

# **girls inc.®** Inspiring All Girls to Be Strong, Smart & Bold®

## **Mission**

Girls Inc. of Chattanooga inspires and equips all girls to be *strong, smart and bold<sup>sm</sup>* on their journey to self-discovery.

## **All-Girl Environment**

All Girls Inc. of Chattanooga programs are age and gender appropriate, research-based and field tested. Our gender-specific programming is based upon research that shows:

- Girls who participate in girl-only environments are more likely to expect to go to college than girls who have never participated such settings.
- Eighty percent of girls believe that it is easier for boys to achieve their goals than it is for girls.
- Two-thirds of all students believe that girls are more likely to say what they really feel in groups with only girls.

We believe that girls flourish when their needs and interests are in the forefront. In all-girl settings, every leadership position is filled by a girl, and girls have the opportunity to interact with female role models from diverse and dynamic occupations. These settings foster self-confidence and celebrate achievement.

## **Who Girls Inc. Serves**

While Girls Inc. of Chattanooga aims to serve all girls throughout Hamilton County with a variety of races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic levels, the majority of the girls that Girls Inc. support are from low-income communities. Of the families who voluntarily disclosed their demographic and income information\*, 66% are African-American, 22% are Caucasian and nearly 10% are Latina. Approximately 41% of the girls live in families making \$20,000 or less each year and 59% live in families making between \$20,000—\$30,000 annually.

Of the 597 youth that Girls Inc. served in 2009, 18% were in elementary school and 72% were of middle school or high school age. Ten percent were adults. Because our programs include peer-to-peer presentations during the school day and weekend workshops, 29% of those we served were male, while 71% were female.

The neighborhoods where Girls Inc. girls reside are primarily urban communities. Forty-two percent of girls live in downtown neighborhoods such as Alton Park, Bushtown, East Lake, Orchard Knob, and Highland Park, 16% of girls live in East Ridge and Brainerd. Nine percent of girls live in the Highway 58 and Harrison areas, nearly 4% live in Hixson and 29% live in other areas of Hamilton County.

\*Based on the 2010 United Way of Greater Chattanooga report.

## **Participation**

Since 1961, Girls Inc. of Chattanooga has served nearly 23,000 girls ages 6-18. In 2011, we continue to serve girls throughout Hamilton County with diverse income levels, races, abilities, nationalities, sexual preferences and religions. We are proud of this diversity and the opportunities for learning, teamwork and friendships that our girls experience.

## **Making a Difference**

We educate girls to make healthy choices. In our teen programs, 100% of girls graduated from high school and enrolled in college. One hundred percent of our girls did not get pregnant.\* When asked what was the most important thing they learned after attending one of our teen-led IMPACT presentations, teens commented: “[that I should] wait until I have finished school, go to college, and get a job,” “to not have sex before marriage”, and “smoking can hurt you and your baby.”

## **Camps and Career Academies**

Girls Inc. of Chattanooga offers spring, fall and summer seasonal break camps and career academies. The camps offer girls hands-on informal educational activities that expose them to new areas of learning while still having lots of fun. The Career Academies provide girls with opportunities to learn about careers through visits to workplaces, interactive presentations by professionals and hands-on activities. Camps attract participants from throughout the county and provide opportunities for the celebration of diversity.

## **Advocacy**

Girls Inc. of Chattanooga is committed to advocacy by and for girls. By advocating on their own behalf, girls grow to understand the power of their voices and to exercise and protect their rights and the rights of others.

## **Funding**

Girls Inc. of Chattanooga has been a United Way of Greater Chattanooga partner since 1965. Additional funding comes from individuals, bequeaths, corporations, foundations and government grants.

## **Affiliation**

Girls Inc. is a national, non-profit organization noted for its widely acclaimed informal education programs that have been developed through extensive research and evaluation. Girls Inc. programs are delivered at 1,500 sites throughout the U.S. and Canada.

## **Girls Inc. Executive Staff**

Bea Lurie, President and CEO

Phil Minton, Director of Finance and Administration

Shannon Colbert, Manager of Development and Communications

Toccara Johnson, Manager of Elementary Age Programs

Hannah Vann, Manager of Teen Programs

Awayne Williams, Administrative Assistant

## **For more information, to volunteer or donate:**

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\*Based on girls served since 2008.



## **2011-2012 GIRLS INC. OF CHATTANOOGA PROGRAMS**

### **In-School Programs**

#### ***Build IT Program at East Lake Academy of Fine Arts***

Girls Inc. of Chattanooga will teach Girls Inc.'s Build IT curriculum at East Lake Academy of Fine Arts to female sixth, seventh and eighth grade students during the school day. Build IT is a design-based curriculum that promotes middle school girls' information technology (IT) fluency and incorporates the STEM content of mathematics and computer science. Build IT uses design to both entice and teach girls information technology and computer science concepts.

#### ***The Road to College and Success***

The Road to College and Success is an eleven-week series of workshops that prepares students to apply to and succeed in college. Weekly topics include ACT prep, financial aid and completing college applications.

### **After-school Programs for Elementary Age Participants**

Girls Inc. of Chattanooga (Girls Inc.) continues to have afterschool sites at Hardy, Harrison and Clifton Hills Elementary Schools for ages 6-8 and 9-11. This school year's programming includes Girls Inc.'s Project BOLD,® My Girlfriend Zelda<sup>SM</sup> and Twin Cities Public Television's SciGirls curricula, as well as career exploration, women's history, community service projects, public speaking, art, physical fitness, homework help and academic enrichment.

### **Programs for Teens**

#### ***Infant Mortality Public Awareness Campaign for Tennessee (IMPACT)***

Team members in IMPACT educate middle and high school students about steps teens can take **now** to prevent the death of their child – when they have children as adults. The teens have also developed powerful print, radio and television ads they use as part of their education campaign about infant mortality.

#### ***Friendly PEERsuasion***

Teens teach middle school students attending afterschool programs in Hamilton County the 15-lesson national Girls Inc. Friendly PEERsuasion curriculum. They also teach middle school Girls Inc. girls how to deliver one or two age-appropriate lessons to elementary age girls in our afterschool program. The cur-

riculum teaches girls how to successfully counter negative peer pressure and how to become positive leaders – PEERsuaders - to help other teens resist harmful behavior.

### **Women's History Project**

Ten teens select from community nominations ten Hamilton County women who have made an impact on the lives of girls and women , interview the women and deliver a presentation about them at the annual UnBought and UnBossed Awards Breakfast.

### **Camps and Career Academies**

#### **Chef Girl Fall Break Camp 2011 (Ages 6-11)**

Girls will learn about healthy nutrition and kitchen safety, gain math and science skills through recipe measurements, and explore how food gets from the farm to their plate. A health component of the camp will teach girls about common diseases affecting their age group. Camps will also go on theme-related field trips.

#### ***Design Girl Spring Break 2012 (Ages 6-11)***

Girls will learn about self-confidence and character building. They will create a fashion boutique by designing individual clothing items that express the traits they think are important for their future goals. Other hands-on activities will also teach girls about media literacy and body confidence.

#### ***Emma Wheeler Health Careers Academy (Ages 12-14)***

This four-week summer program opens new doors for teenage girls by introducing them to exciting career options in the health field, female role models, positive lifestyle choices and an understanding of the changes their bodies experience during adolescence. The girls will also learn about the impact of community service in the health field.

### **Workshops**

#### ***Latina Mother-Daughter Workshops***

FREE Saturday health workshops for Latina mothers and their daughters ages 11-18. The workshops are designed to teach families how to discuss sensitive topics such as drug and alcohol abuse, sexual health and STDs. Sessions are in Spanish and English. Lunch, transportation and childcare are also provided at no charge.

#### ***Diversity Workshop***

A half-day workshop on November 8 for 100 high school girls from public and private schools.

# **girls inc.<sup>®</sup> Girls' Bill of Rights**

- Girls have the right to be themselves and to resist gender stereotypes.
- Girls have the right to express themselves with originality and enthusiasm.
- Girls have the right to accept and appreciate their bodies.
- Girls have the right to take risks, to strive freely and to take pride in success.
- Girls have the right to have confidence in themselves and be safe in the world.
- Girls have the right to prepare for interesting work and economic independence.

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