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LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CO-PRESIDENTS

We are thrilled to have kicked off 2021 as GiGi's NYC's new Co-Presidents and continue the success and growth of GiGi's NYC under the leadership and passion of Frank Sawyer after four amazing years. 2021 turned out to be an exceptional year as we slowly reopened our doors and recovered from the global pandemic. We continued the momentum with growing our programs, both virtually and in-person, to meet the evolving needs of our community. We increased our parent support groups, added theatre-based programs for our teens, launched sports clinics for all ages, and expanded our lecture series, which attracted numerous well-respected speakers to educate our community.

As Co-Presidents of the Board and parents of teens with Down syndrome, who have been attending programs at GiGi's NYC since we opened in 2012, it is amazing and heartwarming to see how our boys have grown in these incredible 10 years! Through their community and peers' support, our boys have grown into young men who have excelled in all areas. Troy voted in the 2020 presidential election and is now attending the InclusiveU program at Syracuse University! He is attending university classes with the support of peer mentors, living independently in the dorm with over-site from a residential mentor, and frequents sporting events at the DOME. Troy is absolutely loving it and making the most of his college experience. Malik is following in Troy's footsteps with goals of also going to college as he finishes his junior year of high school.



Their friendship since the age of eight indicates that GiGi's NYC community is unique, and our programs, which promote socialization, independence, and advocacy, are invaluable and attainable for every individual who participates. The success of our boys, and all the participants at GiGi's NYC, is directly attributable to the amazing programs, staff, and volunteers that give so much to our growing community. We thank you for your tireless efforts and commitment to our community.

We look forward to a new year filled with growth, excitement, and achievements. As the ages of our participants grow and new families discover us, it is critical that we expand our adult program accordingly. Expansion areas include participant post-secondary education: this involves GiGi Prep, GiGi University, and GiGi Professional. Other program expansions include enhancing our new family programs with licensed therapists and Early Development partners. Additionally, we will increase our parent/caregiver programs to further support our community, and much more. With the amazing and generous support of our community, families, and donors, we will make our dreams a reality. We hope you take this incredible journey with us.

Sincerely,

Jane Providenti

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OUR STORY

OVERVIEW

GiGi's NYC is the only organization in New York City solely dedicated to the development of individuals with Down syndrome from birth through adulthood and at every phase of life. We provide therapeutic, educational, social, and creative arts programs and events year-round at no cost to participants or their families.

We empower our diverse participants to be included in the greater community, to be their whole selves, and to make the world a better place. GiGi's NYC offers a supportive and nurturing environment that enables individuals, parents, expecting parents, and families to connect.

With our migration to a more virtual world, GiGi's NYC is at the forefront of innovation and delivering online programs for our growing community, all while being completely funded by our generous donors.

VISION

Our vision is to see a world that is socially just. Where individuals with Down syndrome have a voice and are accepted and embraced in their families, schools, and communities, making the world a better place to live, work and prosper.



MISSION

Our mission is to improve the lives of all people with Down syndrome, from birth through adulthood, by providing them with the resources they need to apply to life challenges and achieve. We accomplish our mission by providing innovative, life-changing programs at no cost to our participants and families. GiGi's NYC's programs and events empower people with Down syndrome to realize their fullest potential and build the skills necessary for success in school, work, and community involvement. We openly celebrate and share their unique talents and achievements to honor their rightful place in the world.

FOUNDERS' PRINCIPLES

GiGi's NYC opened its doors in 2012, under the vision of our Founders, Tracy Nixon and Debbie Morris. Their dream was to create a place where their daughters could socialize, learn and make lifelong friendships. Ten years later, we are still the only New York City organization dedicated solely to serving the Down syndrome community. GiGi's NYC is realizing its vision and mission. We are changing the perception of Down syndrome in New York City and beyond by recognizing and celebrating the many achievements of our diverse community.









LETTER FROM OUR STAFF: ROSELLA LOFARO

2021 was a year of many successes for GiGi's NYC, and I could not be more proud of our amazing participants, families, and volunteers. After a long hiatus from in-person programs due to COVID-19, we re-opened our physical Playhouse doors in July. I was thrilled to finally meet our community in-person--it was perhaps the biggest highlight of my year.

We were able to create a safe space for our participants to reconnect, and when we finally met in-person at the Playhouse, it felt like no time had passed. As we navigated and got used to our "new normal," the resilience of our community shined as bright as ever. Even through masks, vaccine mandates, and of course, a few COVID-19 scares, our community continued to blow through barriers, dispel misconceptions about Down syndrome, and, more importantly, continued to ACHIEVE.

2021 was marked by a significant number of momentous occasions for our community. Here are a select few:

- We named our newest ambassador, Danielle. Danielle is a regular participant in our Gratitude
 Art Committee and quickly found her voice in the group by leading a virtual poetry writing
 workshop.
- We introduced Fatima, a longtime GiGi's NYC participant, as our resident blogger. Fatima's
 monthly series, "Words of Wisdom," showcases her talent as a writer and her knowledge of
 various important topics.
- We successfully launched a hybrid program model—in-person and virtual—to meet our community's evolving needs and continue expanding our reach.
- We kicked off our "Leaders in Communication" program in partnership with The NYU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.
- We successfully piloted our virtual "GiGiKitchen" program, led by GiGi's NYC participant, Victoria. Victoria earned a college degree in Culinary Arts and is the first person with a "disability" to have completed this rigorous program.
- We hosted a bi-annual Sports Clinic at Marymount School of New York, led by GiGi's NYC Associate Board Members, Kyle Galin and Isaac Shapot.
- Due to the popularity of our classes hosted by CO/LAB Theater Group over the summer, they ran a semester-long musical theater residency program during our Fall Semester, culminating in their own production.
- We expanded our Gratitude Art Committee Program to twice a week. It is now held virtually on Tuesdays and in-person on Wednesdays.

The GiGi's NYC community is UNSTOPPABLE! It is an honor to witness firsthand our amazing participants' growing list of achievements. Many thanks to all of those who have supported the GiGi's NYC community: staff members, volunteers, donors, community partners, friends, and family. May we all continue to show the world how much the Down syndrome community ROCKS!

Sincerely,

Rosella Lofaro

Operations Manager

R. Lofaref

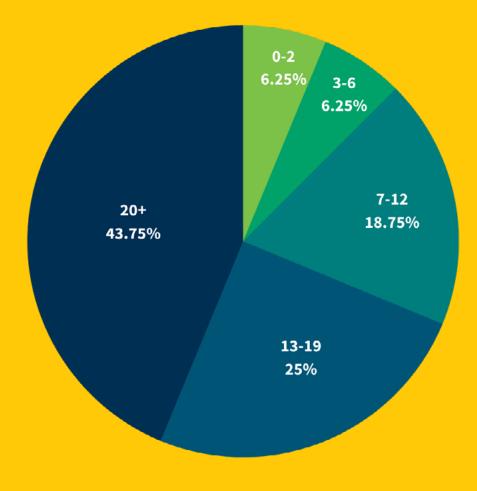
OUR COMMUNITY

New Families: 55

Total Families Served: 1,000+

Total Unique Volunteers: 321

Volunteer Hours: 5,142



Ages Served

GIGI'S NYC AMBASSADOR: DANIELLE CUMBERBATCH

"I see myself helping others like me grow beyond social limits. I get to work with others to bring awareness to Down syndrome and to expand the programs within New York City."

Danielle Cumberbatch



GiGi's NYC introduced Danielle Cumberbatch as our newest Ambassador at the Annual Gala on October 21, 2021.

Danielle loves to read, write, and help people. She joined our community in July 2020 and has been an active participant ever since. She attended our Summer Programs and is a regular participant in our Gratitude Art Committee (GAC) Program. She even introduced our other GAC participants to poetry writing and hosted them for a virtual Poetry Slam!

Danielle has a number of ideas to help increase the impact of the GiGi's NYC community. For example, her and her peers can volunteer by reading to children and organize a book drive for young children with Down syndrome.

When she's not too busy, Danielle is very proud to help pack and distribute food and supplies to people displaced by the volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines last year.

GiGi's NYC congratulates Danielle on her amazing accomplishments!



RECURRING PROGRAMS



Chorus participants develop and reinforce skills such as body awareness, listening, vocal production, diction, and memorization. Performing builds confidence, self-esteem, and resiliency and provides the satisfaction that comes from working as a team. Recommended for all ages.

Family Fun Movement

An opportunity that brings the family together with movement and music. Introducing basic dance styles, techniques, and movement while improving gross motor skills, mental and muscle memory, strength, flexibility, and coordination. Recommended for ages 10 and under.

GIGIFIT

GiGiFIT 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. Recommended for ages 5 and older.



Gratitude Art Committee

Adults with Down syndrome gain handson experience creating art while expressing themselves, building confidence, and socializing with peers. Our artists volunteer their time and talent, creating art to share with our community and the world - showing our gratitude. Société Générale features a permanent installation of Gratitude Art in their New York City home office. Recommended for ages 18 and older.

One-to-One Literacy Tutoring

The One=to-One Literacy Tutoring Program uses a methodology with documented success based on research by professionals in the field. Our goal is to foster a love for reading and provide an opportunity to develop and master skills. Trained tutors work at the level of each student, continually challenging and encouraging them to reach their highest potential. Recommended for ages 3 and older.

LitLab

LitLab connects participants with volunteer tutors to engage in arts-inspired learning, to create presentations on various engaging topics. We focus on reading, public speaking, PowerPoint, and social skills, as we dive into fun research projects based on a mutual appreciation of music, art, dance, reading, cooking, and more. Recommended for ages 10 and older.

RECURRING PROGRAMS



In partnership with the New York University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, GiGi's NYC participants have the opportunity to receive screenings, evaluations, and intervention services in speech, language, hearing, and voice and stuttering on an individual basis. Recommended for all ages.

Rising Stars

Rising Stars offers the art of improv comedy theater to our community. Improv is the art of creating scenes and comedy on the spot, using imagination and personal experiences while working with your fellow actors. Recommended for ages 13 and older.

Self-Defense

This program is a martial arts-inspired workout that teaches our participants the basic techniques to protect their health and wellbeing. Recommended for ages 5 and older.

TeenTastic

TeenTastic promotes socialization, friendships, and connection among our participants in a casual and fun setting. Recommended for ages 13 to 20.



TeenTastic Night Out

GiGi's NYC partners with New York Cares to plan an awesome social night for teens. Each month there is a different theme and various activities that help facilitate social skills and friendship-building among peers. Recommended for ages 13 to 20.

Yoga

This program aims to provide our participants with simple meditation and teaches them various body postures for health and relaxation. Recommended for ages 5 and older.

Zumba

Zumba is a fitness program that combines Latin and international music with dance moves to create a fun and interactive workout. Recommended for ages 5 and older.

PARENT/CAREGIVER RESOURCE GROUPS

New Parent Support Group

New Parent Support Group is a family-based group session in collaboration with the faculty and students from Hunter College Graduate School of Early Childhood Special Education. It is an opportunity for families to engage in structured conversation on a specific developmental topic for each session, focusing on parent-child interactions and direct support of child learning through guided interactions and strategies. Recommended for families with children ages prenatal to 3.

Dad's Social Club

Dad's Social Club is a place for fathers and father figures to socialize and share their experiences, provide support and advice, or just listen. Recommended for fathers and father figures who have a loved one with Down syndrome.

Parent / Caregiver TableTalk

TableTalk is a safe space where the GiGi's NYC community can share their experiences, swap resources, network, build connections, and so much more. Recommended for parents, caregivers, siblings, and friends who have a loved one with Down syndrome.

Charla Familiar

With the success of Parent/Caregiver TableTalk is the Outreach Committee that launched Charla en Español for our families and caregivers in our LatinX community to unite and support one another in all areas. Recommended for parents, caregivers, siblings, and friends who have a loved one with Down syndrome.

Con el éxito del Padre/Cuidador TableTalk, el Comité de Divulgación lanzado Charla en Español para nuestras familias y cuidadores en nuestra comunidad LatinX a unirse y apoyarse unos a otros en todas las áreas. Recomendado para padres, cuidadores, hermanos y amigos que tienen un ser querido con síndrome de Down.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer Clubhouse

Summer Clubhouse encompasses a broad range of activities that facilitate sensory exploration, gross and motor development, and language skills. This program leverages parent/caregiver involvement in various activities at the Playhouse and within and around NYC. Recommended for ages 5 to 12.

Summer Adventures

This program allows our participants to explore their independence while learning life skills, developing social skills and relationships, and experiencing the culture and arts of New York City. Recommended for ages 13 to 20.

Summer Horizons

Participants have the opportunity to continue developing meaningful life skills through shared experiences and various learning opportunities while participating in numerous activities. Building friendships and reinforcing skills such as self-confidence, healthy lifestyles, money management, and more are all part of the curriculum. Recommended for ages 21 and over.



NEW PROGRAMS

Best Buddies

We re-launched our Best Buddies Chapters with The Dalton School and Columbia University, allowing our participants to connect regularly with their peer buddies in a one-to-one and group setting to engage in fun activities and conversations. Recommended for ages 14 and older.

CO/LAB Theater Group

In partnership with CO/LAB Theater Group, this musical theater program aims to develop and build various musical theater skills. The ensemble works together to create and perform their own number as they learn about various musical theater productions. Recommended for ages 16 and older.



GiGiKitchen

Participants prepare and cook healthy and delicious recipes, led by one of our participants, Victoria, who has a College Degree in Culinary Arts. She is the first person with a "disability" to have completed this rigorous program. Participants are taught about kitchen safety, nutrition, food preparation, and health and wellness while also learning about measuring ingredients, food handling, ingredient identification, and various cooking techniques. At the end of the semester, participants prepare a three-course meal. Recommended for ages 16 and older.

Leaders in Communication

In partnership with The NYU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, our participants work with NYU graduate school speech-language pathology clinicians in a dynamic series of sessions focused on social communication skills, interview skills, empowerment, and advocacy. Recommended for ages 13 and older.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION



Occupational Therapist & Mother of a Teenager with Down Syndrome Self Direction

Dr. Brian Chicoine

Co-founder and Medical Director of the Advocate Medical Group Adult Down Syndrome Center in Park Ridge, Illinois Common Health Problems in Adolescents with Down Syndrome

Lindsey Coyle

Director of Program for the NYC Region of Special Olympics New York Special Olympics New York

Dr. Kathleen Feeley

Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Long Island University and founding Executive Director of the Center for Community Inclusion (CCI)

Inclusive Educational Programming Strategies to Address Challenging Behaviors

Evidence-Based Strategies to Teach Communication to Individuals Supporting Children and Young Adults with Down Syndrome

Dr. Bonnie Keilty

Professor and Chair of the Special Education Department at Hunter College

Recognizing and utilizing family strengths to empower, advocate for, and help your child develop and grow

Dr. Adriana Matiz and Dr. Dodi Meyer

Professors of Pediatrics at Columbia University Medical Center COVID-19 Vaccine Education

Dr. Lina Patel

Assistant Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine Regression in Down Syndrome

Jane Providenti

Co-President of the Board of Directors, GiGi's NYC

Post Secondary Education Workshop

Maya Rawal

Genetic Counseling Graduate Student from Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons at Columbia University

Genetics of Down syndrome: How to speak with our children about what it means to have Down syndrome

Jodi Samuels

Author of "Chutzpah, Wisdom and Wine" I would change the world for you, but I would not change you for the world

SPECIAL EVENTS



World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) Celebrations

March 21st is recognized each year as World Down Syndrome Day. 3:21 represents the third copy of the 21st chromosome, trisomy 21, which causes Down syndrome. We joined our voices and beliefs with communities worldwide, creating awareness and acceptance for people living full lives with Down syndrome! GiGi's NYC went all out for World Down Syndrome Day this year and celebrated in the following ways:

- The T21 Project: Juliet Furst, founder of The T21 Project, conducted a series of interviews and photographed GiGi's NYC participants in Central Park which were posted on social media, capturing their achievements and contributions to our world.
- New York Cares: Our dedicated volunteers led a discussion with our teenagers about what WDSD means to them and how they would celebrate the day.
- John's Crazy Socks: John and Mark Cronin invited GiGi's NYC community members to
 participate in a WDSD celebration that John's Crazy Socks sponsored with the National Down
 Syndrome Society. They asked individuals with Down syndrome from GiGi's NYC to submit
 videos, that were part of a larger video montage they presented, called "I am Down Syndrome."
- Positive Exposure: Working with Elizabeth Grossman and her team, Rick Guidotti interviewed several GiGi's NYC families about their relationships with GiGi's NYC and their community. They discussed the empowering work being done at GiGi's NYC, what WDSD means to them, and how they would celebrate the day.
- The GiGi's NYC Community Chorus and the Moyinoluwa Rainbow Foundationroduced a
 watch party comprised of inspirational songs conducted by Broadway's Laurie Gamache.
 Nigeria's Save Down Syndrome Ambassador, Tola Makinde, shared her community with us in
 this moving program.
- Barclays Center and Brooklyn Nets Academy Basketball Clinic hosted a basketball fitness clinic, teaching the fundamentals of basketball handling and shooting techniques. Later in the evening, the Barclays Center celebrated WDSD by lighting their stadium in blue & yellow.
- Columbia University Best Buddies Chapter celebrated by viewing various short films and other works of vibrant art reflecting on representation, inclusion, and the unique talents and achievements of those with Down syndrome.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Down Syndrome Achievement Month kicked off with the Rodriguez Family! From the time Connor was diagnosed with Down syndrome, Marian and Fred have made it their mission to ensure Connor is given every opportunity to live his life to the fullest. At the age of 9, Connor wrote and published his first children's book, and at age 11, he came up with the idea to start a family business, Connor's Canine Cookies. The Rodriguez family hosted our community for an interactive baking demonstration and shared Connor's inspirational journey.

Meet Grace Strobel: Down Syndrome Advocate, Speaker, & Model

Grace Strobel, a model with Down syndrome, and her mother, Linda, provided an interactive discussion with our community. She seeks to change society's view of individuals with Down syndrome and people of all abilities and celebrates inclusion. Grace's mission is to continue the campaign of acceptance and the illumination of the gifts and talents of all people.

Anti-Racist Book Clubs

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Ms. Jessica Semmel, public school teacher, social worker, meditation teacher, and mom, hosted a two-part book club event that facilitated dialogue in a safe space to learn about race and racism.



GiGi's NYC 3rd
Annual Fashion Show

Our 3rd Annual Fashion Show was virtual and showcased members of our community near and far from New York City to Lagos, Nigeria. Participants strutted their stuff in their favorite fashions, showcased their various talents, and gave empowering "I Am" statements about themselves.

GiGi's NYC 7th Annual Dancing for Down Syndrome

Our virtual Dance-a-Thon to move for acceptance and awareness was led by Daniel's Music Foundation, which raised over \$20k in donations as our community showcased their dance moves!

Sports Clinic at Marymount School of New York

We hosted our second bi-annual Sports Clinic, led by GiGi's NYC Associate Board Members, Kyle Galin and Isaac Shapot, with special guest Ryan Imparato, Clinician for the Brooklyn Nets Basketball Academy. Participants were led in various basketball drills and exercises.

2021 ANNUAL GALA

On Thursday, October 21, more than 200 people gathered in-person at the Edison Rooftop to celebrate GiGi's NYC's Annual Gala. The event recognized the many successes of our community and those who give their time, talent, and hard work to ensure that those with Down syndrome achieve their fullest potential. The event's live stream was equally as popular and enjoyed by a virtual audience near and far.

Our 2021 Gala honorees, Société Générale, along with Sharon Hart Fanelli, Account Director from & Wakefield, have committed to continuing their exceptional work by facilitating Connect to Achieve on behalf of individuals with Down syndrome. Thanks to the efforts of many, the 2021 Gala was the most successful in GiGi's NYC history, breaking all fundraising records for past Galas with a 90% increase in gross funds raised, in addition to a 30% increase in attendance as compared to our last in-person Gala in 2019.

L. Adé Williams, Creator and Co-host of The Harlem Connection radio show 'The L.A.W.,' hosted the event with style and flair. His passion for our mission and quick wit kept our guests and



viewers engaged. Two well-known Harlemites, actress Zazie Beetz and photojournalist Flo Ngala, spoke to our guests about the importance of giving our community opportunities to achieve.

Board Co-Presidents Jane Providenti and Yamira Siu shared their personal stories of how GiGi's NYC has impacted their lives, and the lives of their sons, Troy and Malik. It was also inspiring to hear from the co-founders of GiGi's NYC, Tracy Nixon and Debbie Morris, about their vision and the growth of our community over the past nine years. They welcomed and congratulated Danielle Cumberbatch as GiGi's NYC 2021 Ambassador.

The incredibly talented Lourds Lane, along with Brie Cassil and Jessie Wagner, put on amazing performances of 'We Are Awake' and 'Stronger Now' from the Broadway bound show, SuperYou. Auctioneer LJ Ganser kept the audience bidding cheerily with his usual good humor.

The surprise highlight of the evening was when GiGi's NYC Community Chorus' video played "This is Me" from The Greatest Showman, conducted by Broadway's Laurie Gamache.

2021 ANNUAL GALA

During the video, GiGi's NYC participant, Laura Lyle, brought down the house when she got up to sing and dance in front of the onscreen video and encouraged community members to do the same. Before long, the stage was filled by people with Down syndrome singing "This is Me" to a roaring crowd.

The singers inspired the in-person and virtual audiences with their unbridled enthusiasm and confidence. The guests all stood and sang while capturing the moment with cell phone cameras. The unity and inspiration shared by everyone in that room was spellbinding. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

Thank you to everyone who supported us. Your involvement and generosity are critical to GiGi's NYC mission and make it possible for us to provide life-changing programs at no cost to those who need them most.

Sincerely,

Patricia Donini GiGi's NYC Gala Co-Chair

Patricia Donini

Frank Sawver

Frank Sawyer GiGi's NYC Gala Co-Chair

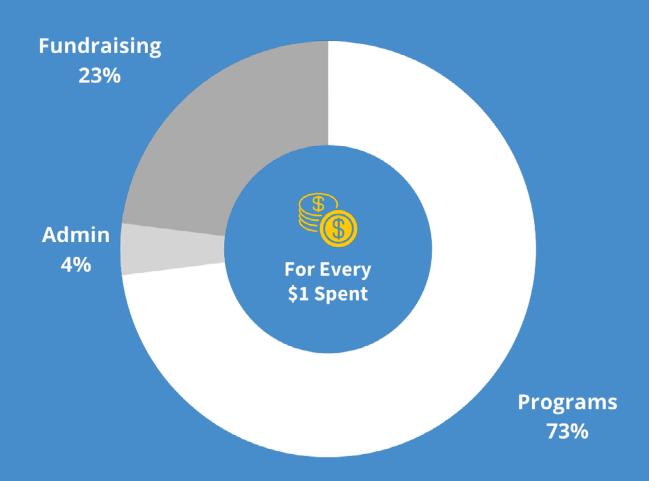








FINANCIAL OVERVIEW





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\$15,000+

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