



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
educate. inspire. believe.

Detroit, MI



Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report

GiGi's Playhouse Detroit is a place for families. It is a place for community. It is a place where individuals with Down syndrome can come for acceptance and strive to reach their highest achievements. For example, many self-advocates become models of good citizenship by giving back and volunteering their time at GiGi's Playhouse. It is thanks to these and many other incredible volunteers, a myriad of individual donors, as well as a handful of generous corporate Playhouse are provided for FREE to families-nothing should hold families back from inspiration!

Mission:

GiGi's Playhouse Detroit is changing the way the world views Down syndrome by providing FREE inclusive programming to help our families achieve their Best of All.

Vision:

To provide a place where individuals with Down syndrome find acceptance and zero barriers to access to our FREE educational, therapeutic and social programming.

A Letter From the President

As we close out 2021, I am amazed at the growth we have seen at our playhouse. We have tripled our number of program offerings and program participants. We have created an incredible partnership with Wayne State University which is allowing us to offer both literacy tutoring and the Amina Grace Speech and Language program. We are working with Wayne State on even more partnerships - so stayed tuned for an incredible update coming in 2022. A miracle is not always pretty or easily seen. Those of us who love a person with Down syndrome recognize that they are a miracle. Your continuous support of GiGi's Playhouse and our programs make you our miracle. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your continued support. May 2022 bring blessings to us all.

-Lisa Kocab



Purposeful Programs
.....
OVER 2,800
.....
Academic, Therapeutic
& Social Programming
Hours

375
.....
Unique Participants
Joined our 14
different programs
over the last year

**GiGi's
Playhouse
Detroit #42
opened**
1/27/2019

**149
Volunteers
donated
2,500
hours**

**GiGi's
Playhouse
Detroit
welcomed**
51
New Families

**Across the US
& in Mexico**
55
Playhouses are
open in 2021

**2021
At
A
Glance**

Numbers reflected through October 2021

2021 At A Glance



LMNOP



Kids Club



GiGiFIT Adult



1:1 Math Tutoring



GiGiFIT Acceptance Challenge



Down for the Hunt: Road Rally

Program Spotlight:

1:1 Math & Literacy Tutoring

At GiGi's Playhouse Detroit we stress the sense of family to our community and beyond. Through our 1:1 Math and Literacy Tutoring Programs we are able to connect families from all over Metro-Detroit, surrounding counties, and our warm welcome has even reached as far as Ohio! Most of our families take part in math and literacy tutoring in person; but, having a virtual option has allowed us to spread our GiGi's family to places like East Lansing, White Lake, and even to a family who was living in California but preparing to move to our neighborhood join in the fun! Participants can start in our Math and Literacy program as early as 3 years old and can participate long after they've graduated from high school.

We've opened our doors to Oakland and Wayne State Universities and invited medical students to join our GiGi's Family through tutoring and volunteering for other programs. Teachers from local schools sign up to tutor and bring ideas from our curriculum back to their schools. We've had volunteers who retire from their day job and come to tutor and have found a true sense of passion for their "new job". We've also had an individual with Down syndrome go through the tutoring program as a learner then turn around and tutor another student!

Math and Literacy tutoring, like all of our other programs, is completely free. We train all of the tutors and help them design lesson plans unique to each student who signs up. Each session is held for about 45 minutes once a week for a duration of about 12 weeks. We hear all the time how much the student looks forward to seeing his/her tutor and the tutors are always asking to return another session to work with the same student. It is through this bond that we have extended our GiGi's Playhouse Detroit family beyond the four walls of our center and into the surrounding communities!



Celebrating Best of All Moments

A Best of All moment is a unique recognition of continual, measurable, and celebrated growth in the GiGi's community. It is a challenge to do better everyday and to celebrate each victory! Check out three awesome participants who are deserving of being celebrated for their accomplishments!



Meet Sophie! Sophie began attending Kids Club back in January 2021. When she first attended, she didn't want to participate in the program. We did our best to engage her, but she really wanted to march to the beat of her own drum and do what she wanted. When Sophie attended in February, we began using the "first then" promoting positive behaviors tactic. She participated more than she did in January but still was not fully engaged. When Sophie attended Kids Club in March we had our promoting positive behaviors ready for her. When the program lead called her over to join the group Sophie came right over and participated for **THE ENTIRE PROGRAM!** She happily played the games, did the fine motor tasks (which aren't her favorite) and sat and listened to a story! We are SO proud of Sophie and all her progress we saw her make in just three months!

Meet Sydney! Sydney participates in multiple programs here at the Playhouse some of which include Drama Troupe, Art Explosion and GiGiFIT Adult. She loves being at the Playhouse and anyone who meets her immediately notices her smile that lights up a room and her passionate attitude.

Sydney is incredibly talented and proficient in sign language. When Sydney was asked about her experience with ASL and why she decided to learn how to sign, she said, "I have always been interested in ASL. I had a deaf friend and I took a class at Providence Hospital so I could speak with him. It became something I really enjoyed."

Her goal is to go to college and earn her certificate in sign language so she can teach small kids. However, she isn't waiting for this certificate to start! Sydney is an assistant leader for LMNOP. The LMNOP program teaches basic sign language to kids ages 0-3 and works on communication skills. Sydney has been working with our LMNOP participants and this continues her growth in ASL. We are thrilled to help her pursue her dream and to keep celebrating growth!



Meet Joe! Joe lives in Fremont, Ohio and his family got involved in our Playhouse during COVID-19 when our programming was exclusively virtual. Our virtual programming has been great for Joe and even though he doesn't have a Playhouse in his community he has been able to tap into GiGi's At Home and our virtual tutoring at the Detroit Playhouse. We have loved having Joe apart of our virtual programming. He has been tutored in Literacy over the last year with a tutor he has developed a great relationship with!

Joe's mom shared this amazing accomplishment:

"Last week we visited the library. Joe got out books and he was reading for almost 40 minutes. I cannot remember that happening in Joe's life ever. The encouragement and practice and support are making a complete difference in Joe's life. And when you make a difference in Joe's life you make a difference in our whole family's life!!!"

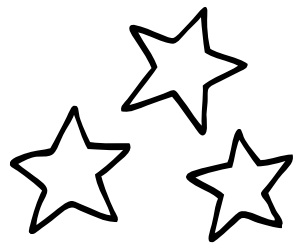
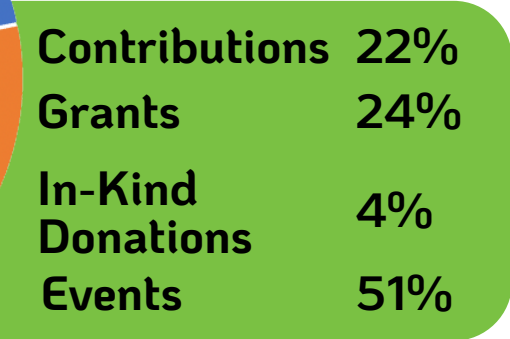
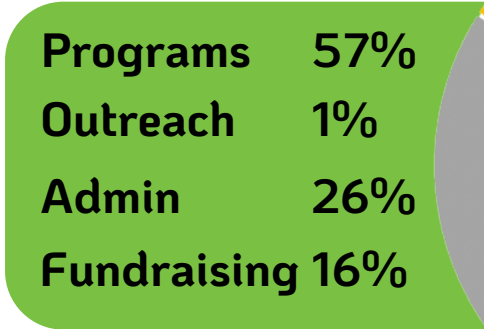
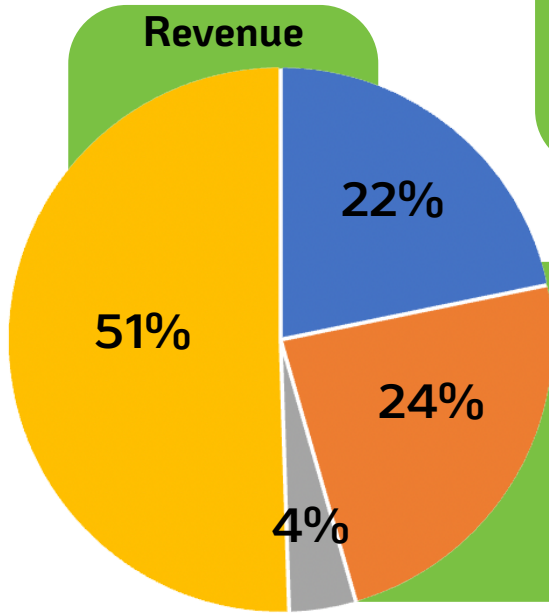
Our 1:1 Programs are a life line for our families. We are so proud of the progress that Joe has made with his tutor!



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By The Numbers

Detroit, MI



2022 SAVE the DATES

March 11 The Lucky Have a Few
Royal Oak Farmer's Market

June GiGi's Acceptance Fitness
Challenge

Thank you to our 2021 Event Sponsors for making our Events Possible

Luke Tyrrell
ZMC Pharmacy
Robert & Denise Moore
Todd & Tammy Wilms
Shawn & Laura Lilley
Oakland Macomb Obstetrics & Gynecology
Kara Davis
Beverly Hills Lions Club
Amanda Bussa
Drs. Delaney, Root & Associates
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Jeff & Kim Harper
Chris & Jocelyn Cook
Hodges Subaru
Jennifer Seiler
Mike & Kathleen Tynes
Dennis Schreibeis & Jennifer Giroux
Bob & Susan Chrysler
Jim & Sheila Giroux
Allie & Jill Page

