Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell
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In the news!!

2013 Celebration of Today’s Woman Honors Deedee O’Brien

Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell is pleased to honor Deedee O’Brien with the “Woman of Today Award” at the 2013 Celebration of Today’s Woman to be held at the UMASS Inn and Conference Center on June 6th.

As Executive Director of Challenge Unlimited at Ironstone Farm since its incorporation in 1983, Deedee has overseen the organization’s growth from a small, grass roots non-profit to one of the largest therapeutic riding programs in the nation. Founding the ground-breaking Ironstone Therapy program in 1997, Deedee recognized and championed the benefits of “hippotherapy” – or “treatment with the use of the horse” – for individuals with physical disability. She has helped make Challenge Unlimited an industry leader in providing physician-prescribed physical and occupational therapy, especially in Early Intervention therapy for children aged three and under. With a current staff of 16 licensed therapists and instructors and more than 200 volunteers, Ironstone Farm is now a center of rehabilitation for Greater Boston, the Merrimack Valley, the North Shore of Massachusetts, and Southern New Hampshire, collaborating with 26 service organizations to impact the lives of people with a wide range of disabilities and backgrounds.

Deedee successfully led campaign that enabled the Ironstone Farm property in art heated indoor riding property to house after disabilities. Under her guidance, Challenge Unlimited has been a center of rehabilitation for Greater Boston, the Merrimack Valley, the North Shore of Massachusetts, and Southern New Hampshire, collaborating with 26 service organizations to impact the lives of people with a wide range of disabilities and backgrounds.

Devoted to community involvement, Deedee has held leadership roles in numerous organizations, including the Rotary Club of Andover, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Lawrence, the Pine Grove Grange of Bath, NH, the American Society for Clinical Pathology, and state, county, and local 4-H Youth and Family Development Programs. Her service to the community has been recognized with a number of awards, including the Lowell High School Distinguished Alumnae Award, and achievement awards from the Boy Scouts’ Yankee Clipper Council, the Andover Chamber of Commerce, the Altrusa Club of Merrimack Valley, the Merrimack Valley YWCA, and the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship.

Girls Incorporated is proud to recognize Deedee O’Brien for her strong leadership qualities, her many distinguished accomplishments, and her devotion to serving those in need. She is truly a ‘Woman of Today’ and an inspiring role model for Girls Inc. members. Please consider joining us at the 2013 Celebration of Today’s Woman to be held at the UMASS Inn and Conference Center on June 6th.

Girls Incorporated is proud to welcome Deedee O’Brien to the 2013 Celebration of Today’s Woman! Whew! It has been an exciting school year for us at Girls Inc.! Congresswoman Niki Tsongas stopped by to speak with our teens about the importance of women in politics! Our members were given the opportunity to learn about biology by dissecting cow eyes and sheep hearts! We proudly hosted the brand new opening of our Teen Center and we were featured in the Lowell Sun newspaper for all of these great events! Whew!
My name is Pascale Jean-Jacques and I am in my last semester of the Community Social Psychology master’s program at UMass Lowell. I became aware of Girls Inc. through a friend who was also interested in working with youth in the community. I am also involved with an organization that expressed interest in working with Girls Inc. and as a result, chose Girls Inc. for my practicum site. I knew this would be a rewarding experience and it has been thus far. The opportunity to connect with the girls, teach them and help them develop into young women is something I enjoy doing. One of my primary interests in working with the teens at Girls Inc. is to develop a partnership between Girls Inc. and the SISTERS organization at UMass Lowell. SISTERS (Sisters of Integrity Striving Towards Empowerment, Respect and Success) is an undergraduate organization geared toward the empowerment and development of young women. I believe a collaboration between the two organizations would be mutually beneficial.

Female leaders at BARD ran a special career presentation emphasizing different science and engineering fields. They also showed participants how to use Microsoft Excel!

Raytheon employees ran a special class on how to use PowerPoint and then showed the girls how to create their own presentations while exploring entrepreneurship and career choices.

Women. I believe a collaboration between the two organizations would be mutually beneficial.

My goal is to work with children but was not sure in what capacity. Upon moving back to Lowell last year, I found Girls Inc. and knew straightaway that it was where I wanted to be. I began as a volunteer last summer and just loved working with the girls and the organization itself. By the end of the summer, I was offered the incredible opportunity to be a staff member in the after school program!

Being of a mixed race background, African American and Puerto Rican, I feel a very strong bond with my community. I identify myself as Blacktina as I’m very proud of my ethnicity! My background makes it easier for me to get the message out to more girls, who might benefit from being members at Girls Inc., and letting them know too, that they can be strong, smart and bold! As the Latina Initiative Coordinator, I will be teaching the basics of Spanish, identifying the challenges a young Latina may face, and helping to ensure appropriate portrayals of Hispanic women in the media. My goals also include improving the representation of Latina women in emerging professional areas such as science, technology and mathematics. It is important for ALL young girls, despite the odds against them, to know they can succeed, and in doing so, they will become pioneers and leaders in the community!

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