

# A Look Into 2022:

2022 was another amazing year of growth for GiGi's Playhouse Southern Tier. We continued to welcome new families, add new programs, and work hard to create awareness and spread the word about acceptance for all.



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers  
educate. inspire. believe.

Southern Tier NY

Last year, we served almost 150 families with over 6,600 participation hours, and we welcomed between 50 and 75 volunteers into the Playhouse each month with over 4,100 volunteer hours for the year.

In November, we announced GiGi's Playhouse Southern Tier will be moving to the Oakdale Commons in Johnson City at the end of 2023. The space we are moving into is more than double our current space. This expansion will allow us to grow our programs, serve more families, provide more opportunities and share more inspiration.

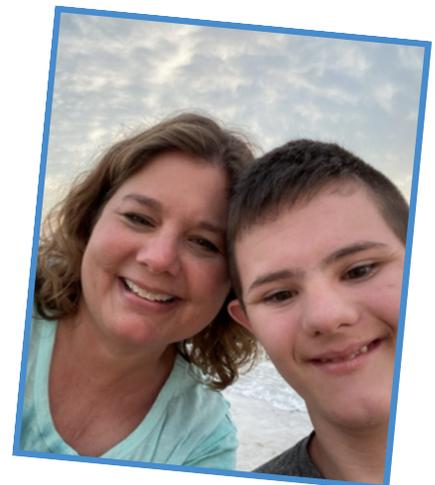
As part of a national network, we are working together to create awareness and bring a voice to our participants and families. The Down syndrome advocacy community has a voice and we are being heard. Whether it's advocating for equal access to treatment options for Alzheimer's, which is the leading cause of death for individuals with Down syndrome, or bringing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives to schools, the community, and the workplace, we will continue our work to create a world that is free of intolerance and discrimination.

The success and growth that our Playhouse has experienced is a testament to the commitment and compassion of our families, our donors and sponsors, our volunteers, and our staff and board. The results are undeniable.

Thanks to you, we are making a change together. Because of you, there is a place for our community to learn about love and acceptance and spread that love to the world.

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

Linda Hoke  
Board President  
GiGi's Playhouse Southern Tier



# Thanks to you... We're Breaking Down Barriers!



## Our Move & Expansion

In the last quarter of 2022, our Playhouse announced our official move to the Oakdale Commons in Johnson City. In the fall of 2023, we will be re-located to the Oakdale Commons in a larger space. This will allow us to accommodate for the growing number of participants and volunteers our Playhouse has been receiving. Our new space will give our staff office space, our 1:1 tutoring programs multiple learning labs, a conference space for board meetings, and larger programming space for our signature GiGi's programs. We are currently in the early stages of renovations to make the new space the perfect Playhouse!

## By The Numbers

GiGi's Playhouse Southern Tier had another successful year! Our fundraisers were all very successful and provided over 50% of our revenue. Along with boosting our bottom line, these fundraisers are an important link to our supporters, sponsors and participants - strengthening our bonds with individuals and companies who are becoming champions to our cause. But the best thing that happened to GiGi's Playhouse this year was finding a new home with almost double the space. Our Believe in our Build Capital Campaign will keep all of us busy this year as we prepare to move this Fall. It will be a challenge to fund the Capital Campaign and continue to fund the great programming we offer. We are up to the challenge!

## Hitting New Heights!

In 2022, our staff and volunteers worked to ensure the Playhouse ran efficiently and kept the mission of acceptance in forefront of our everything we did. The dedication our Playhouse put into operations allowed us to walk away from 2022 with six awards from the GiGi's National Network. Along with these awards, our Playhouse jumped from peer-group three up into peer-group two, among the other Playhouses nationwide. This reflects the number of families in our data base, and volunteer and participant hours, in conjunctions with only have one full time staff! We are in the same peer group as Playhouses that are much larger than us- Southern Tier is thriving!



"Being born with Down Syndrome doesn't mean there's anything that she can't do, it may just take her a little longer to get there. Spreading knowledge about Down Syndrome, will be the key to other families not having the fear we had in the beginning. We couldn't be happier to be part of the movement to spread awareness. I know being a part of GiGi's Playhouse will help us do this. GiGi's has become such an important part of our lives already. We can't wait to become even more involved in the coming years."

-Erica, mom of Lilah

