Women to Watch

Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell was thrilled to provide our summer program girls with our new innovative photography program “Women to Watch”, funded in part by a grant from the Lowell Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. In this leadership program, youth use photography and journalism to explore and honor the strong female leaders making positive and impactful changes in their community. This version of our award winning "Photovoice" program promotes community engagement and activism, and teaches skills in photography, literacy, interviewing, organizing and public speaking. The project also builds self-esteem, improves communication and vocabulary skills, increases community activism and exposes youth to culture and history.

Our girls began brainstorming a list of meaningful questions that they would be asking each woman during their interviews. Most of the interviews were conducted off-site, giving the girls an opportunity to see firsthand exactly where each woman worked. Sites visited were Lowell Telecommunications Corporation (LTC), The Whistler House, United Teen Equality Center (UTEC), Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT), Lowell Community Health Center (LCHC), and Enterprise Bank. The amazing female leaders who took part in this project were Kelsey Barowich (Girls Inc. Alumna, Graduate of UMass Amherst, currently in the Accelerated Masters Program in Public Policy), Gloria Polites (LTC Member Service Manager, UMass Lowell Adjunct Faculty), Sara M. Bogosian (Whistler House President and acting Executive Director), Jessica Wilson (UTEC Chief Operating Officer), Elizabeth Kegley (MRT Executive Director), Dorcas Grigg-Saito (LCHC Executive Director), Sabrina Granville (Lowell General Hospital Sr. Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer), Rosalin Acosta (Managing Director, Sr. Vice President Enterprise Investment Advisors, Enterprise Bank), Rita Mercier (Lowell City Councilor, Middlesex County Sheriff’s Dept. Administrative Asst.), Sheri Denk (Middlesex Community College Special Programs Coordinator) and Bopha Malone (Enterprise Bank Branch Relationship Manager and Vice President).

After the girls collected all of their interview materials, they worked together as one group creating collective write ups about each woman. This was an opportunity for the girls to acquire stronger writing, vocabulary, typing, and collaboration skills. Once the interviews were completed and fully documented, the girls wrote individual reflections on their experience working on this project.

“The part I found interesting was getting to know who the women were and what it was like where they worked. I can see myself in all those careers because if they can do this so can I! Maybe someday I’ll have the same experience as they did with being interviewed. I hope I get to have that same experience someday.” - Madelin.

The “Women To Watch” photo exhibit will be held this Fall 2015, with a date and location to be announced! Connect with our Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell Facebook page or E-Newsletter for more information. Like our Facebook page, Girls Incorporated of Lowell.
A Wrap Up To Summer 2015

Summer 2015 was filled with exciting field trips, enriching activities and memorable moments, none of which would have been possible without the generous support we received from our donors. Our benefactors provided us not only with the funds necessary to execute a successful, enlightening program this summer, but they also provided a number of “camperships” to members who would not have been able to attend the program without their contribution. Through collaboration with community agencies like United Way and BostNet, we were able to provide our members with comprehensive curriculums, like *Imagination Vacation*, supporting literacy through interactive games, read-out-louds, and art. All of our members got to explore Lowell in new and inspiring ways through a partnership with the Lowell National Historical Park. Our olders experienced Lowell from the perspectives of the Mill Girls in “Mill Girls 101” by reading *So Far From Home: The Diary of Mary Driscoll* (an Irish Mill Girl) and touring preserved Mill Girl housing; while our youngers had the opportunity to experience history come to life while touring the Bootmills Museum.

Members also participated in a variety of “mini-field trips” to sites in Lowell that utilized our many community partnerships. Youngers participated in a selection of summer shows provided by the city of Lowell, including an animal show, professional yo-yo demonstration and a clown show. While youngers visited Boarding House Park to view these performances, olders partook in boat tours of Lowell’s Historic Canals and visited the UMASS Lowell Nursing Department to learn about employment in the healthcare field.

The support and donations received from our many sponsors allowed us to emphasize the importance of health and wellness. Members participated in a variety of cooking classes learning how to “spiralize” vegetables into tasty meals and gaining exposure to food production and transportation systems while hosting small workshops at Lowell’s Mobile Farmers Market. Youngers learned the components of a complete and balanced diet while creating delicious dishes from fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. To balance out our health and nutrition programs, staff engaged members in a variety of fun and vigorous athletic activities including team challenge games and sports, yoga, zumba and strengthening calisthenics workouts. We also had the chance to offer our older members a unique learning opportunity with The Green Dragons, who came to our site and incorporated the discipline of kung fu and stress management, with the relaxation of gardening and growing our own healthy wheatgrass in a comprehensive curriculum that accentuates the importance of mental and physical well being.

With all of the generous funds and support we received from the community and our patrons, our members were able to have a summer filled not only with on-site fun but with educational exposure to fields such as Science, Technology and Engineering on field trip days. In “OP-SMART” and “Savvy Science”, they were able to see the components of working organs through a dissection unit and then interactively experience the human body at the Hall of Human Life exhibit at the Boston Museum of Science on a field trip. At the Boston Children’s Museum, exposure to cultural exhibits like Boston Black reinforced the lessons learned at Girl’s Inc. in “Diverse Divas”. There were many of these unparalleled occasions that were shaped not only by our dedicated staff but the influence of our community and donors.

Thanks to all of the aid granted to Girls Inc. this summer, we were able to provide our members with the teachable moments and treasured memories that only Girls Inc. Girls have the exclusive opportunity to experience. With the continued endowments, devoted time, and unwavering support received from each and every patron, we are able to leave our members with the promise of many more precious summers to come.

[All photos courtesy of Harkins Photography]
We would like to extend a special thanks to our *"Friends"* whose generosity during the past year enabled us to continue to serve the girls of Greater Lowell.

**LEADERSHIP CIRCLE ($1000 or more)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nancy Donahue</th>
<th>Carol and George Duncan</th>
<th>Amy Etherington and David Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mark Gilchrist</td>
<td>Stephen Haber and Raquel Ruiz</td>
<td>Shelagh Mahoney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Mitchell &amp; James Waldo</td>
<td>Joseph P. Donahue Charitable Foundation Trust</td>
<td>Karin Theodoros</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INVESTOR ($750 to $999)**

The Behrakis Foundation

**BENEFACCTOR ($500 TO $749)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patricia Cornelison</th>
<th>Grace Conway</th>
<th>Suzanne Dion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James and Mary Louise Keenan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kenneth Wallace</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PATRON ($250 to $499)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denise Aggott</th>
<th>William and Kathryn Hurley</th>
<th>Caroline and Michael Rider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. Carolyn Cox</td>
<td>Diane and John Jeray</td>
<td>Bruce Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen and Katherine Gendron</td>
<td>Susan G Koerber</td>
<td>Brian Stafford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maureen Gervais</td>
<td>Belinda Jurain</td>
<td>Maura and Michael Sweeney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabrina Granville</td>
<td>George and Donna Leahey</td>
<td>James Tessier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn and Robert Gregoire</td>
<td></td>
<td>Germaine Vigeant - Trudel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy J. Hoey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPONSOR ($100 TO $249)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clementine and William Alexis</th>
<th>Jacqueline and Edward Moloney</th>
<th>Elizabeth C. Nelligan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Olney</td>
<td>Dorcas and Yoshio Grigg-Saito</td>
<td>Lawrence Ardito and Linda Carpenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Athanasouls</td>
<td>Debra Grossman and Kate Tyndall</td>
<td>Margaret and Nels Palm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosemary and Peter Aucella</td>
<td>Sheila and John Harrington</td>
<td>Susan and Wayne Pasanen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bea Belkakis</td>
<td>Dan Ingersoll</td>
<td>Lincoln and Denise Pinsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Bianco</td>
<td>Mary and Robert Johnson-Lally</td>
<td>Stephen and Deborah Reichheld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terese and Richard Bolton</td>
<td>Eileen Kane</td>
<td>Jane Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole and Christopher Clarke</td>
<td>Joseph R. Landry</td>
<td>Kay Roberts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian and Crystal Collins</td>
<td>Susan LaRoche</td>
<td>Mark and Renee Romanowsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kay and William Doyle</td>
<td>Russell Leonard</td>
<td>Joellen Scannell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effie and James Dragon</td>
<td>Albert J. Marcotte</td>
<td>Elizabeth Shorr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Dunlap</td>
<td>Steven Martin- Rochette</td>
<td>Norman Sieman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MaryEllen Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>Kathleen and Terrance McCarthy</td>
<td>Karla Mary Sorenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilde and Robert Gilman</td>
<td>Nancy and Joseph Meehan</td>
<td>Sandra Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek American Veterans of MA</td>
<td>James and Anabel Milinazzo</td>
<td>Elaine and Richard Wojcik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUPPORTER (to $99)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polly and John Allyn</th>
<th>Kevin Harkins</th>
<th>Carol Morse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nina and Arthur Anton</td>
<td>Debra-Nicole Huber</td>
<td>Beverly and Joseph Parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce Antonopoulos</td>
<td>Mary Ann and Kenneth E. Hughes</td>
<td>Kay and Bernie Petruzzietto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marci Barnes</td>
<td>Martha and Anthony Larrapino</td>
<td>Anastasia Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate and Brian Barry</td>
<td>Pauline Lambert</td>
<td>Elizabeth Reilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geraldine Belanger</td>
<td>Margaret and Robert Leighton</td>
<td>Colette and William Ricco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary and Thomas Burne</td>
<td>Anne Lennon</td>
<td>Maria Robarge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Casagrande</td>
<td>David L'Hussier</td>
<td>Ann Romanowsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filitsa Chigas</td>
<td>Richard and Donna Main</td>
<td>Betty Santagati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maureen Condon</td>
<td>Deborah McAdams</td>
<td>Jeanne Sargent Judge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryann Coravos</td>
<td>Kristin and William McCauley</td>
<td>Marina and Peter Schell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth and Edward Dick</td>
<td>Kirk McNeil</td>
<td>Eleanor Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Ellis</td>
<td>Judith and Gerald Miller</td>
<td>Elizabeth Townsend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Green</td>
<td>Megan Moore</td>
<td>Frances and David Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christine and William Zouzas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2014 HOLIDAY PARTY

A Belvidere Flower and Gift Shop
A Stoney Meadow Farm
Mary and John Abraham
Denise Aggott
Anstiss & Co., P.C.
Joyce Antonopoulos
Arthur Talianos
BelleFeuille Floral Design
Bianco's Catering
Sheila Defranzo Caruso
Celia Harkins Moses
Centro Restaurant
Charming Petals
Chelmsford Garden Club
Classic Flowers
Cobblestones/Moonstones
Colonial Florists & Gifts
Mary Ann Coravos
Mary Curran
D & J Construction
Dracut Garden Club
Elements Therapeutic Massage
Eleni's Fashions and Tailoring
Enterprise Bank
Feeeny the Florist
Finally Flowers
Flowers by Albert
Forget-Me-Not Florist
Fred C. Church Insurance
Gallagher & Cavanaugh, LLP
Howard Hall
Jennifer Hammond
Indian Ridge Country Club
Janet-Lambert Moore
Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union
Frank King
Attorney George Leahey
Les Fleurs
Lowell Automatic Transmission
Lowell General Hospital
Lowell General Hospital Gift Shop
Arts Department Lowell High School
Lowell Sun Charities, Inc.
Lupoli Companies
Mike Kuenzler
Dick Main
John Mattheos
McKittrick Industrial Supply
Representative Kevin Murphy
National Amusements
Elizabeth Neilligan
Jean Nelson
Therese O'Connor
Pappos Golf Academy
O'Connor True Value Hardware and Rentals
Tusher Patel
Pepperell Music Center
Jim Peters
Picken Insurance
Robert E. Plunkett
William Quinn
Red Mill Graphics
Sage Bank
Betty Santagati
Joellen Scannell
Spindle City Garden Club
Steppin' Out Dance Studio
Sykes the Florist
Tewksbury Florist & Greenery
Tewksbury Garden Club
Karin Theodoros
Demoulas Super Markets, Inc.
Enterprise Bank
Carol and George Duncan
Mark Gilchrist, MD
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
Nancy L. Donahue Charitable Foundation Trusts
Circle Health
D'Youville Life & Wellness Community
Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union
Lowell Sun Charities, Inc.
Anton's Cleaners
Bianco's Catering
Circle Home
Cox Fuel Co., Inc.
All Sports Heroes
Athanassoulas & Pappey
Bianco Catering
Dalia Calvo
Kay and William Doyle
Effie and Jim Dragon
Fred C. Church Insurance
Maureen Gervais
Mary Louise and James Keenan
2015 SUMMER "CAMPERSHIPS"
Carol and George Duncan
Enterprise Bank
Frank Potvin Plumbing and Heating
Two Chefs
AmazonSmile Foundation
Aubert J. Fay Charitable Fund
BJ's Charitable Foundation
C. Alice Rowell Bean Trust
Charles H. Hanson Trust Fund
The Children's Home of Lowell
Cummings Foundation
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
John A. Hunnewell Trust
Lowell General Hospital
National Grid
Network for Good Foundation
Raytheon Company
Rotary Club of Lowell
Renuka S. O'Connell New World Fund (GLCF)
Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation
Ruth C. & John E. Leggat Fund (GLCF)
Target Corporation
The Ayer Home
Verizon Treasury
Mass Humanities
2015 CELEBRATION of TODAY'S WOMAN

PLATINUM SPONSORS
Demoulas Super Markets, Inc.
Carol and George Duncan
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
Enterprise Bank
Mark Gilchrist, MD
Nancy L. Donahue Charitable Foundation Trusts
Circle Health
D'Youville Life & Wellness Community
Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union
Lowell Sun Charities, Inc.
Anton's Cleaners
Bianco's Catering
Circle Home
Cox Fuel Co., Inc.
All Sports Heroes
Athanassoulas & Pappey
Bianco Catering
Dalia Calvo
Kay and William Doyle
Effie and Jim Dragon
Fred C. Church Insurance
Maureen Gervais
Mary Louise and James Keenan
2015 SUMMER "CAMPERSHIPS"
Carol and George Duncan
Enterprise Bank
Frank Potvin Plumbing and Heating
Two Chefs
AmazonSmile Foundation
Aubert J. Fay Charitable Fund
BJ's Charitable Foundation
C. Alice Rowell Bean Trust
Charles H. Hanson Trust Fund
The Children's Home of Lowell
Cummings Foundation
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
John A. Hunnewell Trust
Lowell General Hospital
National Grid
Network for Good Foundation
Raytheon Company
Rotary Club of Lowell
Renuka S. O'Connell New World Fund (GLCF)
Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation
Ruth C. & John E. Leggat Fund (GLCF)
Target Corporation
The Ayer Home
Verizon Treasury
Mass Humanities
GOLD SPONSORS

SILVER SPONSORS

FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS

George and Donna Leahey
Massachusetts Senior Care Association
Middlesex Community College
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Foundations and Corporations

AmazonSmile Foundation
Aubert J. Fay Charitable Fund
BJ's Charitable Foundation
C. Alice Rowell Bean Trust
Charles H. Hanson Trust Fund
The Children's Home of Lowell
Cummings Foundation
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
John A. Hunnewell Trust
Lowell General Hospital
National Grid
Network for Good Foundation
Raytheon Company
Rotary Club of Lowell
Renuka S. O'Connell New World Fund (GLCF)
Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation
Ruth C. & John E. Leggat Fund (GLCF)
Target Corporation
The Ayer Home
Verizon Treasury
Mass Humanities
Mill Girls of Lowell Photovoice Project

The Lowell Mill Girls were the heart and soul of the Lowell mills and their industrial success and played an essential role in the history of the city. Courageous, brave and bold for their times, the Lowell Mill girls made many strides for working women including reforming working conditions all over New England and paving the way for the rights of female workers all over the country.

Since the majority of our girls and the many generations of females who have attended our Girls Inc. programs since 1945 have grown up in and around Lowell, we eagerly wanted to educate them on the lives of the daring Mill Girls of our unique city and how, theoretically, this has impacted the quality of their lives and opportunities today, all while learning about a very important part of Lowell history.

Through generous funding provided by a Mass Humanities Grant, Girls Inc. was extremely pleased to be able to implement the Mill Girls of Lowell Photovoice Project during the 2015 Summer Enrichment Program. This photography and leadership program put cameras in the hands of girls ages 10-14 and enabled them to write narratives about their city’s history and community. Through tours of the American Textile History Museum, Boott Cotton Mills, Tsongas Industrial History Center, and guided canal tours with the Lowell National Historical Park, our girls learned the daily struggles and conditions of working in the mills and what daily life would look like for a Mill Girl. Members of this project were also able to have meaningful discussions on comparing their own lives to those of Lowell Mill Girls. The girls also had the privilege of talking with Photovoice founder Dr. Laura Lorenz, visiting scholar at Brandeis University and the Heller School for Social Policy & Management Director, Research and Education for Supportive Living in Woburn, MA. Dr. Lorenz offered her time to share with the girls the importance of creatively portraying the stories of others to the public.

With this project, our girls also learned to work together, how to plan for an event, how to give a presentation, how to discuss their work with others, how to share their views with community members, how to get up on stage and give a speech, and how to express themselves to others as a proud young leader of Lowell. The girls proudly held their Mill Girls exhibit at LTC from August 24th-27th. The exhibit is now on display in our Girls Inc. Center. We are very excited to continue this innovative project which will run again during the fall of our 2015 After School Enrichment Program.

Counselor in Training Program=Job Ready!

Building off of its success from the summer of 2014, the Counselor -in-Training Program, a summer job readiness program for teen girls ages 15-18, became even stronger this time around with the implementation of the Job Ready Workshop. The Job Ready Workshop is a program from Girls Inc. National curriculum that is designed to help prepare teens for the world of work. Several CITs were returning members from last summer and/or members in the Teen Program who have recently turned 15 and the rest were all new to Girls Inc. This program is not only designed as a work experience program where the teens get hands-on opportunities to assist the staff in running their activities and learn how to conduct themselves in a work environment, but it also served as a chance for the teens to develop responsibility and leadership skills.

Most of the CITs had little to no prior work experience but all of them expressed a willingness to learn and grow as role models for the younger members and themselves. This program forced teens to reflect on their behavior and how they represent themselves while interacting with those younger than them. The CITS learned valuable skills for the working world such as building a resume, interviewing skills, and how to behave once you get a job, but they also gained a broader perspective. It was a completely different experience from what they are used to. Instead of being a member participating in the program, they had to think more about their actions and the choices they were making as they had little eyes watching them. They also learned how to be more patient and compassionate when working with others, not just with the younger members but also with each other and became a strong team and peer mentors when they noticed any of their teammates having a hard time. They learned that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, but that they help make each other stronger when they work together. The CITs who were returning from last summer served as excellent leaders for new members to look up to as they took more initiative in making themselves available to those who had questions or helped guide those who may have needed a helping hand. They were a great support to each other and staff members.

Girls Inc. is grateful to be able to offer this essential program for teen girls to provide not only valuable work experience, but also to help in the evolving capacity of our youth to discover their leadership potential and the application of those recently established skills.

[Photo courtesy of Harkins Photography]
Welcome our new Outreach & Special Programs Coordinator:

Rachel MacGillivary

Hello Everyone!

My name is Rachel MacGillivary and I am excited to be the new addition to the Girls Inc. team as the Outreach and Special Programs Coordinator! My passion for working with youth and interest in community outreach began during my undergraduate years at Assumption College where I received a B.A. in Human Services, and concentrated in Working with Youth - At-Risk in a Community Setting. I then went on to further develop my passion at Merrimack College where I recently graduated with a Master’s of Education in Community Engagement with a focus on K-12 Education. During my time at Merrimack, I received a fellowship as the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator for North Andover Public Schools. My role focused on the growth, development and implementation of family and community outreach programs in order to ensure that the community was receiving the resources needed to enhance student achievement, parent knowledge, and overall community well-being. In my spare time I love to go camping, be involved with cheerleading and dance, and hang out with my two dogs. As the Outreach and Special Programs Coordinator, I am excited to have the opportunity to deliver Girls Inc programs out in the Greater Lowell community to girls who wouldn’t otherwise be able to participate at the Center location. I am looking forward to becoming a part of the Strong, Smart and Bold family!