



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers educate. inspire. believe.

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## GiGi's Playhouse Rochester Honored by National Organization:

Local Organization Recognized By National Office At International Conference

November 9, 2019 (Rochester, NY): GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers announced 8 prestigious awards at its Annual International Conference in Schaumburg, Illinois on Saturday, November 9. Over 350 people from 60 GiGi's Playhouse locations from around the country and Mexico gathered at the five-day conference which boasted 91 break outs and 67 speakers. The awards ceremony is a much-anticipated event where top playhouses, volunteers, and staff are honored for their selfless service to their communities. The "Community Impact" award is given to a Playhouse that has demonstrated outstanding IMPACT in their local community. GiGi's Playhouse Rochester was honored with this award because of their outstanding impact to families and their deep connections that reach far beyond the Playhouse walls.

"This Playhouse's impact is inspiring others to make an impact in their community as well! Through their great work, they planted a seed of change all the way to the other side of the country," reports the GiGi's Playhouse, Inc National Office. "A local community member became involved at GiGi's Playhouse Rochester and was moved to sponsor their Gym in honor of a young man with Down syndrome who lives thousands of miles away in Orange County CA. This caused a ripple effect, where the family in Orange County was then inspired to learn more about GiGi's, started spreading the word, and ultimately submitted an application to bring GiGi's to Orange County." "

Other Playhouses receiving awards at the 2019 International Conference included Buffalo NY, Fargo ND, Cleveland OH, Phoenix AZ, Southern Tier NY. In total, GiGi's Playhouse currently operates 46 Playhouses worldwide with 14 start up locations and inquiries to open 200 more worldwide.

Members of the community are invited to visit the Rochester Playhouse and inquire about ways in which they can help support individuals with Down syndrome. GiGi's Playhouse offers over 30 different group, one-on-one and career development programs at no charge to individuals with Down syndrome and their families. Distinct locations, programs designed for the learning styles of children and adults with Down syndrome, and an unwavering commitment to positive belief are some of the many qualities that set GiGi's Playhouse apart as a truly distinct nonprofit organization.