



Together

**We Can Make
The Change**

GiGi's
PLAYHOUSE™

Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
educate. inspire. believe.

Milwaukee, WI

2022 Annual Impact Report

Together we have a...

Community: where families and individuals with Down syndrome and all abilities can come together for acceptance and strive to reach their highest potential.

Mission: GiGi's Playhouse Milwaukee 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 and other intellectual disabilities find acceptance and zero barriers to access to our FREE educational, therapeutic and social programming.



"There are many reasons we love GiGi's. There are programs for all ages, so I know as Caroline grows, GiGi's grows with us, and we will always have a community to support us. It is so incredibly helpful as a parent of a child with Down syndrome to know that you have a place where your child will always be accepted and loved for exactly who they are, as they are." Becky Archibald, Board Member and Mom to Caroline

Dear Believers,

As we look back on 2022, I am thrilled with all that we accomplished in what we thought would be an uncertain year. 2022 was a year for transition and rejuvenation. We were so happy to greet so many new families in person, hold our first in-person run/walk/dash and hold our annual Brew HaHa in an exciting new venue with a packed house and great entertainment. We also accomplished our long-term goal for facility improvements at the Playhouse. If you haven't stopped in, please do! The additional tutor room, office, new technology and a fresh coat of paint and carpeting have really brightened up the space. Our programs are better than ever thanks to the addition of a new program and volunteer coordinator. We are now better equipped to support our volunteers and families with programming designed for our participants.

We couldn't have accomplished any of these goals without the support of our community. YOU have helped us continue to grow and offer new and better FREE programs in a warm and welcoming Playhouse. Together, WE can help change the way the world views Down syndrome with a global message of acceptance for all.

As we enter 2023, please join us to celebrate our accomplishments, our participants and the opportunity to continue to help our families find their Best of All!

Sincerely,

Susanne Griscom Pelikan, Board President



Together...

We Are World Changers



Spring started off right when the baby chicks, bunnies and others joined us at the Playhouse for a meet and greet.



We held our first in-person run/walk/dash for acceptance on a gray chilly day in early May. It was a great turn out for our first official run/walk/dash.



The kids got to learn new techniques and compete at the Wisconsin State Arm Wrestling Tournament!



Our littles enjoyed decorating cookies, singing songs and a sensory friendly visit with Santa.



Together we make an impact

"It's amazing to see how much Bea has grown and learned, how she's finally starting to talk (our conversations are spectacular!) and she's overcoming her sensory barriers to try new things and get out in the world! GiGi's Playhouse Milwaukee has had a huge hand in all of that success and we are beyond thankful!"
- Erin Mellone-Anderson, Board Member and Mom to Beatrix



2022 At-A-Glance

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| PURPOSEFUL PROGRAMS NEARLY 3,900 <small>academic, therapeutic & social programming hours</small> | GIGI'S MILWAUKEE #22 OPENED 3/21/2015 <small>7 years ago on World Down Syndrome Day</small> | GIGI'S MILWAUKEE WELCOMED 44 NEW FAMILIES | | |
| CELEBRATES COMMUNITY 398 Families in Wisconsin <small>+ 96 Families across the US! (492 in total)</small> | Across the U.S. & in Mexico 57 Playhouses were open in 2022 | 145 unique participants <small>joined our 30 different virtual & in-person programs</small> | | |



School aged kids and teens got to experience summer day camp at beautiful Rainbow Day Camp.



Staff and board members enjoyed a weekend learning and networking at our national GiGi's Playhouse conference.

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Together... we make community connections

Jennifer Marie Eggert, Assistant Clinical Professor at Marquette University, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology shares her thoughts on the Amina Grace Speech with Marquette Program.



How does this benefit the GiGi's participants and the Marquette clinicians? Community clinical outreach typically is haphazard in nature and only occurs at the opportunities present themselves. This is quite the opposite. It is both an established program (Amina Grace) within the structure of GiGi's and has become an established learning opportunity for our MU students. It's an opportunity to support the transition from the clinic to the real world.

How is this program a good collaboration between GiGi's Playhouse and Marquette University?

It's really a win-win-win situation! The Playhouse is staffed with a beneficial program, the students gain real world clinic skills, and the clients receive free services. Community Clinical Outreach is really about increasing our program's support to EVERYONE. Getting our clinicians out of our campus clinic is more important than ever.

What do you like about the program? This initiative leads to both community engagement AND an engaged community. I am overwhelmingly appreciative of how genuinely involved both the students and families are. The families are at home in the Playhouse and the students discover how special GiGi's is. They truly have a hard time leaving at the end of the semester.



Brew HaHa

It was a grand event at the Pabst Best Place – Great Hall where we welcomed comedian, Maryellen Hooper and over 100 guests. All enjoyed a few laughs, great food, drink and the chance to show our support for GiGi's Playhouse Milwaukee. Save the date for Brew HaHa 2023! Thursday, October 12th at the Grand Hall at the Best Place at the Historic Pabst Brewery.

Together... we provide a lifetime of support

Register through the calendar with your My GiGi's Account. Need help? Contact us at (414) 797-0522 or email program@milwaukee.gigisplayhouse.org

Programs at GiGi's Playhouse Milwaukee

<https://gigisplayhouse.org/milwaukee/sfcalendar/>

| Ages 0-2 | Ages 3-5 | Ages 6-12 | Ages 13-17 | Ages 18+ |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| | • GiGiFIT (Infants, Toddlers, Kids, Teens & Adults) | | | |
| | • 1:1 Tutoring in Math and Literacy (Book Club for Teens & Adults) | | | |
| | • 1:1 or group Amina Grace Speech and Language | | | |
| LMNOP | | • GiGi Kitchen (Kids, Teens, Adults) | | |
| Leaps & Bounds | Kids Club | Teen Tastic | Fantastic Friends | |
| Little Hands, Big Plans | | | • GiGi Prep | |
| • = Session applications (spots may fill up) | | | | |
| Fitness | Academic | Therapeutic | Social | Job skills |

You can also help by joining our team of volunteers!

- **Tutors** – the Playhouse provides training and materials for those interested in 1:1 math and literacy tutoring in-person or virtually at a time that fits your schedule.
- **Program Leaders** – great opportunity to work directly with our participants at all ages in social and therapeutic programs.
- **Program Assistants** – help other volunteers deliver a program.
- **Committee Members** – help out with events, fundraisers and program design.
- **Advisory Board** – perfect for community members interested in helping out behind the scenes but not quite ready for a full board commitment.

Together... we provide FREE programs

Leaps & Bounds

Leaps & Bounds is a play-based program for children ages 3-5 that focuses on success in preschool and kindergarten. Students engage in fun activities to promote following routines, small group participation and movement.



The opportunities that Leaps and Bounds provided Emma has helped set her up to be a successful student in school. It's taught her that you need to listen to what your teacher says, engage in the activity and most importantly, it's given her the confidence to move forward and try new things. She's grown in ways that I could never imagine, developing skills and forming friendships that'll last forever. That's not only what Leaps and Bounds did, that's what GiGi's Playhouse did. They created a structured program with a fun environment that allows Emma to learn without restrictions.
-Melissa, Emma's Mom

GiGi's Playhouse has been transformative for our family. We found GiGi's during the pandemic. Sam was lonely and sad and so many hard won skills were declining. Virtual Music and TeenTastic brought joy quite literally into our home. Our lives nearly revolve around TeenTastic and GiGiFit where he and I both get to spend time with friends and families where everyone is welcome and everyone belongs. It is a time when Sam gets to just be Sam and discover new interests and grow in every way without the weight of "fitting in", getting in the way. We love our GiGi's family and are so grateful for them. -Amy, mom of Sam



Teen Tastic

Teen Tastic with Mount Mary University was featured over the summer. This program focused on building social, executive functioning and self-advocacy skills. Sessions included skill development, problem solving, compromise and turn-taking in a variety of settings in the playhouse, at parks and at local businesses.



GiGiFIT

GiGiFIT programs combine physical therapy with a strong fitness focus and an ultimate goal of success and improved movement. GiGiFIT was created in collaboration with Physical Therapists to address the needs of individuals with Down syndrome including hypotonia, joint laxity and decreased balance. Milwaukee is pleased to offer this program to infants and toddlers, kids, teens and adults.



I like GiGiFIT Adult because it is fun and challenges me!
-Anaiya

Together... we can achieve excellence

SOE'S

GiGi's Playhouse Milwaukee is pleased to have received recognition for our hard work at the national conference. Our national office uses these Standards of Execution to guide each Playhouse. This year we received Center of Excellence in the area of Programs, Donation Processing & Data Management, and HR & Volunteer Management. We were awarded Strong in Marketing, Operations & Facility and Financial Health. We are proud of these accomplishments.



GiGi's By the Numbers



| | |
|-------------|----------|
| GRANTS | \$71,017 |
| DONATIONS | \$37,471 |
| FUNDRAISERS | \$96,385 |
| MISC. | \$2,291 |

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| PAYROLL | \$93,822 |
| FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS | \$43,932 |
| PROGRAMMING/MARKETING/EVENTS | \$44,045 |
| NATIONAL CONFERENCE | \$1,373 |
| NATIONAL SUPPORT | \$25,307 |
| REMODEL | \$41,254 |



Together... we rejuvenated our Playhouse

We were so pleased to welcome the Schlitz and Kulka Families' as we dedicated our new Facility Improvements in honor of Diane Schlitz and Papa Wally Kulka. We are thrilled with our new improvements and excited to be able to expand our 1:1 tutoring/speech capabilities, work space for staff and storage within our existing space. New technology allows us to expand our reach within the community and fresh new flooring and paint brighten the space.



We are so lucky to have 2 full time staff and 1 part time person keeping the Playhouse on track. Sara Van Deurzen, Operations Director Lauren Clausing, Program and Volunteer Coordinator Marie Burrows, Marketing Coordinator

Together... possibilities

\$5,000 and above

- *Anon Charitable Trust
- *Barnes & Noble
- Bader Philanthropies, Inc.
- Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation
- Harri Hoffmann Family Foundation, Inc.
- *Anthony & Ann Jasen
- John & Casey Kulka
- *James & Susanne Pelikan
- *Stackner Family Foundation
- *Wispact Foundation

\$1,000 and above

- American Endowment Amina
- Grace Memorial Fund INC.
- Joel & Erin Anderson
- Nick & Kristin Anson
- Nick Argires
- Dan & Mary Aschenbrener
- Benevity
- Eric & Mary Bolander
- Craftsman Café
- Matthew Coburn
- Chris Crain & Lisa Davis
- Kurt & Julie Doman
- Elizabeth Elser Doolittle
- Charitable Trusts
- Laura Fernandez
- Fifth Generation, Inc.
- GE Healthcare
- Gigi MKE Boutique
- *Barry Goldman
- David R. Griscom
- Garrett Holmes & Jillian Holschuh

Intentional Purpose

- Consulting, LLC
- Harold & Adelyn Jacobsohn
- Jasen Wealth Advisors
- Dan & Annette Kappler
- Carolyn Kirkby
- Nathan Leonardelli
- Lincoln Contractors Supply
- LiteZilla
- Manpower Group
- Steve & Lisa Mellone
- Milwaukee Bucks
- My Choice Wisconsin
- *Derek & Norine Nazareth
- Network for Good
- Nicolet High School
- Orion Motors LLC
- Jodi Ristau
- Patrick & Suzette Roddy
- *Schloemer Law Firm, S.C.
- *Smiles for Life Foundation
- Randy & Chris
- VandenHouten Household
- *Michael & Lynda Wachter
- *WI Arm Sports
- WI Energies Foundation, Inc.
- Wilo USA
- Katherine Zvesper

\$500 and above

- Wendy England
- Matt Snyder & Darya Alexander
- Barry J Goldman, CPA LLC
- David Benolo
- Shelley Boehm
- Brewers Community Foundation, Inc.

Brian & Rebekah Wickert

- Family Foundation
- Matt & Marie Burrows
- Chris & Kristen Byers
- Eladio Cancel
- Tom & Amy Dietrich
- Chip & Meghan Fetherston
- Foundation Source
- General Donations Milwaukee
- General Plastics, Inc.
- GiGi's Playhouse Madison
- Hidden Glen Golf Course
- Integrated Management & Accounting, LLC
- Nicole Johnson
- Mike & Lize Keller
- Andrew & Kirsten Kerr
- Charlie & Sarah Koehn
- Erin Kogler
- David & Joan Korpela
- Cathy LaFleur
- Scott Levin
- Madison Investments
- Marian Milwaukee
- MGW Law
- Milwaukee Admirals
- Milwaukee Tool Corporation
- Jake & Heather Minsky
- Jeffrey & Ginger Moerschel
- Michael & Jane Nichols
- Onda
- Aron & Nicole Pankow
- Mike & Terri Peckerman-Stein
- Karen Rinehart
- Andrew & Heidi Rowley

Robert L. & Frances J. Zielsdorf

- Foundation
- Stormonth Elementary School
- T. Rowe Price Charitable
- Jon & Sara Van Deurzen
- Carl & Janet Vopal
- Mike & Andi Zimmerman

Your belief in GiGi's Playhouse Milwaukee has helped us do great work this year. Thank you for continuing to support our mission of acceptance and for changing the lives of those we serve together.

* indicates Believers who received a new or larger star in 2022 on our GiGi's Playhouse Milwaukee donor wall



STORMONTH SCHOOL ACCEPTANCE CHALLENGE

Stormonth Elementary 4th Graders are changing the way the world views Down syndrome. They have taken the #GenerationG pledge, learned about acceptance, and inclusion, and are living these lessons every day! We are so grateful for their support of the GiGiFIT Acceptance Challenge.



GenerationG is a worldwide movement that goes beyond Down syndrome and sends a global message of acceptance for all. We invite everyone to be kind, be generous, and be accepting.

You can help change the world by taking the pledge at:



Together... we are the change!



Board Members (from left to right): Barry Goldman, Erin Kogler, Erin Anderson, Becky Archibald, Ann Jasen, Sue Pelikan, Mike Wachter



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Milwaukee, WI

Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Impact Report

We need **YOU!** We are looking for board members to grow into the future. Join us!

<https://gigisplayhouse.org/milwaukee/> Virtually Visit Us!



Counties We Serve

Milwaukee, WI
8685 N. Port Washington Road
Milwaukee, WI 53217
(414) 797-0522

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