

GiGi's Playhouse Raleigh  
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FACT SHEET

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## **UNDERSTANDING THE BACKGROUND, HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE RALEIGH**

### **Background**

- Founder and Chief Belief Officer [Nancy Gianni](#) created GiGi's Playhouse Inc. as a resource for children, adults and families affected by Down syndrome to work, learn and play together.
- In 2003, five months after the birth of her daughter GiGi, who has Down syndrome, Gianni opened the first Down syndrome awareness center in Illinois.
- GiGi's Playhouse opened its original Raleigh, North Carolina, location June 18, 2016, before moving to Cary, North Carolina, in February 2023.

### **Mission**

- GiGi's Playhouse's mission is "to **change the way the world views Down syndrome** and to send a global message of **acceptance for all.**"
- GiGi's Playhouse achieves its mission by offering "direct educational, therapeutic and career-building programs to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community."
- GiGi's Playhouse has 60 locations, 200 new location inquiries and 220,000 program participation hours.

### **Purpose and Offerings**

- GiGi's Playhouse Raleigh is led by a board of directors that includes President Michelle Pfeiffer, [mpfeiffer@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:mpfeiffer@gigisplayhouse.org) or 919-307-3952.
- The Raleigh location offers [programs](#), such as speech and language development, literacy, math tutoring, yoga, open play, cooking and a career development program.
- Ways to support GiGi's Playhouse Raleigh includes donating, attending events, naming sponsorships, hosting a supply drive and volunteering.
- GiGi's is a nonprofit that relies on [donations of service](#) and support from the community to continue to provide free programs for families.

For more information, contact GiGi's Playhouse Raleigh, 919-307-3952, [raleigh@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:raleigh@gigisplayhouse.org)