



Opening Doors to New Possibilities



*Special Gifts Theatre (SGT) is a not-for-profit organization that provides children and teens with special needs, a unique, creative drama experience enabling personal growth while breaking down stereotypes related to disabilities within the community at large.*



P.O. Box 2231  
Northbrook, Illinois 60065-2231

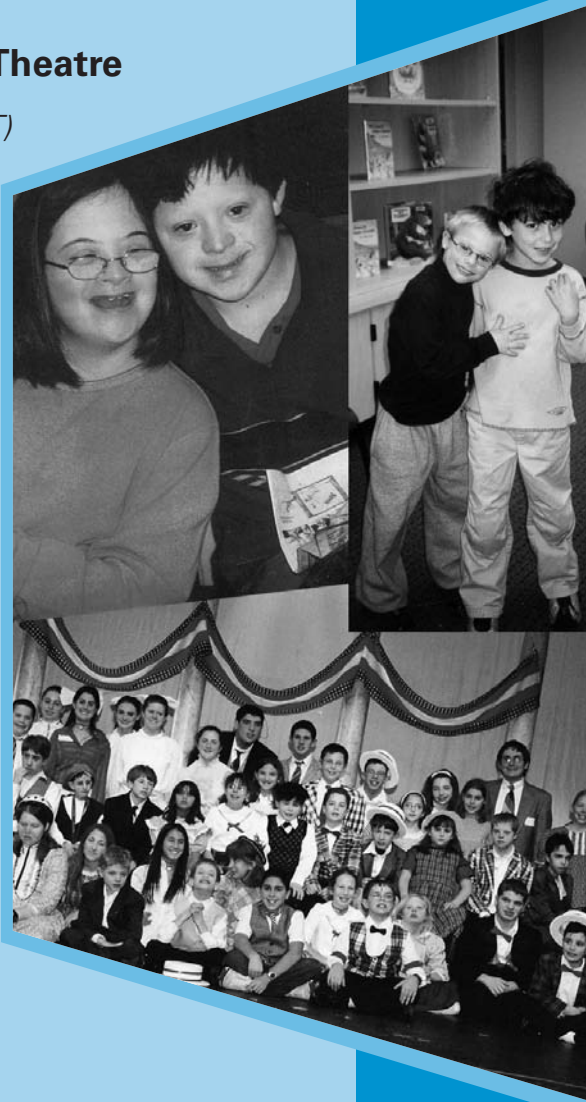


# Special Gifts Theatre, Inc.

Opening Doors to New Possibilities

## About Special Gifts Theatre

*Special Gifts Theatre (SGT) is a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 2000 to provide children and teens, who possess a wide array of special needs (physical, cognitive, social, emotional and learning) the opportunity to experience the joy and enrichment that theatre arts can bring. It was designed to motivate and honor the creative spirit in each individual. The program though recreational in scope, is educationally and therapeutically based.*



*Theatre arts provides an excellent opportunity for: enhancing an individual's self-esteem and self-confidence; encouraging problem-solving abilities; strengthening listening, focusing, and attention skills; improving communication; and fostering cooperation.*

## About Our Staff

SGT's creative drama classes and theatre programs utilize the special skills of occupational, physical, recreational and speech therapists, as well as special education teachers and theatre arts professionals.

The strength of the professionals working at SGT lies in their ability to blend their expertise and foster individual strengths and interests. Their special training enables them to be flexible and adapt activities and programming to specific situations and individual needs.



*Susie Field, OTR, founder and executive director of Special Gifts Theatre, Inc., helps one of the students during a rehearsal.*

## Peer Mentor Program

A unique component of SGT, the Peer Mentor Program consists of matching typically developing peers with an SGT student throughout our program. The mentors volunteer their time to work with our students (one-on-one) in the classroom through rehearsals and appear on stage as part of the ensemble in our final production. This program has proven to extend beyond the walls of SGT, as friendships, understanding and respect grow on a daily basis.



*A peer mentor helps a student rehearse her lines for "A Brand New Day," SGT's first musical in 2001.*

## Early Childhood Program (3-6 yrs old)

The Early Childhood Program is process-oriented and child centered and provides active experiences compatible with a range of learning styles. Utilizing story dramatization, music and other multi-sensory experiences, our therapists and educational specialists provide active learning opportunities, especially in the area of language and early literacy development. Our research and practice have proven the powerful impact of utilizing the creative arts on a young child's cognitive and affective learning. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to build confidence, artistic and social skills in a non-competitive, supportive environment.

## SGT's Core Values

### ★ We make a difference in the lives of everyone we touch

What we do has a profound, positive and lasting impact on the lives of every student, every mentor, every volunteer and every audience member we come in contact with.

### ★ We do it one individual at a time

While the programming is organized in small classes, we focus on each student as an individual whose potential can be unlocked through individual attention.

### ★ Everything is done with respect and compassion

We treat every student with special needs, every mentor, every volunteer and every special gifts staff person with the utmost respect and compassion.

### ★ We celebrate success at every turn

We focus on every step of the journey taking time to celebrate what is accomplished along the way no matter how small. We celebrate not only the achievements of our students but the efforts of our staff and volunteers.

## Classes / Productions

In an effort to build personal and artistic self-confidence, the atmosphere is kept low-pressure and non-competitive. SGT offers an array of therapeutic techniques and activities for students to explore and experience. Musical productions are performed in a fully-equipped theatre complete with sets, costumes and props.

Classes for students of all ages and abilities allow students to sharpen their communication skills and find new ways to express themselves.



*Some of the children who performed in "Hooray for Hollywood"*

## Ultimate Goal

Our ultimate goal is to create specific opportunities for children and teens, with and without special needs, to work together. Mainstreaming is encouraged whenever students have developed the appropriate social and artistic skills necessary to succeed.

Based on this premise, SGT's goals include developing creative abilities, building friendships and providing awareness by breaking down stereotypes about disabilities.

**For more information about Special Gifts Theatre, Inc.,  
log on to [www.specialgiftstheatre.com](http://www.specialgiftstheatre.com)**



**Special Gifts Theatre, Inc.**

Opening Doors to New Possibilities

### I am interested in ...

- having my child participate in your program
- the peer mentor program
- providing possible referral sources
- having someone call me to discuss making a tax deductible donation
- volunteering as a:
  - Production Assistant
  - Peer Mentor
  - Backstage Assistant (Props, costumes, etc)
  - Administrative support
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Co. Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*For further information or questions, please contact us.  
Completed forms and donations can be mailed to the  
address below:*

**Special Gifts Theatre, Inc.**

P.O. Box 2231

Northbrook, Illinois 60065-2231

Phone: 847-564-7704

Email: [SpecialGiftsT@aol.com](mailto:SpecialGiftsT@aol.com)

Website: [www.specialgiftstheatre.com](http://www.specialgiftstheatre.com)