Girls Ink

of Greater Lowell

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Girls Inc.’s Counselor-in-Training Program is exactly where anyone would want their 15-18 year old teenage girl for the summer! The program began with leadership training and teambuilding activities at Ironstone Farm in Andover. There, the girls learned about the importance of strong communication skills, the ability to give constructive feedback, and how to work together as a team. The girls learned that an important aspect of leading is found in service to others. The horses also served as excellent models of a 5 year old’s behavior to help prepare the CIT’s for the summer ahead.

Throughout the summer, CIT’s assisted the staff members who work with the youngest girls ages 5-7. They helped to set up activities, they served as mentors to those younger girls, and eventually they facilitated their own activities. One day each week was dedicated to the development and growth of the CIT’s as they participated in a variety of workshops including: Job Ready – a Girls Inc. National Program that teaches girls the basics of searching, applying, and interviewing for jobs; VOICEs or Valuing Our Insights for Civic Engagement - a grant-funded program through the Department of Public Health that encourages young people to see themselves as valuable, contributing members of any community they’re part of and how they can use their voices to make positive change; Project AIM (Adult Identity Mentoring) – a grant-funded program through the Department of Public Health that encourages girls to think broadly about their potential career paths beyond college or trade school and the skills needed to reach those goals; Life Skills – a staff developed program that included financial literacy, media literacy, stress management and mindfulness, shopping and cooking for a meal, and communication skills.

The CIT’s had an excellent summer being able to apply things they were learning in real-time with the girls, each other, and in their community. To wrap up their workshop Wednesdays and tie it all together, the CIT’s went on two college tours at Simmons University and Boston University. Some had never been on a college campus before, so it was a really exciting experience where they got to ask questions about applying to college, financial aid, living on campus, and learn about all the resources offered to students. They even got to eat on campus at Simmons. After visiting the campuses, CIT’s were more confident about the decisions they’re making now, and all the possibilities the future holds!
Summer at Girls Inc. is a time for innovative learning experiences, meaningful friendships, and fun in the sun. This year’s program ran for the entire ten weeks of the Lowell Public School’s Summer Break and was filled with new on-site programs and first-time field trips.

Members divided into three large cohorts, separated by age, and each group had their own unique programming delivered to promote the highest degree of engagement and learning, while also meeting social and developmental needs. Our youngest members participated in on-site activities that promoted early literacy skills, social-emotional development, and STEM exploration. During classes like *Bookworms* and *Wacky Words*, members practiced the five building blocks of literacy while playing games, taking “story journeys”, and creating literacy themed crafts. These activities not only support members who are learning to read, but the skills introduced develop young minds into life-long bookworms who read to learn. Activities such as *Positive Players*, *Super Citizens*, and *Healthy Habits* encourage the development of vital social and emotional skills like teamwork, accountability, and personal care for the mind and body. On-site STEM programming, funded by a generous grants from *National Grid* and *People’s United Charitable Fund*, included courses like *Fab Physics*, that investigated simple machines and forces like gravity, and *AstroGirls*, where members travelled our solar system and the world beyond to discover the mysteries of deep space.

While the youngest members where using the scientific method to crack open outer space, members aged 9-11 were learning life skills, travelling the world, and hopping back in time to meet some of history’s most famous ladies. On-site activities included introductory cooking courses, where members learned the basic vocabulary and functions of a kitchen, as well as, practiced reading, writing, and math, while learning and creating healthy recipes. Many of the dishes introduced were from the cultural programming, provided on-site, creating a fluid and multi-disciplinary learning experience. Dishes from Africa and the Caribbean complimented the drum circle class in which members learned not only the history and significance of drumming, but practiced drum techniques and created their own rhythms and beats. The class *Summer Stories* introduced literature that supported the culinary and musical learning with tales of Anansi the Spider and his friends from Ghana, and the Trinidadian tales of “Papa Bois”, Father of the Woods. In *Magical Myths*, members continued their examination of folklore, myths, and magic, expanding their studies to Grecian, Roman, Japanese, and Native American Tales. Incorporating their learning from this class into *InstaModels*, members created mock Instagram Pages for many of the strong, smart, and bold female characters from historical mythology. Once they had created their pages for fictional characters, they shifted their focus onto prominent women who influenced the women’s rights movements, past and present, and created an inspiring collection of Instagram Pages from everyone from Susan B. Anthony to Zendaya.

This cross-disciplinary approach to learning created a smooth narrative for members learning, allowing members to build their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, while creating connections between subject content and their own experiences.
The oldest members, ages 12-14, spent their summer on creative pursuits, including theater, photography, and culinary creations. In *Picture Perfect*, the girls learned the basics of photography and photo editing. To compliment the class, Girls Inc. Alumna, Jennifer Vivier, provided photography workshops and professional grade photoshoots, while members learned popular make-up techniques and read literature that discussed the merits of inside beauty vs. outside beauty in their *Inner Beauty* class. The techniques also supported their stage work in *Act It Out*, where they practiced not only traditional acting methods, but learned about character development and set design. In the Girls Inc. Kitchen, members built on foundational cooking skills learned over the school year, in programs such as *Master Chef* and *Food For Thought*, where they had the chance to practice creative cooking and learn about food sciences.

In addition to the learning experiences on-site, members travelled off-site each week to an educational field trip. An annual grant from *National Grid* provided support for members to visit some of their favorite STEM-tastic sites like The Boston Museum of Science, beautiful Silver Lake, the Harvard Museum of Natural History, and for the first time, the rooftop garden at Kendall Center (the latter to learn about urban farming). These vital trips support on-site learning and promote STEM interest and career paths while also providing a summer filled with memorable and entertaining moments.

Funding provided by the *United Way SEGL Program* allowed members to participate in swimming at the South Common Pool for seven weeks and to have weekly walking trips throughout the city to learn more about our community. Members travelled to sites like the Mill City Grows Garden on Middlesex Street and the Community Family Adult Care Center. These experiences create significant connections to the community and educated members about the city’s past, present, and future, as well as their role as community members and future leaders in Lowell.
Dear Girls Inc. Family,

If you had told me on that very hot day in the Summer of 2012, when I handed a volunteer application and resume to Program Director Jennifer Demers, that my life was about to change forever, I wouldn’t have believed you. These seven years here, first as a volunteer, then a program Specialist, then Teen Coordinator (golly gee-wiz!), have been nothing less than extraordinary. This opportunity has turned me into a true Girls Inc. girl.

Because of Girls Inc., I got to have some of the coolest experiences of my life, just to name a few: that time I lead a dissection of a dog shark without ever having dissected ANYTHING ever; that time I kayaked on the Merrimack with an awesome group of CIT’s; that time our (then) 16 year old Unique Teens Dance Company Founder and choreographer moved away, and I stepped in and lived my dream of having my own dance crew; that time I worked with Jen to build one of the best Halloween haunted houses so scary it actually scared the staff and parents; that time one of the teens who had been here for 10 years got into the college of her dreams; that time we brought a group of girls to hear Michelle Obama speak; that time the teens had a book tour; that time I watched a girl who was terrified of heights cry her way through a 20ft high ropes course and scream her way down the zipline, then laugh hysterically because she couldn’t believe she had done it; that time the staff and girls did an entire Doctor Who themed birthday party for me, complete with a life-sized TARDIS and every doctor fighting the villains; that time we got lost in the Dracut forest on a hike and found our way back through the D’Youville parking lot; that time I got to participate in the Equine Encounter at Ironstone Farm alongside my teens and couldn’t stop smiling; the list goes on and on and on.

Girls Inc. is the reason I am who I am today. I’ve learned to be more resilient just by being around these incredible girls who defeat the odds and defy every stereotype. I found my voice in helping them to find theirs. By encouraging these girls to get out of their comfort zones and take positive risks, I have learned to do exactly that. I’ve learned that children often watch what you do more than listen to what you say, and I’ve become a better role model with that knowledge. I found a second home, extended family, and loving, guiding mentorship in this wonderful organization. Now it’s my turn to bet on myself, continue to lead by example, and pursue my big educational dreams.

Thank you for the opportunity, thank you for the privilege, and thank you for the honor.

~Maritza Grooms
Outreach & Special Programs

Super Summer Success!

We are excited to announce our first Summer Outreach Program was a huge success! The program partnered with UMass Lowell Reckids, Tewksbury Public Schools, Lowell Parks and Recreation, and North Canal apartments to run our Girls Inc. Outreach programs at their sites for a total of 8 weeks. We were able to provide programming to 450 youth who enjoyed programs such as Operation SMART, Girls with Goals, She’s on the Money and Sporting Chance. As reported by our partners, the youth looked forward to Girls Inc. staff coming on their scheduled days and requested we return next year to continue running our programs. The youth benefited from being truly engaged in hands-on, educational activities and particularly liked Operation SMART, where they learned about a variety of sciences. This was an opportunity for most of the youth, who may not otherwise have had the opportunity, to perform experiments and learn about new advances in science while building their own scientific skills. The youth were also able to have the Girls Inc. experience and create mentoring relationships with our staff.

The Outreach Program was able to offer programs free to the youth organizations due to the significant grants we received. A special thank you to the Cummings Foundation for their continued support and Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation for making this possible. We truly appreciate you championing our girls!

2019-2020 School Year

We are looking forward to this upcoming school year and continuing our partnerships with schools, as well as creating new ones. We have been able to create new partnerships and offer our unique Girls Inc. programs to more youth due to our ability to grow our Outreach team. We were able to hire four new staff members earlier this year to create our solid team of five Outreach Program Specialists for the year. Their positive energy and amazing implementation skills are what continues to make the Outreach program a success.

Given the significant growth of our team, we’ve been able to secure schools and programs in advance of the school year starting. We have confirmed 14 sites and are looking to confirm 8 more before the programs start in October. The Girls Inc. program sites have expressed interest in are Operation SMART, Healthy You, Friendly PEERSuasion, and Sporting Chance curriculums. We have an amazing opportunity to work with the Laura Lee Therapeutic Day School and Leblanc Therapeutic Day School again this year. These partnerships have truly enhanced our program, and not only have the members gained a lot from these connections, but the Girls Inc. staff have as well. We are excited to have been asked back and are looking forward to a successful school year!
We would like to extend a special thanks to our "Friends" whose generosity during the past year enabled us to GROW and serve MORE girls of Greater Lowell.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE ($1000 OR MORE)
Carol Duncan  
Carolyn Gregoire  
Joyce Vyriotes  
Karen Donahue  
Market Basket/ Demoulas Foundation  
Carolyn Gregoire  
John Gregoire  
Joyce Vyriotes  
The Leeward Charitable Foundation

INVESTOR ($750 to $999)
Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union

BENEFACTOR ($500 to $749)
Belinda Juran  
Caroline Rider  
Clementine Alexis  
Kara Doyle  
Kay Doyle

PATRON ($250 to $499)
Amy Hoey  
Brian W. Leahey  
Carol Gilchrist  
Denise Aggott  
Irene Egan  
Jennifer Aradhya  
Kathryn Hurley

SPONSOR ($100 to $249)
Amy Werner  
Anne Nancy Weber  
Brenda Loucks  
Brian Collins  
Brian Stafford  
Caroline Rider  
Cassandra Goldwater  
Cheryl Bursaw  
Diana Locey  
Diane Jeray  
Eileen Kane  
Elizabeth Gronewold Henry  
Ellen Andre  
Germaine Vigeant-Trudel  
Jean Kydd  
Joseph Meehan  
Judith Stayton  
Kristin McCauley  
Lawrence Ardito  
Marina Schell  
Mary Beth Ferreira  
Mathews Brothers  
Matthew Donahue  
Nancy Cote  
Naomi Prendergast  
Nicole Clarke  
Patrick Bianco  
Renee Romanowsky  
Robert Lawlor  
Rosemarie Melanson  
Sophy Theam  
Stephanie Gilchrist  
Susanne Duato  
Suzanne L'Hussier  
Therese Keoseian  
Timothy Demitropoulos
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SUPPORTER (to $99)

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Fran Wallace Melissa DiMeo
Germaine Vigeant-Trudel Pas qua Leary
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K. Eleanor Sullivan Sarvon Khun-Leng
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      Susan Mitchell

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Dan Ingersoll Norman Sieman
Eileen Kane Normand A Deschene
Eleanor M Denault Northern Bank & Trust Company
Elizabeth Reilly Pauline Lambert
Enterprise Bank & Trust Company Philip J Sisson
Faith Home Inc. Rosemarie Melanson
Frank Potvin Rotary Club of Lowell
Gail E Mann Shelagh Mahoney
James Waldo Tara Gabriel
2019 CELEBRATION OF TODAY’S WOMAN

Acre Family Child Care
Adine Latimore
Anna Jabar Omoyeni
Anne Nancy Weber
Anne Pollard-Murphy
Barbara Dunsford
Belinda Juran
Bethanne Welch
Betty Shine
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Catholic Charities
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Dorothy B Avens
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Effie Dragon
Elizabeth Basile
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Frank Alex Wilson
George Behrakis
Geraldine M Belanger
Germaine Vigeant-Trudel
Greater Lowell Community Foundation
Herminia T Gardney
Irene Egan

James G Hicks
James M. Geary Jr.
Janice Stecchi
Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union
Jenna Guilbeault
Joan Nyman
John Jeray
John Moynihan
John O’Connor
Kathleen Kelley
Kay Doyle
Kay Doyle
Lawrence Ardito
Leslie Morin
Linda Chemaly
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Lowell Community Health Center
Lowell Kiwanis Foundation Inc.
Lowell Sun Charities
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Lynne Faust
LZ Nunn
M. Carolyn Cox
Marcia Cassidy
Margaret Hassett
Marina Schell
Marion J. Riddick
Marjorie R. Miller
Market Basket/ Demoulas Foundation
Martha Mayo
Mary Johnson-Lally
Mary Lou Keenan
MaryAnn Coravos
Melia Mahoney
Merrimack Valley Branch
of the NAACP
Michael Gallagher
Middlesex Community College
Mona J Roberts
Nancy L. Donahue
Nancy Robb
Naomi Prendergast
Nicola Tsongas
Pauline Lambert
Rady Mom
Richard and Donna Peterson Jr.
Robert J. Audet
Rosaline I. Cameron
Rosemary Aucella
Royall M. Mack Sr.
Sheila Harrington
Stephanie Donahue
Sue A. Hunt
Susan LaRoche
Susan Mitchell
Susan Turcotte-Gavriel
Susanne Duato
Teddy Panos
The Greater Boston Section National Council of Negro Women
Therese O’Connor
Thomas P. Kirwin
Usha Chatterjee
Virginia Spencer
Yun-Ju Choi
2019 GRANTS

Alice R. Bean Trust  Lalor Foundation
C. R. Bard       Leggat Fund
Cateson Fund     Lockheed Martin
Community Development Lowell Community Health Center
Block Grant      
Cummings Foundation Lowell Cultural Council
DCU for Kids     Lyons Foundation
Demoulas Foundation MA Attorney General's Office
Department of Public Health Mass Cultural Council
Dufault Foundation Miriam Fund
Eastern Bank     National Girls Inc.
Essex County Community Foundation National Grid
Fallon Health    P&G Fidelity Fund
Goddard School   Saab Family Foundation
Greater Lowell Community Foundation TJX Company
Hanson Trust     UMass Lowell
Hunnewell        United Way
Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union United Way SEGL
Juniper          Women Working Wonders Fund
Kurtz Family Foundation  

2019 DENIM & DIAMONDS WINTER PARTY

Adie Conway
Advanced Technology Marketing, Inc.
Align Credit Union
Alison Hughes
Alison Isaksen
All Sports Heroes
Allard Building & Remodeling
Alpine Butcher
Angel Brunelle
Anne Nancy Weber
Anton's Cleaners
Arleen Francomano
Athenian Corner
Barbara Dunsford
Barbara J. Green
Bernard Jewelers
Best Western International
Bianco's Catering
Boston Professional Hockey Assoc., Inc.
Brew'd Awakening
Broadway in Boston
Bruce Robinson
Canobie Lake Park
Cardi's Furniture
Carol Bateson
Caroline Bateson
Carrie Meikle
Catherine O'Donnell
Cathleen Gable
Christina Pivirotto
Christine Hart
Citrin Cooperman
Club 94 on Clark
Cobblestones
Copper Door Restaurant
Crystal Kasey
Danielle Pinard
Dave & Buster's of Woburn
Dave Ouelette
David Jones
Denise Aggott
Diane Baxter
Diedra Wolfe
Dr. Eric & Carrie Meikle
2019 DENIM & DIAMONDS WINTER PARTY Cont’d

Edible Arrangements
Elaine Gauvreau
Eleni’s Fashion & Tailoring
Elizabeth Reilly
Ellen Andre
Ellen Latham
Enterprise Bank & Trust Company
Escapology of Tewksbury
Evolution Hair Design & Day Spa
Evviva Cucina
Eyewear by Georgio
Flowers by Albert
Fotine Panagakos
Four Paws Only
Fuse Bistro
Germaine Vigeant-Trudel
Good Thymes
Gorgeous Nails & Spa
Great Wolf Lodge - New England
Greater Lowell Community Foundation
Heritage Farm Ice Cream & Restaurant
Humanity Boutique
Improv Asylum
Ironstone Farm
James Dyson Foundation
Jane Calvin
Jane Cole Raftery
Jane E. Burg
Janet Lambert Moore
Janice M. Jones
Jenna Guilbeaut
Jillian’s Boston Lucky Strike
Joncas Associates
Joni’s Skin Care & Makeup Boutique
Karen Malfy
Kelly Will
Kid’s World Indoor Playground of Salem
Kimberly & Mikaela Army
Kings Dining & Entertainment
Kravant Boutique LLC
Lauri Noya
Lawrence Ardito
Leilani Salon
Lenzi’s Catering
Linda Carpenter
Lindt Chocolate
Little Pig Party Food
Lowell Automatic Transmission Co.
Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank
Lowell General Hospital
Lowell Memorial Auditorium
Lowell Spinners
Lucozzi Portraits
Lupoli Companies
Mahoney’s Garden Center
Maria Paskiewicz
Marina Schell
Martha Mayo
Mary Lou Keenan
Master Cambodian Potter
Maura Sweeney
Meg Bond
Merrimack Repertory Theatre
Middlesex Community College
Mill City Cheesemongers
Mill City Glass Works
Nancy Donahue
Nancy Weber
National Grid
Nobis engineering, Inc.
Northern Bank & Trust Company
Patriot Place
Pauline Lambert
PUPS
Purple Carrot
Rachel MacGillivary
Residence Inn Boston Woburn
Rob Lawlor
Robert Caggiano
Robert Dolan
Robert E. Plunkett & Co.
Robert Jason Salon
Rosalinda Ruas
Rosemary Auccella
Santa’s Village
Seacoast Science Center
Sharon Luciano
Shaw Farm Dairy
Sheila Morehouse
Shestagh Mahoney
Sizzling Kitchen
Skin Savvy Skin Care Salon
Smooth Medspa
Sonia Ruas
Sophia’s Greek Pantry North
Spa Victoria
Starbucks
Susan LaRoche
Susan Mitchell
Susan Zacharer
Susanne Duato, THRIVE HEALTH & WELLNESS
Sutra Studio
Tara Dhar
Terrance McCarthy
Tewksbury Country Club
Tewksbury Florist & Greenery
Tewksbury Garden Club
The Establishment
The Social Pup
Tracy Reilly Ingersoll
Trinity EMS
Vertical Dreams Indoor Climbing Gym
Vinaan Café
Virginia Spencer
Wamesit Lanes Family Entertainment Center
Washington Savings Bank
Western Ave. Studios & Lofts
Wicked Cheesy Pizza
Wilson Therapeutic & Medical Massage
Wood Brothers Florists, Inc.
Yun-Ju Choi
Yvonne La-Garde
Zorvino Vineyards
Date & Time  Tuesday, October 29, 5:30-7pm,

Location: Enterprise Bank, Lowell, MA

Presentation Overview:
Bequests are the #1 way individuals leave their legacy in their wills. Understand the basics of bequests at this free, informational, “keep it simple” workshop. Some “nuts and bolts” of estate planning documents will be reviewed.

Reserve your seat by Oct.22 at 978-458-6529 ext. 116

or email development@girlsinclowell.org

A light supper will be served.

Speaker: Patrick Connerty is a Sr. V. P. and Director of Institutional Services & Operations for Enterprise Bank Wealth Management. With more than 20 years' experience, Patrick holds a BS and MS in Finance from Bentley University.
Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell
220 Worthen Street
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 458-6529
www.girlsinclowell.org

TO:

SAVE THE DATE:
Winter Cocktail Party
& Auction
Thursday,
January 23, 2020
(1/30/2020 snow storm date)
More details to come on our website:
https://girlsinclowell.org/be-inspired/winter-event/