

2017

Annual Report

GiGi's Playhouse NYC



Celebrating 5 Years!



Table of Contents

From Our Board President.....	3
Vision and Mission.....	4
Generation G.....	5
National Network.....	6
Our GiGi's Playhouse NYC Community	7
GiGi's Playhouse NYC 2017 Achievements.....	9

From Our NYC Playhouse Staff	11
GiGi's Playhouse NYC Programs.....	12

Our Community.....	14
Financial Overview.....	15
Donors.....	16

Growing Our Future.....	18
Take Action.....	19
Board, Staff & Committee.....	20
Resources, Partners & Special Acknowledgements	21
Volunteers	22
Save the Date	23





Letter From Our Board President

5 Years and growing strong.

GiGi's Playhouse NYC is a destination as the only organization in NYC solely dedicated to serving those with Down syndrome and their loved ones. All of the programs and events we provide are offered at no cost.

We provide an environment where our community shares challenges and triumphs. Our families have a network where we learn from one another.

Through our 2017 Annual Report, you will learn more about what we do and the impact on those we serve. In addition to sharing our successes, you can see our commitment to community development and operating with financial soundness. 2017 has seen growth in our number of programs, participants, volunteers and partnerships.

Today we are better positioned than ever to grow and serve. We look forward to expanding our accomplishments and impacts in the year ahead.

Serving GiGi's Playhouse NYC is an honor. Our Playhouse is growing strong because of you. Your generosity and support make possible all we do. We appreciate you continuing as part of our community.

New York City is a better place because of GiGi's Playhouse NYC.

We thank you.

Frank Sawyer
Board President



GiGi's Playhouse NYC

Vision and Mission

Vision

Create a world where individuals with Down syndrome live fulfilling lives, achieving their greatest potential; and are accepted and valued by their communities.

Mission

Empower individuals with Down syndrome by providing free programs; conducting and participating in events to increase family community and information sharing, while promoting outreach and social connections.

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





Generation G

The GiGi's Playhouse Network advances its vision of global acceptance for all through Generation G: *a campaign for greater acceptance and lasting social change.*

Dedicated locations, purposeful programs offered at no cost, and high accountability do not guarantee long-term acceptance. While over the last 15 years, GiGi's Playhouse Network has made significant progress and impact in supporting individuals with Down syndrome, we have only scratched the surface. Still, new parents may not be receiving the positive encouragement they need from medical professionals. Young people with Down syndrome may experience discrimination at school and on social media. Qualified adults with Down syndrome often cannot access jobs. There is still much more to accomplish.



Generation G

has a very simple philosophy:
make a conscious decision
to be better every day.

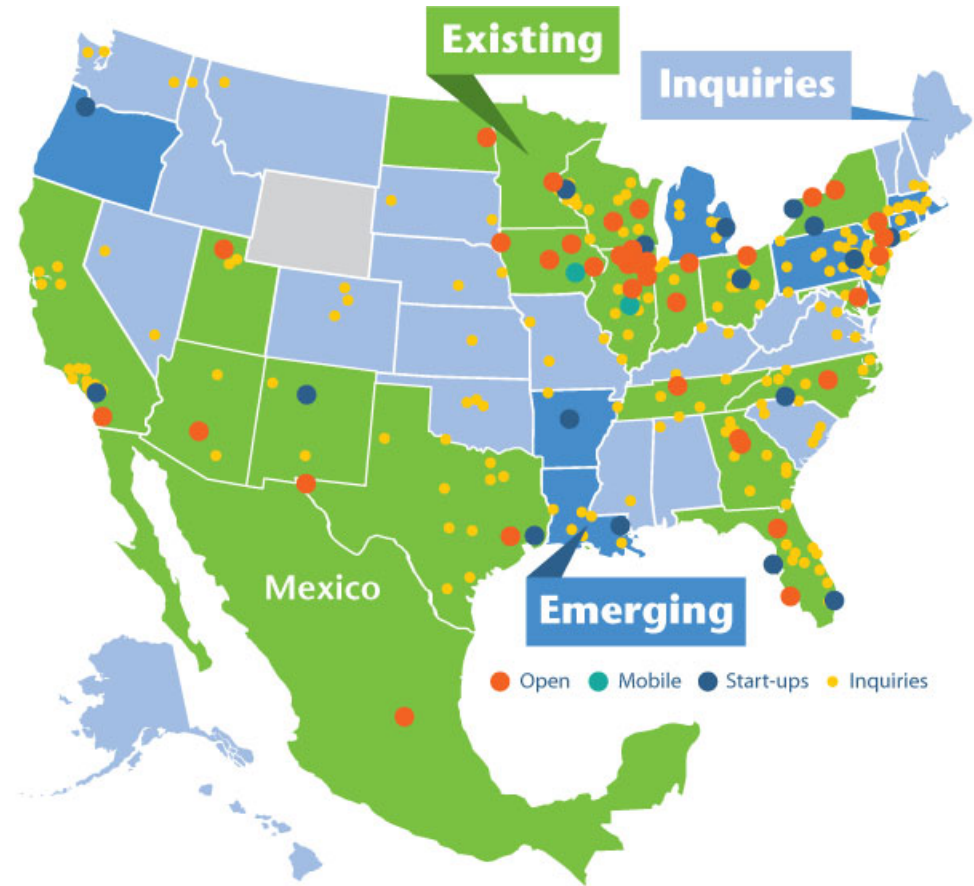
Be Accepting. Be Generous. Be Kind.

#GenerationG

Our National Network

Changing the way the world accepts people with Down syndrome.

One individual.
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, 16 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 36 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.



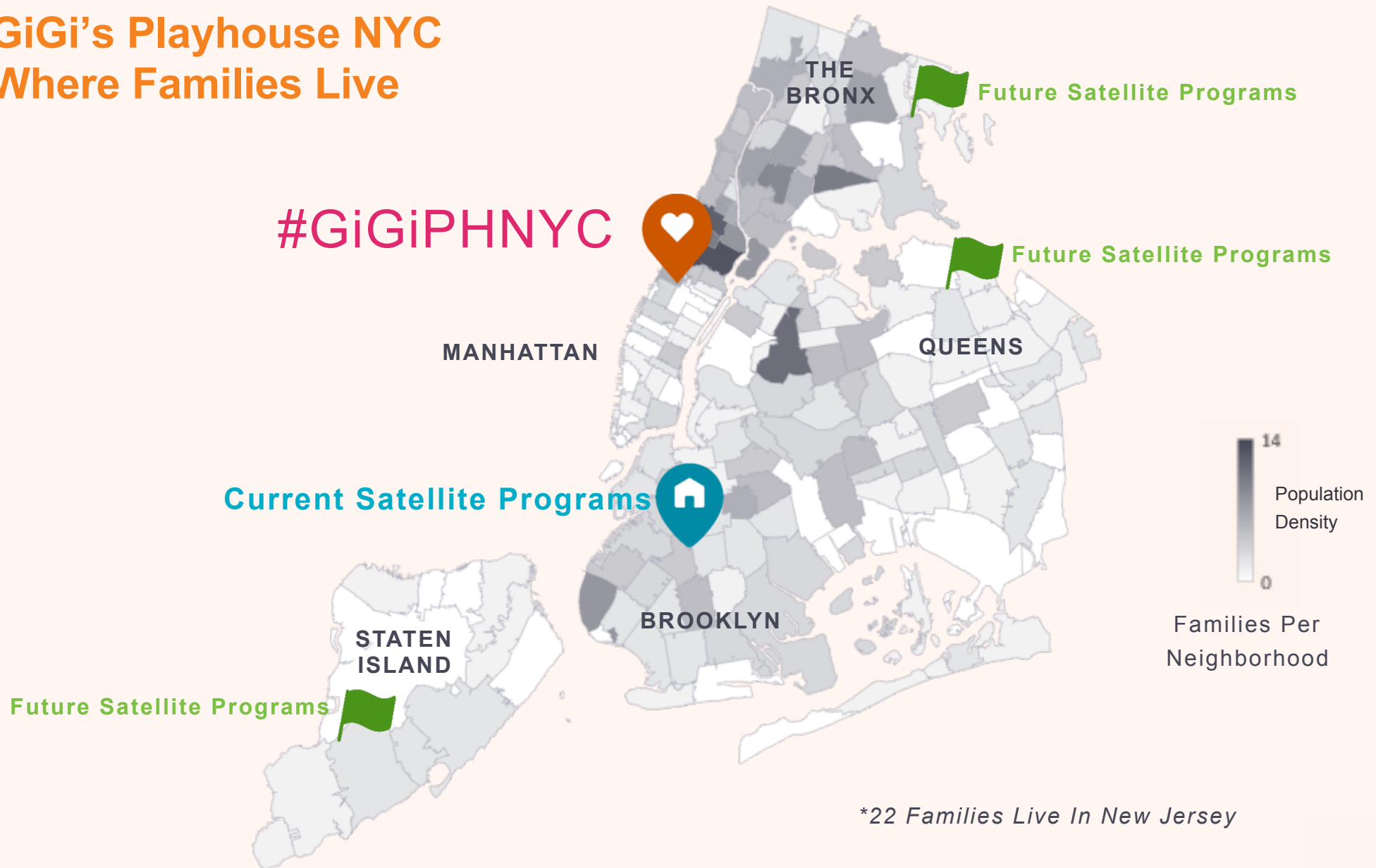
Thanks to Nancy's inspiration, combined with the vision, resources and hard work of our intrepid founders, Tracy Nixon and Debbie Morris, GiGi's Playhouse NYC opened its doors in 2012. As the only organization in New York City dedicated to solely serving the Down syndrome community, GiGi's Playhouse NYC is realizing its vision and mission – on behalf of our large community.

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

GiGi's Playhouse NYC

Where Families Live

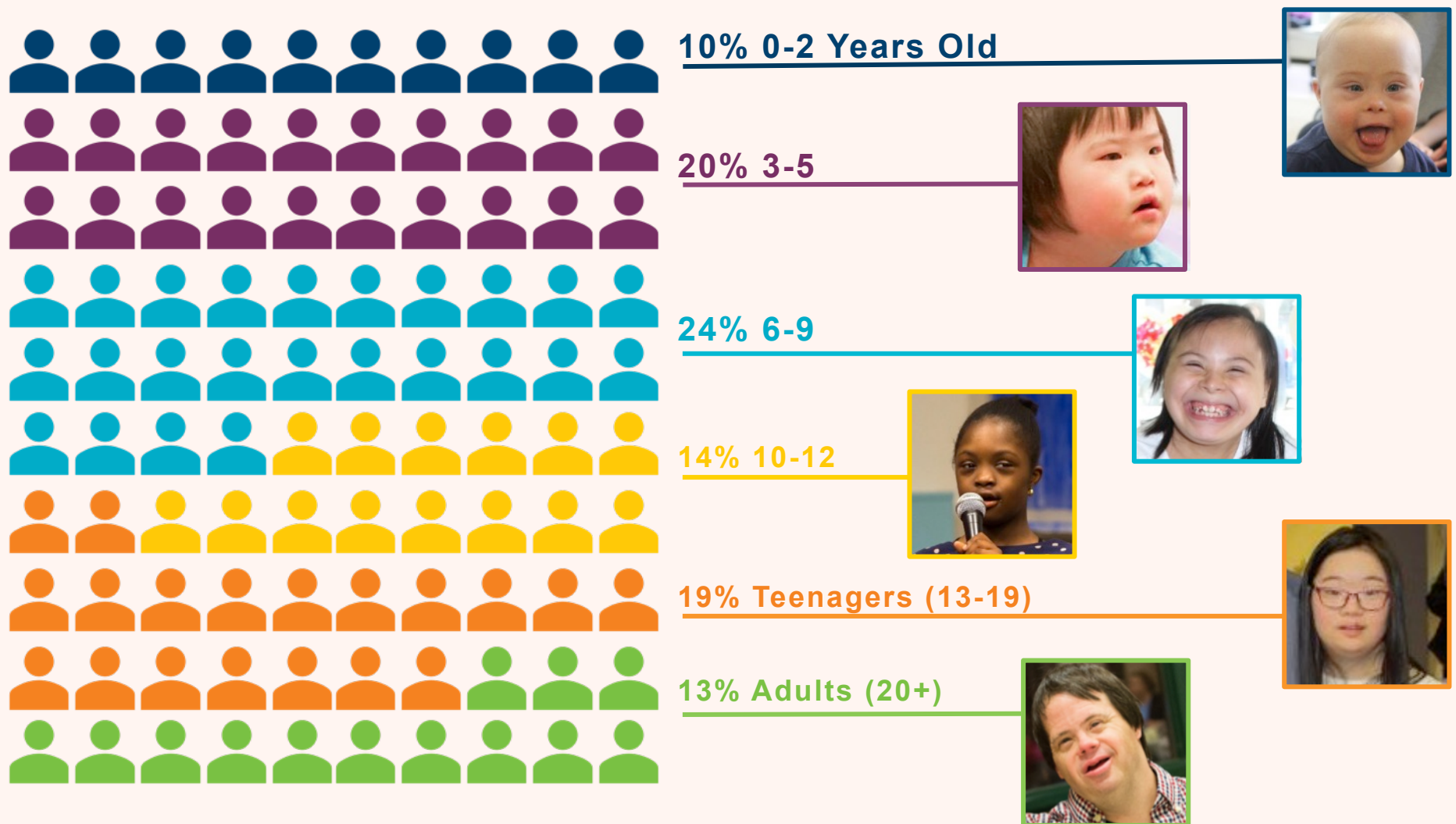
#GiGiPHNYC



Families travel from all five boroughs and NJ to attend programs at GiGi's Playhouse NYC.

We are expanding our reach with more satellite programs in development.

GiGi's Playhouse NYC Serves



GiGi's Playhouse NYC serves individuals of all ages
and reflects our diverse community.

GiGi's Playhouse NYC

2017 Achievements



2,307 Volunteer Hours



744 Families Served



214 Total Volunteers



94 New Families



1 Voice United in Taking Action
for Lasting Acceptance



0 Cost to Families





“Our community will never be alone. GiGi’s Playhouse NYC will be with us every step of the way. To be part of a community that truly believes in our children is life changing.”

- *Families at GiGi’s Playhouse NYC*



Letter From Our Playhouse Staff

As full time staff members at GiGi's Playhouse NYC, we oversee all Playhouse operations. We keep things running smoothly, while looking for new and innovative ways for the Playhouse to fulfill our mission of changing the way the world sees Down syndrome. It is a pleasure to watch our participants and community grow each and every year.

Our most important job is to keep our finger on the pulse and respond to the needs of our community. We strive to create a community that belongs to everyone and programs that meet the ever-changing needs of our Playhouse members. In 2017, we responded to feedback by launching weekly programs in Brooklyn and expanding our summer program offerings.

We celebrate our 5th anniversary this year, and like our participants, the Playhouse is learning and growing every day. We thank all of our volunteers, Board Members, community partners, investors and, of course, our amazing families who believe in our vision and support us every step of the way. Together we are changing the landscape for individuals with Down syndrome in New York City.

This is just the beginning! Our goal is to serve people with Down syndrome across their lifespan, in every way that we can. With your help, the future is limitless for GiGi's Playhouse NYC! Thank you!

Benjamin Kaufman
Programs Director

Jasmine Ferrer
Operations Coordinator

GiGi's Playhouse NYC 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 skills for our adults, we make a commitment for the lifetime of 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 13-19.

Karate & Soccer | sport fundamentals while working on teamwork and fitness. Ages 6+.

TeenTastic | experience the fun of being a teenager, practice social skills and build friendships. Ages 13-19.

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

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.

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.





“GiGi’s Playhouse NYC celebrates and enhances the lives of those with Down syndrome and those touched by it.”
- *Families at Gigi’s Playhouse NYC*



Financial Overview

For Every \$1 Spent...

2017 Expenses | \$389,756



60¢ goes to programs

39¢ goes to fundraising

<1¢ goes to
administration



Over 99% of our annual expenditures go directly to programming and fundraising that benefit our community.



Thank You for Your Generous Donations.

GiGi's Playhouse NYC is entirely funded by individual and corporate donations as well as foundation support.

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

\$30,000+

Tracy Nixon

\$20,000+

Benno Ansbacher

10,000+

Carlo Umberto Bonomi
Eric Fogarty

\$5,000+

Rachel Adams
Jonathan Ansbacher
Apax Foundation
Jon Connolly
Tim Driscoll
Abigail Fairman
Adam Hait
Brian Lichtenstein
Debbie Morris
Craig Smith
Bob Steir
Charles Stewart

\$2,500+

Anonymous New York
Safia Al-Rawi
Ruth Erickson
Brian Hallowell
Jessy's Pastries
Veronica Labarca
Andrew Morris
Elizabeth Scheel
Scott Schirick

\$1,000+

Steven Amato
Brad Anderson
Kevin Bennett
Laura Blau
Michael Borello
Matteo Cavalleri
Carol Falcinelli
Rick Froio
John Gjonbalaj
Paul Goularte
Sandy Herzfeld
Matthew Ingber
Kelly Lyles
Marya Propis
Anthony Providenti
Jane Providenti
Anne Russo
Ginger Schultz
Michelle Smith
Rosemary Suh
Ginger Schultz
Michelle Smith
Rosemary Suh
Jean Sullivan
Shawn Watts

\$500+

Michael Beck
Robert Bernier
Amy Brown
Astrid Castaño Wakolbinger
Robert Catalano
John Del Cecato
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation
Margaret Doughty
Shane Doyle
Laura Fahsbender
Jodie Fischer
Helene Fisher Horowitz
Tom Fogarty
Heather Fox Lima
Liza Galler
Zachary Galler
Kathleen Harris
Robert Harvey
Gretchen Hayes
John Hegeman
Sam Herzfeld
Ignacio Inda
Ruth Kilduff
Tory Kolb
Joe Loftis

Marymount School of New York
Social Events Club
Jessy Nahmias
Michael Nahmias
Greg Nehro
Amy Nickin
Marlar Oo
Francis Palamara
Parent-Teacher Association P.S.
372K
Jennifer Patterson
Perry and Jackie Patterson
Dan Purnick
Jennifer Rothenberg
Katherine Sammis
Linda Saraceni
Frank Sawyer
Mike Shemo
Yamira Siu-Jabbaar
Daniel Stein
Aaron Steinberg
Sarah Steinberg
Howard Sugarman
Gaurang Trivedi
Yissel Vidals
Holly Young



“GiGi’s Playhouse NYC contributes to teaching us how to be the best parents we can be. All the steps, tools and skills we need to succeed are right here. We will need GiGi’s Playhouse NYC all along our way.”

- Families at GiGi’s Playhouse NYC

GiGi's Playhouse NYC

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?

Expand our satellite programs

Through partnerships and in-kind donations, GiGi's Playhouse NYC will provide programs in all five boroughs of New York City. We are currently seeking partnerships in Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx.

Fundraising Needs

GiGi's Playhouse NYC fully survives on the generosity of investors. Donations provide children and adults with Down syndrome 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 NYC is not just for our participants and families, it's for the whole community. Every supporter creates a widening circle of dialog regarding our participants' potential. As the circle of communication, engagement and investment expands so does lasting acceptance.

Grow With Us



Take Action: Help GiGi's Playhouse NYC deliver lasting impact.



ENGAGE

- Host a private donor cultivation event
- Choose GiGi's Playhouse NYC as the primary beneficiary of your employee giving, matching gift and volunteer match campaigns
- Include GiGi's Playhouse NYC in your estate planning



SHARE

- Market and publicize GiGi's Playhouse NYC on your corporate web sites and social media pages
- Donate broadcast and digital advertising to help GiGi's Playhouse NYC reach more families and establish additional satellite programs
- Advance the Generation G Acceptance Campaign as a national promotional partner
- Join GiGi's Playhouse NYC in getting our elected officials to demonstrate their commitment to the Down syndrome community by joining the "Congressional Task Force on Down syndrome". Call, meet and inform your elected leaders



PARTNER

- Become a sponsor of GiGi's Playhouse NYC's programs and events
- Create an endowment or donor advised fund to provide sustainable support for Playhouse families and programs



ACTIVATE

Join the conversation! Mobilize your networks for good. [#GiGiPHNYC](#)



facebook.com/gigisplayhousenyc



twitter.com/GiGiPHNYC



instagram.com/nycgigisplayhouse



youtube.com/gigisplayhousenyc



Dr. Brian Skotko,
Co-Director of the Down
Syndrome Program at
Massachusetts General Hospital

Chris Wragge,
Anchor at New York's
CBS 2

GiGi's Playhouse NYC Team

Board of Directors

Frank Sawyer, President

Co-Founder and Principal at TeleGraphicMedia

Jane Providenti, Vice President

Director within the Americas Regional Finance Organization at Deutsche Bank

Sharon Hart-Fanelli, Secretary

General Manager for Cushman & Wakefield, Corporate Occupier & Investment Services

Jon Connolly, Co-Treasurer

Managing Director and Senior Counsel within the Legal Department at BNY Mellon

Roy Nada, Co-Treasurer, Marketing Co-Chair

Vice President, Electronic Execution Services, RBS

Saudia Ally, Gala Chair, Marketing Co-Chair

Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer at Marvel US Management

Jenna Aidikoff, Development Co-Chair

Senior Channel Account Manager-East at Rapid7, Co-Founder/Director at LiveUp Programs

Ryan Brown, Development Co-Chair

Senior Wealth Director at BNY Mellon Wealth Management

Laura Blau

Attorney in private practice in New York City

Ruth Erickson, Governance Chair

Retired, former Manager Director at Marsh LLC

Liza Galler

National Education Coordinator at GiGi's Playhouse INC

Adam Hait

Entrepreneur, Innovator, Pharmacist, Chef

Staff

Jasmine Ferrer

Operations Coordinator

Benny Kaufman

Programs Director

Dylan McNamara

Satellite Programs Co-Manager

Regine Polenz

Satellite Programs Co-Manager



Resources and Partners



Special Acknowledgements



John Connolly & Rachel Adams
 Eric & Becky Fogarty
 Andrew & Debbie Morris
 Robert Harvey

Volunteers

Christina Abraham	Malgorzata Budzynska	Donna Espeut	Sarah Hohn	Dan Levinsohn	Carissa Pagan	Lauren Thomas
Hannah Abrams	Paulina Bustindui	Ella Every-Wortman	Kimberly Holder	Randy Lewis	Maria Paguay	Jenn Thompson
Marisol Acre	Colleen Butler	Osasumwen Eweka	Brianna Hubka	Peter Loftis	Sheela Pai	Joanne Torres
Jane Agar	Sam Byrd	Sharon Fanelli	Beth Huffer	Marjorie Lune	Vidhi Patel	Hayley Trichon
Kimberly Agosto	Jenna Caldarella	Slywia Faszczewska	Kai Hunt	Ernesto Malaluan	Jane Providenti	Sherrie Trim
Jenna Aidikoff	Courtney Canatsey	Marie Fils Aime	Joseph Ibarra	Ella McCarthy	Jenni Putney	Hung Trinh
Jeff Alexander	Kasandra Castle	Julie Folloso	Meiling Jabbaar	Eileen Mcclary	Amy Quizhpi	Samantha Walter
Erica Alfaro	Cindy Chau	Laura Forer	La-quanna Jenkins	Shanee McFarlane	Jane Rainone	C.L. Weatherstone
Saudia Ally	Trix Cheung	Andrea Franco	Shaquanna Jenkins	Kelly McGrath	Natasha Ramirez Figallo	Lauren Weber
Fozia Almontaser	David Chung	Chris Freimuth	Yuki Kanazawa	Dylan McNamara	Selma Raven	Kaitlyn Wei
John Alovera	Alfredo Cid	Christina Frey	Robert Kane	Anabel Medina	Jenni Reynolds	Justin Weidner
Safia Al-Rawi	Kwacey Coggins	Liza Galler	Jenna Kantor	Emily Medvin	Naomi Rijo	Suzanne White
Camille Amezcua	Jon Connolly	Zaira Garcia	Bella Kasaba	Bria Melendez	Valery Robert	Octavia Williams
Kristin AmRhein	Louise Contino	Elizabeth Go	Anna Katinka	Kelly Merkl	Kristin Roberts	Beth Wrubleski
Dane Antoine	Kayla Cozza	Janice Gonzalez	Bonnie Keilty	Denise Miner	Alison Roberts	Lisa Wu
Kumiko Ashino	Christine Cuppett	Nina Gonzalez	Deanna Khan	Anna Monaco	Rachel Rosenblatt	Jamlyin Wu
Taylor Assaf	Emily Darby	Joelle Gotlich	Kate Kingsley	Jennifer Moore	Alexandra Ross	Samantha Zaccaro
Ingrid Astley	Eunice Daudu	Sanah Gul	Andy Kleiman	Amanda Moore	Lauren Ruf	Anika Zaman
Elizabeth Atlas	Jayci Davis	Kerstin Haakenson	Claire Kuhn	Ryoma Morisaki	Tina Rujithanawat	Arielle Zellis
Matt Atwater	Jessica Demarest	Liam Hackett	Veronica Labarca	Debbie Morris	Frank Sawyer	Kyle Zreibe
Selin Bacaksiz	Stephen Dilozenzo	Adam Hait	Alicia Lanzieri	Anita Murtha	Kayla Scalesi	
Susan Baker	Natalie Dimattia	Brynn Hanson	Bridgit Lapolla	Roy Nada	Emma Schaeffer	
Chelsea Bennett	Margret Ditolla	Gretchen Hayes	Anthony Lawrence	Cary Neer	Elizabeth Scheel	
Topher Bertone-Ledford	Sandra Dodley	Taylor Henkin	Brittany Lee	Kelly Neptune	Justin Schneider	
Sunil Bhavsar	Eirish Doyogan	Emily Hereford	Mylanda Lee	Carla Noboa	David Sheeger	
Gael Blanchard	Cristina Dris	Brandt Hersh	Melissa Leeolou	Sarah Noone	April Shiao	
Laura Blau	Annabelle Duncan	Jeremy Hersh	Michelle Leon	Sanam Nowrouzzadeh	Kristina Simonsen	
Deborah Blum	Matthew Duong	Sarah Hohn	Dana Leonard	Gladys Ofori	Yamira Siu-Jabbaar	
Sarah Boschetti	Luis Durasno	Kimberly Holder	Samantha Leonardo	Martyna Okuniewska	Justin Smalls	
Jennifer Bradshaw	Chelsea Eaton	Brianna Hubka	Nancy Leonardo	Marlar Oo	Julanda Smalls	
Ryan Brown	Ruth Erickson	Beth Huffer	Nicole Lester	Nina Osmani	Margaret Teige	

Thank
You!



Save the Date!



“i have a Voice” Gala 2019

We are planning our most exciting assignment yet and are counting on your participation.

Please be ready for action on Wednesday, May 1st, 2019!

Date: May 1st, 2019

Time: 6pm-9:30-pm

Location: Edison Ballroom • Times Square NYC

For More Info: gigisplayhouse.org/newyork/gala



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
educate. inspire. believe.
NYC



#GiGiPHNYC

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Email: nyc@gigisplayhouse.org