



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## GiGi Fest 2014 Celebrates Down Syndrome Awareness Month at GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers

**HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL – October 6, 2014** – On a sunny and crisp autumn day, a large crowd celebrated the 11<sup>th</sup> annual *“GiGi Fest” Family Fun Event* held Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome National Achievement Center in Hoffman Estates. This community event helps us spread the word and further GiGi's vision to see a world where individuals with Down syndrome are accepted and embraced in their families, schools, and communities.

GiGi Fest was sponsored by the **Foglia Family Foundation** and **Sage Products**; we thank the entire Foglia family for their generosity and support. GiGi's Hugs + Mugs Career Center and retail store drew a crowd of shoppers and enabled our adult interns to show-off their retail and customer service skills. The big seller of the day was our award-winning *Social Change in Action* 2015 calendar. Stop by Hugs + Mugs at 2350 W Higgins Rd., Hoffman Estates to get your very own copy at a special Down syndrome Awareness month price of \$12, a 20% off savings. All proceeds from the calendar, along with other purchase from the store, go back into our **FREE** programming.

*“October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month and we ask everyone to ‘Be the Change’ for Down syndrome awareness and advancement.” We are so proud of the accomplishment of all of our GiGi's participants and their families, and love seeing the support from the community at GiGi's annual Friend-Raiser,”* says Nancy Gianni, Founder of GiGi's Playhouse. *“GiGi Fest is the perfect way to tell the world we are here and we are proud; our Calendar Kids demonstrated that in style today as they delighted the crowd with their Red Carpet walk!”*

Thank you to everyone that helped make this event possible, including a special shout-out to MSgt Mark Evans from Pizza 4 Patriots and Tim Busse of Busse Farms for planting GiGi's very own pumpkin patch and inviting our kids to pick the pumpkins for the event last Friday – we look forward to planting them ourselves for GiGi Fest 2015 next spring. Food was provided courtesy of local vendors, including Garibaldi's Pizza, and a soccer clinic featuring players from last years' MASL champions, the **Chicago Mustangs**.

**Please help support GiGi's mission with your donation.** Donations can be made online at [www.gigisplayhouse.org](http://www.gigisplayhouse.org) or mailed to GiGi's Playhouse Inc., 2350 W Higgins Rd, Hoffman Estates IL 60169. The achievements of all our individuals and families, and our ability to continue providing therapeutic and educational programs at no charge, would not be possible without the generosity of our amazing donors.

**About GiGi's Playhouse:** *GiGi's Playhouse is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization founded in 2003. GiGi's Playhouse is a series of unique Achievement Centers serving children and adults with Down syndrome. Each Playhouse makes a lifetime commitment to participants and their families. All programs aim to maximize acceptance and self-confidence, and intend to empower children and adults to achieve their greatest potential. All educational, therapeutic and career training programs are offered to families at no charge. GiGi's Playhouse currently has 17 Playhouses in the US and Mexico, and plans to have 30 by the end of 2015 are underway. Last year, over 20,000 participants benefited from Playhouse programs.*

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