

Township Recognizes October as Down Syndrome Awareness Month

HRC Fitness Charity 5k Raises Funds For Gigi's Playhouse

At the October 4th Township Committee Meeting, the Mayor and Township Committee presented a proclamation recognizing National Down Syndrome Awareness Month and commending Gigi's Playhouse for the work they have done in our community to support families affected by Down Syndrome. Approximately one in every 792 children are born with Down Syndrome, representing an estimated 6,000 births per year in the United States.



GiGi's Playhouse is a National Down Syndrome Achievement Center serving children and adults of all ages, providing educational and therapeutic programs at no charge in a format that individuals with Down Syndrome learn best, and their mission is to change the way the world sees Down Syndrome through national campaigns, educational programs, and by empowering individuals with Down Syndrome, their families and the community. Gigi's Playhouse in Hillsborough has successfully supported over 200 families in Central New Jersey since opening on January 2015, offering more than 25 therapeutic and educational programs that advance literacy, math skills, motor skills and more; all of which are free of charge.

In keeping with their commitment to serve the community, HRC Fitness hosted their 3rd annual Charity 5K event on Sunday, October 2nd in Hillsborough. The event raised over \$20,000 for the beneficiaries with the primary beneficiary of the event is GiGi's Playhouse Hillsborough. The event kicked off at 9am with the 5K runner's official start announced by State Assemblyman, Jack M. Ciattarelli. Also present to support the event were Hillsborough Mayor Frank DeCore and Committeeman, Greg Burchette and Doug Tomson.

It was a successful event with over 400 participants (252 runners, 163 walkers, and 57 dashers)! Post-race food and refreshments were provided by Wegman's and Starbucks and participants were entertained by TapSnap Phototainment, Sparkee from the Somerset Patriots, and the Somerset County Dairy Princess served up some delicious chocolate milk.

HRC Fitness noted that the event was made possible by the the support and generosity of the Hillsborough Rotary, Tap Snap Phototainment, and Hillsborough Massage Therapy, as well as

all many other local sponsors and donors. This event provides an opportunity to bring together many local businesses in support of the Hillsborough community including Country Classics, Hillsborough Podiatry Group LLC, Starbucks, Van Cleef Engineering, Global Garage and Flooring, Lifetime ObGyn, Somerset Orthodontic Specialists, Super Sundaes in Memory of Meaghan Colleen Gorman, William Penn Association Branch 19, Belle Mead Orthodontics, Mailbox Business Center, Road ID, Marblehead Marketing, Gymboree, The Little Gym, Premier Disposal, Hillsborough Pediatrics, Jumbo Palace Restaurant Inc., Bentley's Fine Jewelers, Petrock's Bar and Grille, and Central Jersey Tent Rentals.