

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, all people have the right to be accepted and included as valued and equal members of the community, and if we as a society increase our understanding of the uniqueness and differences of others, we will contribute to the prosperity of our world; and

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always been part of the human condition, being universally present across racial, gender or socioeconomic lines in approximately one in 800 births, although there are variations in the numbers worldwide; and

WHEREAS, World Down Syndrome Day, held annually on March 21st has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012, and it was established to bring awareness globally regarding Down syndrome, what it means to have Down syndrome, and how persons with Down syndrome play a vital role in lives and communities throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, March 21st was chosen as the annual Down Syndrome Awareness Day to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome, and on this special day, people with Down syndrome, families, friends and advocates work to bring awareness about the syndrome and to bring attention to others that we are all individuals and deserve to be included, respected and regarded as contributing members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the *#LotsOf Socks* campaign was created to bring additional awareness to World Down Syndrome Day whereby people all over the world wear socks, some in vivid wild colors and some mismatched, to draw attention to the initiative held each March 21st; and

WHEREAS, **GiGi's Playhouse** is a network of nonprofit Down Syndrome Achievement Centers with a mission to change the way the world views Down syndrome through community campaigns, educational programs, and by empowering individuals with Down syndrome and their families, and locally, GiGi's Playhouse Tampa, established in 2018, is sustained through community partner support, generous donors and fundraising events, and the organization currently serves over 450 registered families six days a week with one-on-one literacy tutoring, handwriting classes, specialty programs for all ages, and much more.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Sunday, March 21, 2021 as

“WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding of Down syndrome, be more inclusive and accepting of individuals with this genetic disorder and wear special socks on Sunday, March 21, 2021.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 19th day of March 2021.



Jane Castor

Mayor