Girls Ink

Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold!

Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell

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2016 Celebration of Today’s Woman
Honoring Amy J. Hoey

Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell is pleased to honor Amy Hoey with the “Woman of Today Award” at the 2016 Celebration of Today’s Woman.

As an executive in today’s challenging field of healthcare administration, Amy Hoey has distinguished herself as a true leader who is able to inspire others. In her current role as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Lowell General Hospital and Circle Health, she has been instrumental in leading the hospital through expansion and growth while maintaining its core mission of quality patient care.

Amy’s ability to lead with intelligence, kindness, and grace have earned her the respect and loyalty of her colleagues and team members, while working to create lasting improvement and change in the way that healthcare is delivered to our community. As Chief Nursing Officer in 2010, Amy led the hospital’s initiative to earn Initial Magnet Designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. A skilled nurse herself, Amy possesses the natural compassion and caring for others that allows her to be effective in all that she does, from supervising strategic planning for the entire hospital, to spending time with staff members to truly listen to their ideas and concerns.

A graduate of University of Lowell and of Salem State College with Bachelors’ degrees in both Health Education and Nursing, and with a Master of Science in Business Administration from Central Michigan University, Amy is a Registered Nurse, a licensed Long-term Care Administrator, Certified Teacher of Health Education, and Certified Nurse Executive. She mentors countless colleagues and staff members in both formal and informal ways, sharing her knowledge and her passion for providing quality community health care.

Amy is a lifelong resident of the Greater Lowell community. She is active in a number of organizations, serving as a Director of Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank, of D’Youville Life and Wellness Center, and of New England Life Care, and on the Health Sciences Advisory Board at UMass Lowell. Amy is sought out for her leadership skills and experience. But as importantly, so many also know her as a kindhearted wife, mother, sister, and friend. She and her husband, Tom, have two children; Aidan is 18 and Abby is 15.

When asked to serve as the 2016 Woman of Today award recipient, Amy’s response was, as always, focused on others: “I have been so fortunate to have had strong, independent, and inspirational women who have served as incredible mentors throughout my life. These women showed me just how important it is to take care of oneself in order to best take care of others. That personal commitment to health and well-being is something I work hard to model for both my family and my colleagues and staff each and every day, and I hope I can do the same for the amazing young women at Girls Inc. as they continue to grow to be strong, smart and bold!”

For more info. visit www.girlsinclowell.org/be-inspired/celebration/

SAVE THE DATE!
2016 Celebration of Today’s Woman Gala
will be held on Thursday, June 2nd from 6 to 9 pm at the UML Inn & Conference Center
A Dream Made Real

Thanks to the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation, the dream of having a STEM Lab has become a reality! Our girls are very proud and super excited to have this new updated lab with its up-to-date technology including laptop tablets for research, digital microscopes, and an internet connected TV for teaching in a variety of different mediums. With this larger lab area, Girls Inc. has been able to double the number of girls in many of the classes which allows more girls to learn and experience the fun of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Since its recent construction, the lab is being used every single day for a variety of STEM activities. A big thank you to our dedicated contractors for making this dream a reality: D&J Construction of Tewksbury, Durkins Carpeting & Interiors of Lowell, Michaud Plumbing, Cognato Electric, Hill-Do-It Painting, and New England Lab Inc.

With the combination of compensatory STEM programming and presentations from women in STEM fields, Girls Inc. hopes to combat the gender gap in these fields and increase the interest in STEM careers among our girls. With this clean, organized, well stocked space, the girls now have more access to learn subjects they are traditionally steered away from. Girls Inc. can now provide enough resources to educate all grade levels K-12, fostering a love of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that we hope will only grow over time, aiding the girls in preparing for interesting work, and opening up a whole new world of opportunity!

Outreach STEM Programs Highlight

The Girls Inc. Outreach Program is on the rise! We are currently serving many schools and community centers throughout Greater Lowell; thanks to grants from Battles Foundation Inc., DCU for Kids, and The Nathaniel and Elizabeth Stevens Foundation. The girls at these sites are enjoying the world of S.T.E.M., getting messy, and expanding their minds through exploration in our Operation SMART program! This program helps girls develop enthusiasm for and skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (S.T.E.M.) through hands-on, engaging science activities that promote critical thinking, an engineer design process, chemistry, biology and dissection, anatomy and more.

One of the largest components of the Operation SMART program is to make connections with women working in S.T.E.M. fields, and expose girls to female role models so that they come to view these careers as realistic and exciting options for themselves. We had a Biotechnologist from Quest Diagnostics, Nicole, join us in our lab to speak to the girls about what it is like to be a woman in a science lab! The girls also met a registered nurse, Karlee, as part of “My Girlfriend Zelda,” an anatomy program where girls learn about the different systems of the body through hands on activities.

We are grateful to have awesome mentors like Nicole and Karlee join us so that the girls can learn about their potential in the S.T.E.M field!
**Member Spotlights**

**Tiana Torres**

“Girls Inc. has made me a better person in many ways. They [the staff] have seen the potential and good in me that I didn’t see. I have matured and made better choices.”

Tiana is currently a 14 year old member of our Teen Program and has been coming to Girls Inc. for two years. When she first came to Girls Inc., she was nervous because she didn’t know anybody. She thought the program was fun but didn’t enjoy the choice picking process. When asked how she feels about the program now, Tiana says that it helps her make better choices and that Maritza, the Teen Coordinator, teaches the girls things they really need to know as young women. Tiana also says that the program has helped her react to things in a more positive way and look at things differently. She is more optimistic and doesn’t express such an unhealthy attitude. She also really enjoys helping the younger girls in the program. She loves mentoring the other teens, helping build their confidence and wants to help give them advice when she can. “Some of the things girls go through, I’ve been in their position.” Tiana was temporarily suspended from the Teen Program in June of 2015 due to extremely unsafe behavior and negative choices. She restarted the program in September of 2015, having reflected on her past behavior and has made progressively better choices, demonstrating her growth and commitment to being a better person and role model. “I have improved in many ways and still am. Girls Inc. staff encourage me to do the right thing.

**Myah Rivera**

“Girls Inc staff help me understand myself more and learn who I really am. Almost everyone here has helped me.” Myah came to Girls Inc. at 7 years old with mixed feelings. She had just moved from Tewksbury, where she was having issues with bullying at many of the programs that she had previously attended. “Now I feel happy that I am able to go to Girls Inc. Some people don’t get to go somewhere fun or a place that changes your life.” “Girls Inc. has helped me change my attitude, helped me learn that I shouldn’t care about the negative things other people say about me, and learn things I wouldn’t be able to learn anywhere else, such as science, math and writing.” During her first year, Myah remembers getting a lot of “Think It Through” forms, which help girls reflect on negative choices they are making in the program, and yelling at staff when she was mad or upset. Now she says “I don’t get mad for things I shouldn’t be mad at and for not getting into the choice activity I really wanted to be in.” Now, Myah says she has better friends, better grades, has become a Member of the Month, and became a better student at school.

“When I first came to Girls Inc., I always wanted to become Member of the Month. I never knew what it took so I started watching the Girls Inc. videos and did those things. If you go to a place that is special and you’re not paying attention or listening or having fun, you are never going to accomplish anything.”

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**An Exciting Year for the Carol S. Duncan Teen Center**

The Girls Inc. Teen Program is gearing up for not one but TWO rounds of Equine Encounters at Ironstone Farm in Andover this year! This will be the third year that Girls Inc. has partnered with Ironstone Farm for a Teen Leadership Program that builds skills through horse-based activities and guided reflections focusing on self awareness, communication skills, decision making, and setting and achieving goals. Due to the success of this program, the second Equine Encounter will be implemented as a pre-training orientation for the Counselor-In-Training Program this summer, which is also in its third year! The ability to continue providing these programs is in large part due to the Cummings Foundation grant, which has also made way for the largest project the Girls Inc. Teens have been working on throughout the school year, novel writing. It started as a part of National Novel Writing Month in November and turned into a year-long literacy project involving learning how to create story-boards, book cover creations, public speaking workshops, community building, and of course the actual writing. The Teen Program was able to invite women who are children’s book authors and illustrators to provide workshops on the story writing process and the teens also worked with local artists to help come up with their book cover designs. They then did live readings of their novels at local businesses Humanity and Brew’d Awakening. Their stories addressed important topics like bullying, same sex marriage, and domestic violence, among others. This program in conjunction with another program called The Struggle to Be Strong, which consists of reading short stories written by other teens on the subject of resilience, encourage literacy amongst teens. Literacy is such an important facet of life and can teach not only reading and writing skills, but also promotes empathy and self reflection, creating more competent community members that are aware of issues in the world and can provide creative solutions.
TO:

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SAVE THE DATE!

Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell
Summer Enrichment Program

Runs June 20 till August 26
To reserve your daughters spot,
SIGN UP TODAY!