations Coordinator.
- ♥ We continued to grow in Brooklyn offering Pop Up Programs in Red Hook, Clinton-Hill, and Crown Heights.

To our volunteers and donors, thank you for all that you have given to our community. We rely on your generosity to provide support to the Down syndrome community of New York City.

To our families, thank you for being our inspiration and contributing so much to the community!

We saw incredible growth in 2016 and with your continued support we will continue to provide free services to individuals with Down syndrome across the five boroughs!

Sincerely,



Benny Kaufman  
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

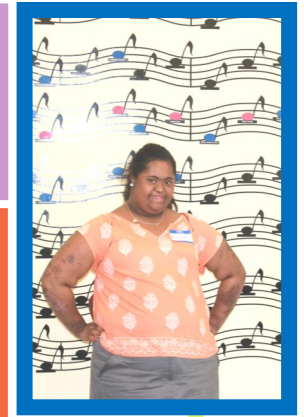
Jasmine Ferrer  
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR





# our ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3,215 Hours of Program & Event Attendance
- 2,145 Volunteer Hours
- 671 Total Number of Families Supported
- 165 Total Volunteers
- 110 New Families Served in 2016
- 1 Voice United in Taking Action for Lasting Acceptance



Families travel from all 5-boroughs to attend programs at GiGi's Playhouse NYC. We are expanding our outreach with more satellite programs in the works.







# our PROGRAMS

GiGi's Playhouse NYC provides therapeutic, educational and career training programs for individuals with Down syndrome of all ages. From pre-natal diagnosis through social skills for our adults we make a lifetime commitment to our families. Each program is purposeful, progressive and always delivered at **no cost to Playhouse families**.

## Manhattan

**Busy Bodies** | playgroup to meet new friends, explore, and show off current and emerging abilities. Ages 2+.

**Leaps & Bounds** | focuses on development of large and small muscle groups. Ages 3-5.

**LMNOP** | "Language, Music N Our Peeps" incorporates sign language, communication tools and music. Ages 3+.

**1-on-1 Literacy & Literacy Pods** | builds a foundation in sight word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension, phonics and articulation. Ages 3+.

**DanceAbilities** | therapeutically based dance program perfect for dancers of all abilities. Ages 3+.

**Playhouse Pals** | supports the development of social skills and language through peer to peer interaction in a casual and fun setting. Ages 6-8.

**Karate & Soccer** | sport fundamentals while working on team work and fitness. Ages 6+.

**Teen Tastic** | experience the fun of being a teenager, practice social skills, and build friendships. Ages 13-17.

**Bowling Buds** | bowling activity/outing for adults of all abilities. Ages 18+.

**Fantastic Friends** | adult social activity to practice social skills and build friendships. Ages 21+.

**Gratitude Committee** | adults give back to the Playhouse through their art! Ages 21+.

**NEW Summer Clubhouse** | kids engage in activities to develop motor skills, social, and language development through fitness, arts, cooking, and literacy activities. Ages 4-10.

**Summer Adventures** | teens explore NYC and their independence with a one-to-one volunteer. Ages 13-19.

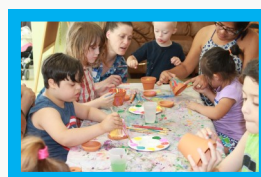
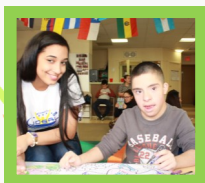
**Best of All**  
is continual,  
measurable,  
celebrated and  
it never ends.

It is a daily  
challenge to do  
a little better  
than you did the  
day before  
and it is always  
celebrated.

## Brooklyn

**Busy Bodies** | playgroup to meet new friends, explore, and show off current and emerging abilities. Ages 2+.

**Leaps & Bounds** | focuses on development of large and small muscle groups. Ages 3-5.





# our RESOURCES & PARTNERS



TALBOTS



HUFFPOST EDUCATION

Brooklyn Museum



/jcc harlem/

NYMetroParents



LUCKY STRIKE®

GLAMOUR

NEW YORK POST



New Song community church



/jcc manhattan/

New York family



Advocates for Children of New York  
Protecting every child's right to learn







# our FINANCIALS

FOR EVERY \$1.00 SPENT:

**61¢**

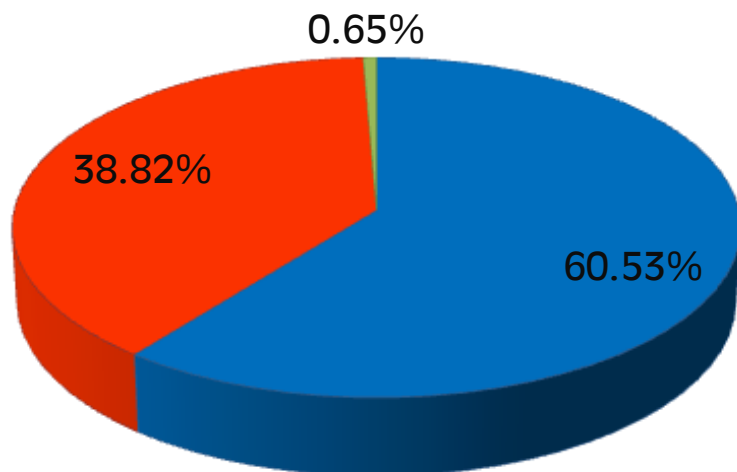
goes to programs

**39¢**

goes to fundraising

**<1¢**

goes to administration



**2016 Expenses\***  
**\$441,703**

- Programs
- Fundraising
- General & Administration

\* (i) Based on unaudited financials and subject to adjustment.

(ii) 2016 fundraising expenses atypically high due to increased number of high value in-kind donations.

Over 90% of our annual expenditures go directly to programming and events that benefit our community and related fundraising.



# growing OUR FUTURE

## WHO HELPS US GROW?

### Volunteers are the backbone of the Playhouse.

We rely on the dedication, talent, and expertise of a core group of volunteers and staff to deliver our programs.

We ask for a three-month commitment; the majority of our core volunteers have served for over two years.

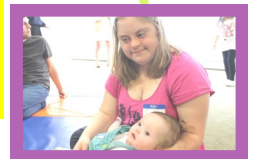
## HOW WILL WE GROW?

### Expanding our satellite programs.

Through partnerships and in-kind donations, GiGi's Playhouse NYC will provide programs in all 5 boroughs of New York City.

We are currently seeking partnerships and space in Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx.

## YOU CAN grow with us!



Supporting. Valuing. Advocating.

## Fundraising Needs

GiGi's Playhouse fully survives on the generosity of donations. Funds provide children and adults with Down syndrome the lifelong access to no-cost purposeful programs without barriers or conditions. Every program dollar invested enriches lives and supplements many resources families seek beyond the Playhouse.

Donations also advance our vision for global acceptance. GiGi's Playhouse is not just for our participants and families, it's for the whole community. Every supporter creates a widening circle of dialog regarding our children's potential. As the circle of communication, engagement and investment expands; so does lasting acceptance.





# take ACTION

## Help GiGi's Playhouse NYC deliver lasting impact.



### Donate

Your gift today can help change the perception of Down syndrome tomorrow.

VISIT: **[gigisplayhouse.org/newyork](http://gigisplayhouse.org/newyork)**

EMAIL: **[nyc@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:nyc@gigisplayhouse.org)**

CALL: **(646) 801-PLAY (7529)**

MAIL: **PO Box 925, New York, NY 10026**

### Future Gifts

Help **GiGi's Playhouse NYC** deliver lasting impact through a bequest. Contact us for information about including GiGi's Playhouse NYC in your estate planning.



### Advocate

Speak up! Join **GiGi's Playhouse NYC** and raise your voice in getting our Senators to demonstrate their commitment to the Down syndrome community by joining the Congressional Task Force on Down Syndrome. Call, meet, inform your elected leaders.

**[senate.gov/senators/contact](http://senate.gov/senators/contact)**



### Activate

Join the conversation! Mobilize your networks for good. **#GiGiPHNYC**



**[facebook.com/gigisplayhousenyc](https://facebook.com/gigisplayhousenyc)**



**[twitter.com/GiGiPHNYC](https://twitter.com/GiGiPHNYC)**



**[instagram.com/nycgigisplayhouse](https://instagram.com/nycgigisplayhouse)**



**[youtube.com/gigisplayhousenyc](https://youtube.com/gigisplayhousenyc)**



### Join Us

**[gigisplayhouse.org/newyork/volunteer-opportunities](http://gigisplayhouse.org/newyork/volunteer-opportunities)**

**[gigisplayhouse.org/newyork/events](http://gigisplayhouse.org/newyork/events)**





# our SUPPORTERS

## Founders Circle

Tracy Nixon  
Tom & JoAnn Fogarty  
Andrew & Debbie Morris  
Benno & Evelyn Ansbacher

Gaurang & Heather Trivedi  
Eric & Becky Fogarty  
Gretchen Hayes  
Matthew & Lauren Fogarty

Jean Sullivan & Richard Cane  
Jonathan & Rosemary Ansbacher  
Mitch Rubin & Audra Zuckerman  
Invest for children

### \$20,000 and above

Invest for children  
Merrill Lynch Corporation  
The Taft Foundation

### \$10,000 — \$19,999

Eric & Becky Fogarty  
Howard Gilman Foundation  
Marymount School of New York  
Tracy Nixon

### \$5,000 — \$9,999

AIG  
APAX Foundation  
Jon Connolly & Rachel Adams  
Debbie & Andrew Morris Foundation  
Adam Hait  
Gretchen Hayes  
Otto Herrmann, Inc.  
Platinum Maintenance  
Richards, Kibbe & Orbe, LLP  
Wilmer Hale

### \$2,500 — \$4,999

Environmental Building Solutions, LLC  
Guardian Service Industries, Inc.  
Henegan Construction Co., Inc.  
Jessy Nahmias *in memory of Michael Nahmias*

### \$1,000 — \$2,499

Jonathan Ansbacher Family *in honor of Jonathan Ansbacher*  
Buzoi & Vanderpoorte Families *in honor of Norica Buzoi*  
Green & Reynolds Families *in honor of Jack Green*



GiGi's Playhouse NYC is  
entirely locally funded  
by individual and  
corporate donations and  
foundation support

Marsh and McLennan Companies  
Providenti Family  
Robert B. Samuels, Inc.  
Jean Sullivan  
Triple Crown Locksmith Co. Inc.

### \$500 — \$999

Kristen DeBear  
Laura Fahsbender  
Sandy Herzfeld *in honor of Samuel Herzfeld*  
Joseph Neto & Associates  
Kids for Kids Foundation  
Kolb Family  
Anita Murtha  
OdysseyRe Foundation  
Perry Patterson  
Ana Pesa  
Safety Facility Services

### \$200 — \$499

Al-Rawi and Scheel Household  
Anonymous  
Karen Benett  
Browne Supply Co.  
Kathleen Harris  
Jessy's Pastries *in memory of Michael Nahmias*  
John Wayne Elementary School, PS380  
Jonathan and Polenz Lewis  
Michael Lorch  
Paa Kow Pieterston  
Real Deal Decoration  
Reydel Volkswagen  
Saraceni & Drummy Families  
Raymond & Kathryn Schaub  
Gerald Sifert  
Diane Sweeney  
Words in the Works, LLC

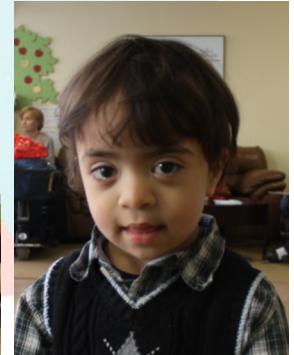
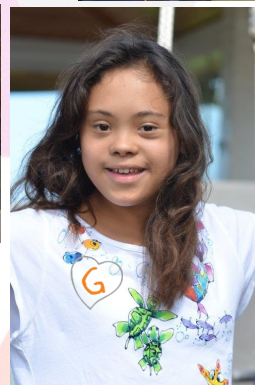
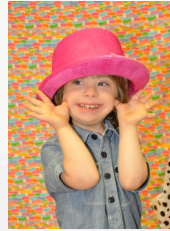




# our COMMUNITY

Thank you for taking action to help children and adults with Down syndrome.

Through your generosity and acceptance, together we will change the world!



thank  
you



# Gigi's PLAYHOUSE™

Down Syndrome Achievement Centers  
NYC

educate. inspire. believe.

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[gigisplayhouse.org/newyork](http://gigisplayhouse.org/newyork)



#GiGiPHNYC