2017 Celebration of Today’s Woman
Honors Judy M. Burke

Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell is pleased to honor Judy Burke with the “Woman of Today Award” at the 2017 Celebration of Today’s Woman.

As a successful executive in the field of higher education, Judy has worked tirelessly to bring educational opportunities to all members of the community, while also helping to ensure that local employers have the skilled workforce needed to fuel a strong local economy. Her position as Executive Director of Institutional Advancement at Middlesex Community College allows Judy to use her considerable interpersonal and leadership skills to forge mutually beneficial partnerships with community and business leaders. As Executive Director, Judy oversees Institutional Research, Resource Development, Marketing and Communications, Corporate and Community Education and Training, and numerous career and adult learning programs that benefit both local students as well as the companies and communities that they go on to serve. Prior to her current role as Executive Director, Judy was with Middlesex Community College’s Business and Industry Programs since 1991 and most recently served as Dean of Corporate and Community Education & Training. In this capacity, she marketed and managed training programs at a variety of companies and organizations, including National Grid, Cabot Corporation, Lowell General Hospital, LifeLinks, Eink Corporation, Mercury Computer Systems, Raytheon Company, and Verizon.

Judy was born and raised in Lowell, attended Saint Michael Grammar School, Keith Hall High School, and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from University of Lowell before going on to achieve a Master of Education Administration from UMass Lowell. Before joining Middlesex Community College, she worked as a Contract Administrator in the Missile System Division of Raytheon, working specifically on the Patriot Missile Program with the United States Army.

Caring for her community is at the heart of what has made Judy such an effective champion of positive change. Judy is currently the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors at the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce. She has served on boards of numerous local non-profit and civic organizations, including the YWCA, D’Youville Life and Wellness Fundraising Committee, the Power of Flowers Project, Lowell Catholic High School Bishop McNamara Award Event Committee, Pan Mass Challenge Fundraiser, the Greater Lowell Workforce Development Executive Board, Middlesex 3 Coalition, the New England Workforce Network, and Merrimack Valley Partners for Progress.

In all that she does, both personally and professionally, Judy gives enthusiastically of her time and talents, with a level of caring and commitment that have become increasingly rare. She is a long-time resident of Pelham, NH, where she lives with her husband of thirty years, Marc Burke. They enjoy spending time with family, friends, and their three dogs, Baby, Teddy, and Penelope.

We are proud to honor Judy with the 2017 Woman of Today Award. Her work to promote educational opportunities for all, and the support that she has given her community make her a true role model for our Girls Inc. members.

For more information, please visit www.girlsinclowell.org/be-inspired/

SAVE THE DATE!
2017 Celebration of Today’s Woman Gala
Will be held on Thursday, June 1st
From 6 to 9 pm
at the UML Inn & Conference Center
Each expedition builds on the skills the participants learn during each session. They learn practical skills regarding health and nutrition like the importance of staying hydrated and well nourished while exerting physical energy, as well as how to read a map and use a compass. They also learn skills they can use for life, like using communication to define their personal boundaries, being able to identify when they've ventured too far outside their comfort zones, and setting goals that are realistic and not too overwhelming. Ultimately, the participants build not only physical strength, but also courage, confidence, and self reliance. They get a deeper understanding of what team building is, and get to witness that as a team, Together Everyone Achieves More.

Girls enCourage will be implemented three times this school year with the goal of giving as many teens and tweens the opportunity to participate in this amazing program. The first cohort wrapped up in December, and since then it is evident that this program creates critical thinkers, and compassionate leaders who are able to articulate themselves more confidently, take calculated risks, and try things they may never have considered doing due to fear. One of the participants used to be very shy and quiet and didn’t have many friends. This girl also considered herself to be physically weak and very rarely took many opportunities to be physically active until she joined Girls enCourage. She has signed up for activities like ice skating, and even volunteered to be a part of a dance ensemble that performed at Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell’s Winter Fundraiser! She did all of these things because she learned in that first cohort that getting out of her comfort zone to try new things can be an exhilarating experience.

The participants, overall, are learning to face their fears and learning to view their lives as an exciting adventure that they can learn from and build according to their values. They are learning to define what success means to them and that even the most difficult challenges can be rewarding in their own ways.
Outreach Program Highlights

Look at us grow!

We are proud to announce that our Outreach Program is continuing to grow!
That means that more girls in our community are becoming Stronger, Smarter and Bolder!

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<th>Ongoing Outreach Sites Include:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Morey Elementary School</td>
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<td>Moody Elementary School</td>
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<td>Heathbrook Elementary School</td>
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<td>Coalition for a Better Acre</td>
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There is a direct need to advance the education of girls who are at-risk socially and economically in our community, and we believe Girls Inc. can accomplish this by continuously growing our Outreach Program. The Outreach Program serves girls at community-based sites who do not have the means to attend programs at our Center location. The girls meet once or twice a week for at least an hour and participate in one of our research-based, intentional programs. Our life-changing programs promote academic achievement, healthy choices, leadership, community awareness, literacy and an interest in science, technology, engineering and math.

Our most popular program is our Operation SMART (science, technology, engineering and math) programming. This program allows the girls to enjoy the world of S.T.E.M., get messy, and expand their mind through exploration.

Girls in Operation SMART have the opportunity to become chemists, engineers, astronomers, paleontologists, computer scientists, statisticians and more!

One of the favorite activities this session was a Boat Engineering Challenge. The girls worked in pairs to create a boat that would float and stay floating with added weight. We discussed what makes a boat float and sink, including key terms such as density, stability and displacement. The girls used a variety of materials including straws, aluminum foil, popsicle sticks, and paper clips to design their boat. They then tested their designs and added coins to the ship to see how much “cargo” they could carry. If a group’s boat sank, they were able to make adjustments and try again!

The generous support from individual donors and foundations make it possible for us to achieve our goal of expanding our Outreach Program, ensuring that as many girls as possible are receiving the tools and resources to become healthy, educated and independent. A sincere thank you to the UML Honors College Philanthropy Class Grant, Kinder Morgan Foundation, TJX Foundation, and Community Development Block Grant.
After School Program Highlights

To The Beat of Kerouac

“To The Beat Of Kerouac” is a cultural media program that was funded in large part by the Lowell Cultural Council and the John A Hunnewell Trust. The program was designed with the intent to teach the youth within the Greater Lowell community about the famous Beatnik writer Jack Kerouac who was born in Lowell, Massachusetts.

The main goal of the program was to expose the youth to the culture and history in their community and teach them the many opportunities for local research resources that are available. Throughout this program, many resources for documentation and research were used such as creative writing, photography, videography, and microfilm.

Local field trips were organized allowing the youth to visit various locations throughout the city that have direct connections to Kerouac’s life.

Literacy was a main part of this program and the youth kept their own journals where they would frequently document and creative write. The writing assignments were inspired by excerpts the class read that Kerouac wrote that described the beauty he saw and felt for his city. The class audio recorded the stories they created to put into a video slideshow. The youth were able to learn the editing process of videography by choosing placement of images and audio. The video has various photographs taken by the class participants as well as chosen images of Kerouac throughout his life. The video also includes voice over’s of the stories the girls wrote and an introduction of the author’s life.

The film received a public viewing on Friday, December 9th, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, at the Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center.

Diverse Divas

Diversity has always been a strength in gateway cities like Lowell, and during this school year, our members have had the exciting opportunity to explore the cultural pathways that our city is built on through the Diverse Divas program. With the gracious funding from the Massachusetts’s Cultural Council and the John A. Hunnewell Trust, Girls Inc. was able to research, develop and implement a full year program that explores the history of Lowell through the lens of immigration.

Girls in the program are learning the value of culture in Lowell’s history, art, government and its influential reach in our city’s future. Each week the class meets and members read a story from one of Lowell’s many ethnic backgrounds. Stories include The Orphan, a Cinderella Tale from Greece, La Cazuela, a Latina nursery rhyme similar to the classic This Is The House That Jack Built, and Grandma’s First Matzo Ball, from Tales From A Jewish Grandmother. After cultural read-out-louds, girls experience Lowell’s various ethnicities through hands-on engaging activities. They cooked spanikopita (Greek Spinach Pie), made colonial horn books, and will learn the significance of dance and music in Cambodian customs later this year. At the end of each class, girls read a new page from Mr. Magnificent’s Magical Merrimack Adventure written by author Ingrid Hess. The book follows a small group of Lowell children as they take a ride through the ages of Lowell’s Evolution in Mr. Magnificent’s magical hot air balloon. After each new page, we write journal entries from the perspective of immigrants in different eras that have just arrived to Lowell.

Starting in April 2017, the girls in this class will begin documenting their journey in a morning news style film. We will write original scripts and report on the indispensible impact and contributions immigration has had on Lowell’s heritage and history.

To showcase their film and display all their cultural creations, a family night and public viewing is scheduled at the Girls Inc. Center on June 9, 2017. We hope you’ll stop by between 5:00 pm and 6:30 to celebrate the diversity that has always made our city strong.
This year we celebrate 100 years of serving the community of Greater Lowell... please join us throughout the year and help us cheer the next 100 years!

(1917) The War Community Service Center
(1919) Lowell Community Service Club
(1920) Women’s Right to Vote
(1925) Classes begin: Dressmaking, Etiquette, Charm & Correct English
(1926) National League of Girls Clubs Conference
(1930) Membership opens to Junior High girls
(1938) Minimum Wage Laws for Women recognized
(1941-45) Women enter Labor Force WWII
(1945) Lowell Girls Club purchases Old Church/Duplex on Worthen Street

(1945) LGC becomes founding member of the Girls Clubs of America, Inc.
(1945) Program adopts age range 6-16
(1954) “Mothers of Tomorrow” tagline
(1963) Three Focuses: being a Homemaker, Good Sportsmanship & Healthy Bodies
(1972) First national TV spot airs, boosting organization visibility
(1986) Worthen Street construction finishes and Club reopens
(1990) Official name change to Girls Incorporated
(1993) New Mission “Strong, Smart & Bold!”
(2010) First Lady Michelle Obama becomes Honorary Chairperson for National Board
TO:

Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell
220 Worthen Street
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 458-6529
www.girlsinclowell.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell Summer Enrichment Program Runs June 26 till August 25 To reserve your daughter's spot, SIGN UP TODAY!