

Denver, CO

GiGi's Playhouse Denver Celebrates Down Syndrome Awareness Month Colorado's First and Only Down Syndrome Achievement Center Celebrates First Anniversary during Awareness Month

Lakewood, Colo. – October 3, 2022 – **Did you know October is a time to celebrate people with Down syndrome?** We officially invite you to share with your audience all that individuals with Down syndrome CAN DO! If you need help doing that, we are here to lend a hand! Now is the time to give attention to a group of people that are not only overlooked in October but daily.

Since opening its doors in October 2021, GiGi's Playhouse Denver has served more than 1,200 households while offering the community a place to serve, logging more than 5,000 volunteer hours and counting. Help us spread awareness for GiGi's Playhouse to change the way the world views a Down syndrome diagnosis and send a global message of acceptance for all.

With 56 locations across the United States and Mexico, GiGi's Playhouse is the ONLY international, free, Down Syndrome Achievement Center that offers free programming. Plus, we serve people around the world with our virtual platform, GiGi's at Home. Whether sessions are focused on speech, literacy, or math, there's a chance for each participant to grow and make friends along the way.

What really makes us stand out is our participants! We would love to welcome you to a local Playhouse to see just how much individuals with Down syndrome thrive when given the resources to succeed. Not only that, but their personalities also really shine in the environment designed around them.

In the spirit of Down Syndrome Awareness Month, there are many ways that your audience can show their support:

- Take the 'I Accept You' pledge- a commitment to being accepting, generous and kind at *iacceptyou.org*.
- Don't forget to show the world that YOU are accepting, generous and kind in your daily life.
- Take it a step further and post on social media about your acceptance, when you do so, make sure to tag us @gigis denver so we can celebrate another addition to our group of acceptance!
- Follow GiGi's Playhouse Denver on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> to show your support and find ways to get involved.
- Support your local playhouse with a financial gift or the gift of time. <u>Sponsorship</u> and <u>volunteer</u> opportunities are available at gigisplayhouse.org/Denver

Media Assets Available:

- Interviews with GiGi's Playhouse Board Members, Volunteer Staff, and participating families
- Photos and B-roll:
 - Local: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLN9x9RTxQq&t=4s</u>
 - National: https://www.dropbox.com/s/qu63jh2rm9cqblq/DSAM%20BRoll.mp4?dl=0



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About GiGi's Playhouse

GiGi's Playhouse is the ONLY nationwide network of Down syndrome achievement centers. GiGi's Playhouse was founded by GiGi's mom, Nancy Gianni, in Hoffman Estates, IL. Through its first 19 years, GiGi's Playhouse has grown to 56 locations throughout the United States and Mexico and serves families in 71 countries. GiGi's offers over 50 different therapeutic, educational, and career development programs for individuals with Down syndrome of all ages, their families, and the community. The organization is 99% volunteer-run, and all programs are 100% free to families. From prenatal diagnosis through career skills, GiGi's Playhouse makes a lifetime commitment to families. With over 200,000 free program participation hours annually, GiGi's Playhouse helps participants thrive through building educational, developmental, fitness, fine and gross motor, social-emotional, and speech and language skills.

For more information about free programs, volunteerism, impact partnerships, events, and many ways to support GiGi's Playhouse families: please visit www.gigisplayhouse.org.

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