Grants News

Special thanks to the following foundations and organizations: Annette J. Hagens Memorial Foundation, Bank of America Client Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County – Allen Wirtz Nobbe and Jo Bowen Nobbe Fund, Community Foundation of Sarasota County – Helping Families Excel Fund, Dart Foundation, Gulf Gate Rotary, Gulfcoast South AHEC, Harold C. & Jacqueline F. Bladel Foundation, Harry Sudakoff Foundation, India Benton Lesser Foundation, Jerome & Mildred Paddock Foundation, Junior League of Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch ELKS, Longboat Key Kiwanis Foundation, Microsoft, National Girls Inc., Publix Super Markets Charities, Sarasota County Contracted Human Services, Sarasota County Foundation, Sarasota County Police Department, SunTrust Foundation and Wilson-Wood Foundation.

Thank you for helping us to inspire our girls to be Strong, Smart and Bold!

$3,500 - After School Scholarship - Sponsor 10 months of quality after school programming for one girl to attend Girls Inc. during the school year with a focus on academic enrichment, life skills and healthy living

$2,500 - Breakfast Program - Breakfast for 250 girls attending the 10 week summer program to have a healthy breakfast while at Girls Inc.

$1,500 - Summer Scholarships - Provides funding for one Girls Inc. member for the 3 month summer program which included breakfast, lunch, snack and a full schedule of summer programming

$500 - One Month Summer Scholarship - Scholarship for a Girls Inc. member to attend summer camp

$300 - One Month School Year Scholarship - Scholarship for a Girls Inc. member to attend one month of after-school programming

$100 - One Month of Program Supplies - Provides food, T-shirt, program and art supplies for one Girls Inc. member

CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE LEVEL READING
A HUGE SUCCESS

Girls Inc. Summer Literacy Programs

Girls Incorporated of Sarasota County was the recipient of a $91,000 grant provided by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County - Allen Wirtz Nobbe and Jo Bowen Nobbe Fund for the “Grade Level and Beyond” literacy program which girls from schools in economically disadvantaged areas had the opportunity to participate in during the 2015 summer camp. The main goal of the program was to prevent summer learning loss and to provide parents with a shared literacy experience in order to facilitate conversations at home and improve academic achievement. The girls participated in two hours of literacy instruction daily in an open learning environment that fostered independence, creative decision making, and facilitated an emotionally satisfying experience. Weekly family nights included a healthy prepared meal, childcare and parent meetings. During these weekly meetings parents learned about the girls’ literacy experiences, to understand the importance of preventing the “summer reading slide”, as well as skills to advocate for their child’s literacy needs.

The literacy program was designed for students in Kindergarten – 3rd grade with multi-level classes and two teachers per class. Utilizing national research based assessments, the pre and post data indicates that there was no summer reading slide for the girls in the “Grade Level and Beyond” literacy program. At the beginning of the summer, 43% of all girls enrolled in the program were reading on grade level and by the end of the summer, 77% were reading on grade level. Most notably, 29% of the 2nd-3rd graders were not reading on grade level and by the end of the summer, 81% were.

Girls Inc. of Sarasota County is deeply appreciative of the partnership and opportunities provided by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County - Allen Wirtz Nobbe and Jo Bowen Nobbe Fund to implement this program. Thank you for creating a bright future for our girls.

Upcoming Events
Director’s Circle Reunion - January 26, 2016
Celebration Luncheon - April 1, 2016
DEAR FRIENDS OF GIRLS INC.

As I begin my first year as the Executive Director of Girls Inc. of Sarasota County, I am humbled and excited to serve this organization that has empowered girls in our community for so many years. After working for Girls Inc. several years in the mid 2000’s, I truly feel like I am home again. It is my goal to ensure that all girls who walk through the doors of Girls Inc. are continually inspired to be strong, smart and bold to always know that they can be anything they want to be.

The future of Girls Inc. is brighter than ever. While we continue to provide high quality after-school and summer programming, we also continually enhance our programs to meet the growing needs of girls through such initiatives as literacy and STEM (Science, Math, Technology and Math). The hard work, dedication and compassion of the staff, Board of Directors and volunteers ensures that these efforts are carried out with the best interest of our girls always in mind. They are truly a group of individuals who are committed to our girls and extremely mission driven. It is also through the support of wonderful donors like you that we are able to help turn girls’ dreams into reality. We believe great things happen when we work together toward the shared goals of improving the lives of our girls and nurturing future leaders of our community.

We are looking forward to sharing our highlights and updates with you and we encourage you to join us in our mission to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold.

Thank you for your continued support,

Angie Stringer

HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE

The High School Initiative has just finished its first full year, and what a great year it was. The Initiative is for girls beginning 9th grade through their post high school transition and addresses three key areas: academic enrichment and support, technical college and volunteering. The Initiative has launched a weekly group sessions at school, individual sessions and field trips. While girls are from all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, many are first generation career and college.

Girls prepare to be financially independent adults by exploring career options, networking, preparing for jobs and internships, applying for college and scholarships, and learning personal financial skills. They also prepare to lead healthy lives by tackling topics from healthy stress relief, relationships and friendships to fitness, nutrition and arts exploration activities. Finally, girls prepare for living on their own with life skills such as cooking in a dorm room and personal safety. All of the girls support and encourage each other to reach for and attain their dreams.

These girls are prepared for life as they address every area of being a teen and an adult. Explore our Facebook page to see the great activities our high school girls have participated in this past year.

Zandy is a junior at a local high school and is very active in the Girls Inc. High School Initiative. During her time at Girls Inc., Zandy participated in WSSB Girl TV where she developed a love of being behind the camera. She is now dual-enrolled at Suncoast Technical College in the Digital Video Production program getting a jumpstart on her career path. Zandy found her passion and the confidence to pursue her dreams at Girls Inc. and is a true inspiration to all girls.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Susan Lewis

Each day at Girls Inc. a nutritious afternoon meal is prepared by our kitchen manager, Ms. Tricia and a wonderful group of volunteers. Susan Lewis has been one of those volunteers for the past five years. Not only does Susan help with food preparation, she also donates kitchen supplies that are needed to prepare the meals. Susan has been involved at Girls Inc. for over 30 years and we are so fortunate to have her on our team. She has shown a great passion for our mission and for our girls through the years. In 1985, Susan became as a member of the original Coquille Group, a volunteer-based fundraising branch that attracted significant attention and participation from the community. She has demonstrated her dedication not only as a volunteer, but also as a founding member of our Champions for Girls Giving Society. Susan has truly donated her time, talent and treasure to Girls Inc. of Sarasota County and we appreciate her so much. If you are interested in volunteering please call (941) 366-6646 ext. 211.

GIRLS INC. LEGACY SOCIETY

“I discovered how to leave a legacy that would live on and continue to benefit the causes that are most important to me.” — Claudia Cardillo

Claudia Cardillo moved to Sarasota in 2010 from New Jersey after a 23 year career with Johnson & Johnson and immediately became involved with several area nonprofits. Her involvement with Girls Inc. began after she took a tour, was welcomed by our girls and started to volunteer, eventually becoming a member of the board of directors. Claudia is interested in being a part of something bigger than herself and leaving a legacy to benefit the causes dear to her heart. Claudia decided to organize her philanthropic efforts by setting up a donor advised fund with Gulf Coast Community Foundation. Through this fund she transfers stock once a year to help support her favorite organizations. After meeting with an estate attorney to set up a trust with her legacy instructions, Claudia feels a great sense of relief that she has prepared and has comfort in knowing her family and the organizations she loves are aware of her wishes. Claudia is now a proud and active member of the Girls Inc. Legacy Society and even serves on the legacy committee to help keep others informed of their options about including Girls Inc. in their estate plans. Claudia is honored to share her story with the community and her love for Girls Inc. of Sarasota County. She hopes that you will consider Girls Inc. in your estate plans. If you have any questions or would like more information on Girls Inc.’s Legacy Society please contact 366-6646 ext. 207. If Girls Inc. is already included in your estate plans, please let us know so we can acknowledge you as a Girls Inc. Legacy Society member and recognize your support.

IN MEMORY

Donna Brace Ogilvie

Donna Brace Ogilvie, Girls Inc. National Distinguished Board Chair and longtime supporter of Girls Inc. of Sarasota County passed away at the age of 105. Donna led a robust life, making an impact in the lives of all those she met. Donna’s belief and vision for Girls Inc. of Sarasota County helped strengthen the organization and make it the wonderful place it is today. Since our doors opened in 1973 Donna always made certain that our new kitchen was fully equipped and state of the art. She was passionate about the importance of teaching girls healthy and exciting nutritional habits. Donna was committed to helping girls explore the world around them and purchased both of our buses which allowed them to do so, fondly known as our Ms. Donna buses. She knew the importance of building a powerful team of volunteers and donors. Year after year, she launched our campaigns with generous challenge gifts, which provided scholarships for girls who otherwise would not be able to attend Girls Inc. These gifts led us to many new friends who continue their support today as members of our Champions for Girls Giving Society. Donna also established the Donna Brace Ogilvie Endowment Fund and the Girls Inc. of Sarasota County Endowment Fund with both maintaining the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Most importantly, Donna invested her time in Girls Inc. She loved to visit with our girls, hold their hands and listen to their stories and dreams for a bright future.

We are deeply grateful that our dear Ms. Donna devoted so much of her life to Girls Inc., both locally and nationally. Last December Girls Inc. of Sarasota County named our Tuttle Avenue facility the “Donna Brace Ogilvie Center” in recognition of the countless ways she has served our organization. She truly showed us all the meaning of “a life well lived” and brought more joy and hope to all of us than words can adequately express.

Girls Giving Society. Susan has truly donated her time, talent and treasure to Girls Inc. of Sarasota County and we appreciate her so much. If you are interested in volunteering please call (941) 366-6646 ext. 211.

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