



GiGi's Playhouse Raleigh  
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NEWS RELEASE

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## WOLFPACK COMMUNITY EMBRACES GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE FOR ANNUAL VICTORY DAY

RALEIGH, N.C. – Athletes from GiGi's Playhouse Raleigh took the field at NC State's annual Victory Day, joining Wolfpack players and coaches for an afternoon designed to highlight inclusion, build confidence and strengthen community support for individuals with Down syndrome.

Hosted by NC State Football, the event pairs players with children and adults of all abilities for drills, touchdown runs and sidelines celebrations with the cheerleaders. For many participants, the opportunity to be welcomed into a college football environment provides more than just excitement, it offers visibility in a space where these individuals would often be overlooked.

"It is so cool... the energy of just being in the same area of it all happening was overwhelming and it's just such a cool day," said MacKailey Braga, social media coordinator at GiGi's Playhouse Raleigh, who attended the event alongside participating families.

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Many families noted how meaningful it was to see players kneel to greet participants, jog beside them during drills and celebrate touchdowns together. Moments like these show how inclusive sports events can build connection and create a sense of belonging for individuals with Down syndrome and their supporters. Victory Day also offers individuals and families an opportunity to engage with one another, strengthening the community that extends beyond GiGi's walls.

GiGi's Payhouse Raleigh partners with local organizations throughout the year to create opportunities like Victory Day, which align with their mission to change the way the world views Down syndrome through connection and celebration.

**About GiGi's Playhouse Raleigh**

GiGi's Playhouse is a national nonprofit organization founded in 2003 that provides free educational, therapeutic and career development programs for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. With more than 62 locations worldwide, including a center in Raleigh, North Carolina, which received the 2024 Core Value Award for "Best of All." It serves participants of all ages by promoting inclusion, independence and confidence. The organization is recognized for its unique programs, literacy and math tutoring and community-based initiatives that empower individuals to thrive. For more information, visit <https://gigisplayhouse.org/>.

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