

Gigi's Playhouse™

Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
educate. inspire. believe.

New Orleans, LA



2021

Annual Report

gigisplayhouse.org/neworleans



504-321-6770

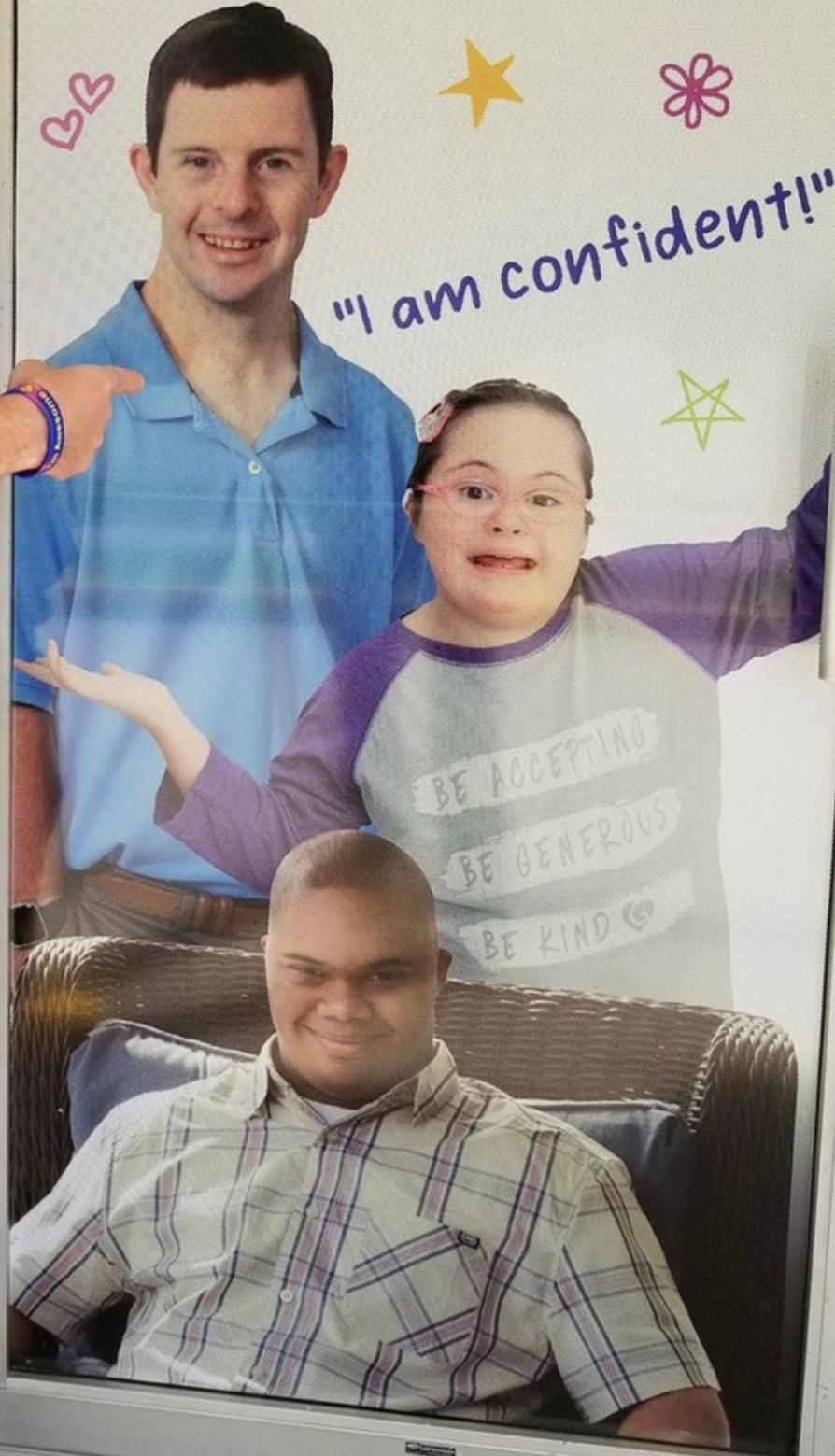


"I am confident!"



1021

NEW ORLEANS
PELICANS



Because of you... 2021 WAS AMAZING!

Dear Friends of GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans,

What an eventful year 2021 was! In addition to being our first full year in operation, we had to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, staff turnover, and Hurricane Ida evacuations in addition to the learning curve that comes with operating a new Playhouse. Our revenue stream from fundraising events shrank and we had to limit participation in our in-person programming to keep our community safe and healthy. Nonetheless, we expanded the number of programs we offer and increased the number of families we served throughout the year, due to the support of our Board, volunteers and donors. We started with GiGiFIT programming to promote nutrition and fitness in adults, and with LMNOP sessions to enhance communication skills in our youngest participants. Then we added more of GiGi's Signature programs such as Music in Motion, Playhouse Pals, Kids Club, Fantastic Friends, and our One-on-One Literacy Tutoring, offering something for every age group - at absolutely no cost to our families!

What a blessing it is to be able to provide free therapeutic, educational and social activities for individuals with Down syndrome in the New Orleans area and their families - because of you! We are eagerly planning bigger and better things to come in 2022. Thank you for making a difference!

Sandy Juarez

Board President and Ella's mom



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Our Mission and Purpose:

To change the way the world views Down syndrome and to send a global message of acceptance for all.

Our Vision:

To see a world where individuals with Down syndrome are accepted and embraced in their families, schools and communities.

Our Niche:

We change lives through consistent delivery of free educational, therapeutic-based and career development programs for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community.

Our Promise:

A lifetime commitment to families.

Because of you...



Our programs

"I have seen such excitement from our families about the programs we are offering at the Playhouse, and the positive impacts for participants as well as parents and caregivers. Participants are having a ball while improving their skills and self-confidence in a place they can call their own. Parents and caregivers are enjoying time with each other, sharing stories, laughing, and connecting!"

- Lisa DiRe Harris, Board Secretary &
Program Coordinator

A total of 60 individuals with Down syndrome and 73 of their family members participated in 983 program hours at GiGi's NOLA in 2021!

GiGiFit

GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans offered GiGiFit Adult during the Spring, Summer, and Fall sessions of 2021. GiGiFIT combines physical therapy with a strong fitness focus and an ultimate goal of success and improved movement. GiGiFIT was created in collaboration with skilled physical therapists who work specifically with individuals with Down syndrome. Every GiGiFIT program is safe, effective, and progressive and helps participants build strength, endurance, power, joint stability, balance, and movement control. GiGiFIT empowers participants to be more independent and confident in their abilities while improving their overall health and wellness.

LMNOP - Language Music 'N' Our Peeps

GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans has offered LMNOP since our opening in Fall 2020. It is an interactive and engaging program for newborns to 36 months old which guides parents and young children through learning basic sign language and other forms of communication using music and language-based activities.



WE'RE GROWING

Friends, Fun, & Fitness

Friends, Fun, & Fitness is a fitness program for ages 12 to 17 that gives participants an opportunity to develop new friendships and have fun while increasing physical activity levels through various types of exercise. Program volunteers motivate participants to independently practice various physical activities at the Playhouse and at home.



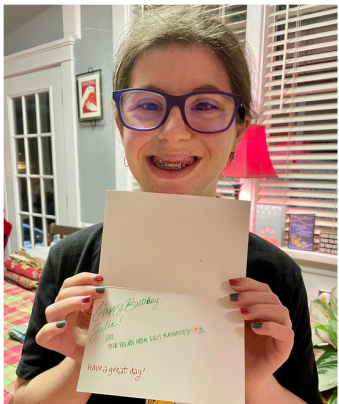
Music in Motion

Group Music Therapy

During the summer of 2021, GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans was able to provide group music therapy sessions for children, teens, and adults through the generosity of a grant from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation.

One-on-One Literacy Tutoring

GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans piloted and launched the One-on-One Literacy Tutoring program during 2021! The ability to read opens doors for individuals with Down syndrome in the workplace, schools and the community. Our goal is for our learners to foster a love for reading and provide an opportunity to develop and master skills, all while building a positive relationship with our volunteer tutors. Trained tutors work at the level of the learners, continually challenging and encouraging them to reach their Best of All.



Birthday Card Program

In Fall 2021 we started the Birthday Card Program. We celebrate the birthdays of individuals with Down syndrome by sending them a birthday card personalized by volunteers during the month of their birthdays!



Because of you... WE'RE TEACHING



GiGi's in our community

One of the important elements of the GiGi's Playhouse mission is to teach the community about Down syndrome and, perhaps more importantly, to educate families about the positive things they can expect after a Down syndrome diagnosis. Most people are susceptible to the anxiety which the unknown can create, but once you remove the unknown from the equation, families feel a sense of relief knowing what the journey ahead might look like. GiGi's not only educates families but also educates communities so they can support families and their loved ones with Down syndrome by being accepting to all.

Individuals with Down syndrome want to experience life to its fullest just like everyone does, and in order for that to occur, communities must be willing to accept and love everyone. So that is why education and teaching are cornerstones of GiGi's mission.

- Bob Kimbro, Board Vice-President

GiGiFit Acceptance Challenge

Our 2021 GiGiFIT Acceptance Challenge Field Day was a fun, exciting, and inclusive experience that sent a message of Global Acceptance for All!

Special thanks to the 610 Stompers who joined us with their extraordinary moves and to the University of New Orleans for the use of their Human Performance Center.



#Generation G

GiGi's Playhouse, Inc. launched iacceptyou.org where everyone can take the pledge to **Be Accepting. Be Generous. Be Kind.**

Be a part of the growing numbers of supporters who say, "I can and will accept you as you are."



Please place
muffled toys in this
bin to be sanitized

Say Hello

share

play music

Listen to a Story

play with parachute

Bye



Gracie's
Children's
Library

Gracie's
Children's
Library

Because of you...

WE'RE SERVING

Our volunteers

"I volunteer at GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans to help our participants feel capable, accepted, and included in all that they do. It has absolutely given me clarity on my goals in life. I am so blessed to be a part of the work being done here at GiGi's."

- Caroline Garrett, Volunteer Coordinator & Program Leader (pictured on page 8)



A total of 86 volunteers contributed 1,435+ hours of program, special event, and administrative support in 2021!

Golf Tournament

A team of volunteers hosted the 1st Annual GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans Golf Tournament held on December 10th, 2021. About 70 golfers gathered for the tournament at Lakewood Country Club and raised over \$20,000 to support GiGi's FREE educational and therapeutic-based programs!



Because of you... WE'RE CELEBRATING

One year in

"What an exciting year it has been at GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans! So many family connections, volunteer friendships, and community partnerships have been formed that there isn't enough space to list them all! We can't wait to see what next year brings!"

- Lory Lewis, Board Treasurer & Tutoring Coordinator



"Every city needs a GiGi's Playhouse. The services provided by GiGi's will help individuals with Down syndrome be the best they can be and have fun, too. I have had so many opportunities in my life that I want to give back as I have received. It is, also, fun seeing everyone and meeting new friends. GiGi's makes us better people. We learn from others we meet at GiGi's and hope they learn from us, too."

- Craig Blackburn, GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans Board Member and Self-Advocate (pictured on Page 2)



Because of you... WE'RE EXPANDING



Future group program offerings

At GiGi's, we are always evaluating which programs best serve the needs of our participants and their families.

In 2022, we will offer the following new programs:

Destination Discovery

A program for participants of all ages which supports the development of fine motor skills, gross motor skills, social skills and language through purposeful play and peer to peer interaction in a casual and fun setting. This program also brings families together to share experiences and build relationships.

TEAM (Teaching Exercise, Activity, and Movement)

The TEAM program for adults promotes a healthy lifestyle, peer interaction, and independence.

Program time is divided into segments devoted to nutrition, meal prep, and exercise while participants interact with their peers.

Gratitude Committee

The Gratitude Committee focuses on giving back to the community for the things we are generously given and showing appreciation for the community we live in through various projects.

1-on-1 Math Tutoring

The aim of this program is to help promote a positive experience of learning mathematics with a sound foundation of basic number understanding.

GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans Kitchen

We are in the planning and design phase of creating a kitchen suitable to support nutrition-based programs and the social interaction components of our other programs. Stay tuned for updates!

Our achievements could not be accomplished without the support of GiGi's Playhouse, Inc. national network. Use the icon to the right to see the national annual report.



View the 2021
GiGi's Playhouse Inc
Annual Report



GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans Summarized Unaudited*
Financial Statements
For the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
Current Assets	\$ 80,905	\$ 44,802
Total Assets	\$ 128,059	\$ 101,546
Current Liabilities	\$ 5,968	\$ 7,624
Total Liabilities	\$ 39,252	\$ 32,609
Total Net Assets	\$ 88,807	\$ 68,937
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 128,059	\$ 101,546

Summarized Statement of Activities

	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 136,483	\$ 47,063
Total Costs	\$ 116,613	\$ 54,061
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 19,870	\$ (6,998)

***The finances of GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans will be audited as part of the GiGi's Playhouse, Inc. network financial statement audit later in 2022.**

For more information or volunteer opportunities, please reach out to us!

**GiGi's Playhouse New Orleans
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**neworleans@gigisplayhouse.org
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