

Because of you... 2021 WAS AMAZING!



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
educate. inspire. believe.

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the end of 2021 and look forward to all that 2022 has in store for us, we want to say a truly heartfelt THANK YOU! Because of all of you who have opened your hearts to GiGi's Playhouse Southern Tier, we have been blessed with the opportunity to serve this community.

Acceptance...awareness...believe...opportunity...growth...all of these words have such profound meaning at GiGi's Playhouse.

ACCEPTANCE...global acceptance is more than just a phrase for us, it is a mission and passion. GiGi's will continue to work toward changing the world as we encourage all those around us to be accepting, be generous and be kind every day.

AWARENESS...every time a GiGi's Playhouse or program is mentioned, with every event that is held, with every community presentation that is given, and with every new volunteer who walks through our door, no matter where the location, we are creating awareness. We are spreading our Mission and sharing our Vision to create a world where individuals with Down syndrome are accepted and embraced.

BELIEVE...we believe in our individuals with Down syndrome and our families. All of our purposeful and progressive programming is designed to help our participants achieve their best of all. And, we believe in our community. We are grateful for the support of our community and we believe that together, we can do even more to bring acceptance and raise awareness.

OPPORTUNITY...there are so many opportunities for our families and our community. The new partnerships that we have formed over the past year and those that we have strengthened since we opened our doors has been incredible!

GROWTH...for every new family that we welcome, we help them to grow and achieve their best of all. And, watch for news in 2022 as we work to grow our Playhouse – both in physical size and the number of programs offered.

While we have all faced a number of unprecedented challenges in the last year (or two), with your support and generosity, we have had the courage to continue to move forward, to welcome new families, to offer more programs, and to look for ways in which we can grow even more.

Thank you for believing in us, and thank you for your commitment to be accepting, be generous and be kind every day.

Linda Hoke
Board President, GiGi's Playhouse Southern Tier



Because of you...

WE'RE GROWING



Our Programs

After having to quickly switch to hosting our programs and events virtually in 2020, we were so excited to get back to in-person programming in 2021! It felt so right to be back together, safely, in the Playhouse doing all the things we love. From getting back in-person to learn sign language during 'Signing with the Stars', getting healthier with our 'GiGiFit' workout classes, creating masterpieces during 'Art Explosion', cooking healthy meals during 'GiGiKitchen', and many MANY more purposeful programs that were hosted throughout 2021, we were able to meet more families and serve more participants. Our goal of global acceptance gets closer every time a new family, participant, and volunteer walks through our doors!

By The Numbers

GiGi's Playhouse Southern Tier had a banner year in 2021! After we all experienced a difficult 2020, our fundraising and special events teams helped get us back on our feet. . . . accounting 60% of our revenue. We also received over \$75,000 in grants which will help further our mission of global acceptance and keep us providing FREE programming! We are so grateful for all of our donors, sponsors, attendees, and grantors for their part in keeping GiGi's Playhouse Southern Tier healthy in 2021. We are hoping for an even better 2022!

A Year of GROWTH!

We've been busy in 2021. . .

This has been a year of growth and change for us here at GiGi's Playhouse Southern Tier. This year, we've been able to reach new heights with our programs and services! In 2021 we added new programs like 'Friends, Fun and Fitness' and 'Music in Motion' while also adding 1-on-1 Math Tutoring AND 1-on-1 Speech and Language through a partnership with Binghamton University; all FREE for our participants.

In 2021 we also hired a full-time staff for the playhouse, which has allowed us to expand the hours we are open for the community to come in and enjoy all we have to share! With all this growth, we are needing to expand our brick-and-mortar location. In 2022 we will be expanding and building out to accommodate our wonderful need to have more space!

“We have always struggled with finding places where we feel welcome and comfortable, as Camden has always struggled with peer interaction. Having a safe place, not only for Camden, but also for us to be able to connect with other parents, has been so amazing for our family! We are so thankful for the support the GiGi's community has provided us!”

- Anna B, mom of Camden

