Dear Friends of Girls Incorporated® of Sarasota County,

It is a true joy to present our annual report calendar to you. It is full of treasures of thoughts, information and most importantly, inspiration. We hope that our calendar will serve as a reminder of the transformational work that is being accomplished each and every day at Girls Incorporated through your continued support.

Girls growing at Girls Inc. see a safe, supportive community. A place that is just for her and other girls. She is embraced by smart, caring people who value her as an individual with essential worth, who appeal to the best in her, and who help her realize her full potential. She is filled with the sense that she is entitled to be heard, to be taken seriously, to dream big dreams and develop the knowledge and skills to pursue those dreams. She is uplifted by the strength of a national organization that is proactive on the issues that affect her, that evolves quickly to her changing needs, that is committed to learning and growing and that holds itself to the highest standards. Knowing that Girls Inc. is there for her, she envisions a future without limitations.

We invite you to visit our facility to meet our girls and learn more about our award-winning programs. We are certain that you will be impressed with our dynamic girls - our community’s future leaders.

Renee Richardson Kling
Board President

Stephania Feltz
Executive Director
Growing up a girl,
Just isn’t easy!
Sometimes it makes
My stomach feel queasy!

My body is changing every day.
I’m confused!
I’m amused!
At times,
I don’t know what to say!

Information from this
Information from that
One book says I’m too thin
Another, I’m too fat!

This dress makes me look short
These shoes make me tall!
Just how can a girl,
Make sense of it all!

Forget all the stereotypes!
Forget all the lies!
Find your own strength
That dwells deep inside!

Look for a place
Where girls can be girls!
Hang out with friends,
Just give it a whirl!

This place is Girls Inc.
And I have been told,
It’s the one and only place
Every girl can be
Strong, Smart and Bold!
Girls Inc. Friendly PEERSuasion® responds to the needs of girls ages 11 to 14 because it approaches drug abuse prevention as a peer issue, using the positive influence of young people modeling healthy behavior. The program begins by helping girls deal with the influences of peers. Participants build communication skills, learn to recognize stress, and practice responding to stress in healthy ways—three abilities that form the basis upon which decision-making and resistance skills are built.

Girls learn preventing techniques in resisting tobacco, alcohol, prescription and over-the-counter medications, nutritional supplements, and illicit drugs. They analyze media messages that glamorize substance use. Participants also plan and implement substance use prevention activities for groups of younger children ages 6 through 10. This opportunity to serve as leaders and mentors reinforces the older girls’ commitment to avoiding substance use.

*NOTE: National Girls Incorporated has researched and developed eight identity programs which are provided to all of the girls each year. Each of the compensatory, intentional programs will be highlighted throughout the months of February-September.
**DID YOU KNOW?**

* 27% of students have tried cigarette smoking (25% female, 15% of 6th graders, and 35% of 8th graders).

* 38% of students have had at least one drink of alcohol (38% females, 22% of 6th graders, and 50% of 8th graders).

* 30% of students consumed their first drink of alcohol (other than a few sips) by age 12 (28% of females, 23% of 6th graders, and 35% of 8th graders).

* 15.5% of students have used marijuana during their lifetime (14% female, 7% of 6th graders, and 21% of 8th graders).
Girls Inc. Operation Science, Math and Relevant Technology (SMART)®

Girls Inc. Operation SMART, one of our hallmark programs, is organized around a philosophy: equity, exploration, empowerment, and fun. Hands-on activities give girls the opportunity to explore, ask questions, and solve problems. In Operation SMART sites across the country, over half a million girls between the ages of 6 and 18 have started on the path to becoming engineers, auto mechanics, and micro surgeons.

Facilitators may apply the Operation SMART approach to their own activities and settings, and/or they may choose to deliver any of our two components, which are built around this philosophy.

One of the most popular programs for girls 6-8 years of age is My Girlfriend Zelda®SM, an introductory anatomy and physiology program.

The program serves two essential purposes:
1. Helping girls learn about their bodies and how to stay healthy; and
2. Acquainting girls with some of the roles and responsibilities of health care professionals. The program presents the structure and function of six major body systems, introduces girls to basic surgical terminology, and facilitates interactive education about health and hygiene. Girls explore the major organ systems using a therapeutic teaching doll developed by health care professionals to help children learn about their bodies.
* 77% of girls felt that “Teachers think it is not important for girls to be good at math.”

* 94% of girls felt that “People think girls are not interested in computers and technology.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Patron and Press Party

Honoree Tea

Easter

Good Friday
Girls Inc. Economic Literacy® enhances girls’ financial competence and confidence, empowers girls to recognize early on that they can exercise control over their financial future, and promotes within girls a sense of economic justice. The program is divided into four age-based components. Each age-appropriate curriculum provides step-by-step instructions for facilitators to present material in the form of interactive and engaging activities. Over the course of the program, girls learn broad economic concepts such as supply and demand, labor and management issues, taxes and government services, and global economics. They also learn personal financial skills such as how to identify and count money, save, invest, and budget, take informed financial risks, and prepare for rewarding careers. The program also gives girls the opportunity to explore issues that particularly affect women and girls, such as equal pay for equal work. The comprehensive program encompasses personal money management and planning for the future, as well as larger community, national, and global economic issues. The program helps girls develop a working knowledge of economic concepts, explore their financial options, and set realistic goals.
** 88% of girls disliked the stereotype that “People think girls don’t know how to take care of their own money” compared to 71% of boys.

** In 2000, there were approximately 1,342,000 households headed by girls and young women ages 15–24. (10.5% of total female householder families.)

** When asked in a nationally representative survey, 33% of girls in grades 9–11 said they were “very interested” and 47% said they were “somewhat interested” in learning more about how to manage money. Only 4% said they were not at all interested.
Girls Inc. Project Bold® provides a continuum of age-appropriate and gender-specific violence prevention programming to give girls and young women the skills, strategies, and support for personal safety and safety in their communities and beyond. Violence enters the lives of girls and young women on a daily basis, giving many the message that violence is normal and acceptable. Girls especially experience gender-based violence, including physical and sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and partner or dating violence. Girls get mixed messages about how to respond to violence—“depend on others to protect you,” “get tough because you can count only on yourself,” and “give in because your world can never be safe.” Girls can both feel safer and be safer, we believe, through programs that address both self-protection and community change.
DID YOU KNOW?

*** The incidence of sexual abuse is approximately two to seven times higher among girls than among boys, depending on age.

*** Girls who are victims of child sexual abuse are more likely to be victimized in their homes by someone they know.

*** In a national survey, of the girls who reported child sexual abuse, 53% reported that it occurred in the home, 65% reported more than one incident, and 57% reported that the perpetrator was a family member.

*** Girls who have been physically or sexually abused are more likely than girls who have not been abused to experiment with dangerous substances, experience violence in their intimate and dating relationships, participate in risky sexual practices, participate in delinquent behaviors, and experience lower psychological well-being.
Girls Inc. Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy® is a research-based and evaluated program that provides girls and young women with the skills, insights, values, motivation, and support to postpone sexual activity as well as to use effective protection to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

- Growing Together SM for girls ages 9 -11 and a parent/adult: Sessions jump-start crucial two-way conversations between girls and a trusted adult about sexuality issues and open doors to future communication.

- Will Power/Won’t Power® for girls ages 12 -14: In this program, girls build skills and strategies for dealing with sexual situations as they enter the most pressure-sensitive adolescent years, while also receiving medically accurate information.

- Taking Care of Business® for girls ages 15 - 18: Sessions focus on recognizing and moving beyond limiting sex-role stereotypes for women; using values as a basis for positive decision-making; building assertiveness, refusal, and relationship skills.
DID YOU KNOW?

* 15% of female students in middle school have had sexual intercourse.

* The teen birth rate in Sarasota County increased from 257 in 2004 to 300 in 2006.
### Public Support and Revenue

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<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
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<td>Special Events (Net)</td>
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<td>Program Service Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental Income</td>
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<td>103,312</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>$379,880</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,339,865</strong></td>
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- Net Assets Released from Restrictions: $152,432
- Total Public Support and Revenue: $1,112,417

### Expenses

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<th>Program</th>
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### Change in Net Assets Before Depreciation and Other Changes

|                          | (66,318)     | 227,448                   | 161,130      |

- Depreciation Expense: (118,528)
- Distribution from Foundation: 30,760
- Change in Interest in Net Assets of Foundation: (4,400)

### Net Assets

- Beginning Net Assets: $1,823,300
- Ending Net Assets: $1,664,814

### Summary

- Net Increase: $1,306,605
- Ending Net Assets: $2,971,419
Girls Inc. Leadership and Community Action® enables girls to join in partnership with women leaders in their community to develop and practice leadership and advocacy skills and conduct community action projects. One of the principal strengths of Leadership and Community Action is the opportunity it provides girls to make decisions, take responsibility, and initiate projects in collaboration with experienced women.

A key feature of Leadership and Community Action is that it increases girls’ and women’s awareness of themselves as community resources, trustees of the common good, and leaders in their own right. From getting a stop sign placed at a dangerous corner to enhancing community awareness of the dangers of drugs and violence—Leadership and Community Action empowers girls, enriches their communities, and enables them to explore their own ability and responsibility to produce positive, long-term social change.
### DID YOU KNOW?

1. Although women have constituted nearly half the civilian labor force since at least 1982 (Bureau of Labor Statistics), in 2007 only 13 (2.6%) of the CEOs of Fortune 500 companies were women. (Jenny Mero; 2007 Fortune 500 women CEOs)

2. In 2007 only 16% of US Senators, and 16.1% of Members of the US House of Representatives were women. (Center for American Women and Politics, July 2007)
Girls Inc. Sporting Chance® provides girls with opportunities to have fun; learn basic movement and sport skills; increase their coordination, endurance, and strength; consider the career opportunities connected to sports; and learn about successful athletes and the history of women in sports. They learn how to be both cooperative and competitive, and how to discipline their bodies and their minds. In the Sporting Chance program, older girls act as “peer coaches,” developing leadership skills, providing assistance to adult coaches, and gaining work experience.
DID YOU KNOW?

*** More girls and young women who play sports have a positive body image than non-athletes. Overall, one-third (34%) of girls in grades 9–12 described themselves as overweight. Some 40% of non-athletes, compared with 27% of athletes, saw themselves as overweight.

*** A nationally representative study found that girls’ participation in sports during their senior year had a significant positive effect on their attitudes towards science.

*** Of 401 executive businesswomen surveyed, 82% reported playing organized sports while growing up, including school teams, intramurals, and recreational leagues.
Girls Inc. Media Literacy® encourages girls to examine how media messages are constructed, how these messages reflect social values, and how girls’ active participation can influence the messages and the values. The comprehensive after-school program equips young women to think analytically about media messages and ask critical questions such as: Who is communicating and why? Who is the intended audience and what is the intended result of the message? Whose point of view is presented and whose is left out? What does this text say to me and other girls? The program also provides opportunities for girls to craft and communicate their own messages, integrating media, technology, and civic engagement to help them build 21st Century skills. Throughout the program, girls explore the business side of media, learning about advertising and commercial interests, media and democracy, and career options.
DID YOU KNOW?

*** Regardless of age, race, gender, or income level, virtually all children live in media-saturated households: the majority (70%) of girls and young women ages 8-18 have a radio in their bedrooms, and half (50%) have a television in their bedrooms.

*** The amount of time young women spend watching television, listening to the radio, or going online is related to a wide variety of social and demographic factors. Girls and young women from higher incomes are least likely to report a bedroom equipped with a T.V. — 44% where the median income is over $40,000 and 61% where the median income is under $25,000.
We’re Expanding! We are now delivering our research-based, identity programs at 15 different locations. Additional programs at these sites include:

Educational Talent Search
The program assists girls in middle and high school in identifying career goals; both vocational and academic, locating a post-secondary school which will meet their goals, and guiding them in completing college/vocational school admission and scholarship forms.

Girls Circle
Girls Circle is a research-based program that fosters self-esteem, helps girls develop and maintain healthy relationships with peers and adults, helps girls gain greater awareness of their options, and strengthens their ability to make choices that are consistent with their values, interests, talents and goals.

Mother-Daughter Workshops
These workshops are designed to improve communication between girls and their parents. Topics include financial philosophy, dreams and concerns, vision and action, setting goals, earning and paying interest, credit, budgeting, and making wise buying decisions.
Summer Quest Programs=Summer Fun

All workshops include career exploration and planning, interviews with local women working in the profession, and field trips to actual business locations. Our popular Robotics Workshop enables girls to build their own remote-controlled car. The summer also includes Eek Week, focusing on the ecology and science field. Media Quest takes the girls behind the scenes of TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and advertising. We also host two healthcare career camps in North Port, one for middle school and one for high school.
Our 2006 annual Angel Luncheon was a huge success in fundraising and friend-raising. With more than 500 people in attendance, the event raised $136,000 in income, and netted $120,000 in multiple year pledges.

The Celebration Luncheon continued its exemplary performance in providing Girls Inc. with $186,000 in income and a net of $104,000. “This One’s For the Girls” served as the appropriate theme for the event which was held at the Ritz Carlton, with more than 800 guests. The event was staged with our assured girls at every turn.

Our first speaker, a dynamic fourth grader captured everyone’s attention with the classroom’s instruction of “if you can hear my voice clap two times”. Kiana announced that a donor had contributed funds to our local Habitat for Humanity so that 12 new homes could be built in an enclave for our girls and their families.
A new and emotive award category, "Girl of the Year" was initiated this year. It was bestowed upon Gabrielle Holt, a 4.0 GPA, 12 year old who spoke about Girls Inc. and her future aspirations of becoming a cosmetic chemist. She was simply shocked when it was also announced that a donor in the room was providing her with a college scholarship. Her responsibility... to remain involved with Girls Inc. throughout high school and maintain her grade point average.
GIRLS INC. SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AWARDS

• **Management Professional of the Year:** As our Director of Communications & Resources, Angie Stringer has demonstrated exceptional execution in overseeing our volunteer program which she has grown from 3 volunteers to more than 125 volunteers. She has also managed all of our award-winning communications and segments of our special events.

• **Adult Volunteer of the Year:** Connie Thompkins has served as the organization’s chair of our first Dream Builder Luncheon and a most recent golf tournament. She also worked side-by-side with our executive director in successfully completing our National Girls Inc. quality assurance and standards of excellence processes.

• **Affiliate of the Year:** We were recognized for our outstanding performance in all aspects of the organization including; programming, board leadership, staff development, and advocacy work.

• **Volunteer Corporation of the Year:** Baskerville Advertising’s creative work has helped not only to earn much praise and recognition for our organization, but has significantly enhanced our fundraising efforts. The most noteworthy projects we have worked with the Baskerville team on have been the 2006 and 2007 Celebration Luncheon materials. Both years Baskerville has designed all materials free of charge with a total of 250 staff hours, which would equate to approximately $25,000 in design cost.
• National Annie E. Casey Family Strengthening Award:
Girls Inc. of Sarasota County was recognized by the national organization for our exemplary supportive programs for our girls and their families. These include, counseling and case management services, parent-daughter workshops, distribution of clothing and holiday gifts, a family literacy program and a new GED program.

• WEDU Be More Awards:
Girls Inc. is proud to say that we finished among the top five in three different categories including Be More Knowledgeable, the special Judges category and the overall Non-Profit of the Year. We were recognized for our outreach family literacy program to Spanish-speaking families.
MICROSOCIETY programs bring education alive for elementary and middle school students by providing hands-on, experiential learning aligned with classroom curricula. By creating a society of their own design, girls in the earliest grades apply classroom skills to real world activities as they run businesses, apply technology, manage banks and finances, adjudicate laws, and develop government and social agencies. When students are empowered to be the managers of their own destiny, learning becomes exciting and attendance rises.

When discipline, traditionally handled by teachers, can be resolved by student consensus, behavior problems disappear. When students are actively engaged in their learning, boredom disappears and dropping out is no longer a consideration. When students clearly see the correlation between learning and real life, academic achievement rises. Increased attendance – decreased discipline problems – reduced dropout rates and greater academic achievement – there is simply no better combination of factors for building productive, caring and successful citizens of Sarasota and the world.
**DID YOU KNOW?**

A joint research project of The Wallace Foundation and Public Agenda, “All Work and No Play” surveyed hundreds of students and parents of school age children about what youngsters do after school, on weekends, and in the summer. Their research found:

- 77% of students agree that “a lot of kids get into trouble when they’re bored and have nothing to do (also one of the top three reasons students cite for dropping out of school in ninth grade).

- 65% of low-income and 46% of higher-income parents say their community could do much more when it comes to having enough good things for elementary children to do.
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To the Children, Personnel and Supporters of Girls Inc.,

There was a girl born to parents who abused drugs and alcohol. They constantly argued and fought each other in front of her. Many times her parents were arrested by the police for various crimes. She had even seen her father arrested after hiding from police in the clothes closet in their apartment. She had seen him get caught and arrested trying to run away down the street. Another time she saw him caught trying to escape over a fence. Sometimes she would be left alone in the apartment with her little brother. When she was six her life became more traumatic.

The people of her city, New Orleans, were ordered to evacuate because of Hurricane Katrina’s threat. She fled with her grandparents, her mother and her little brother and baby sister. A few days later her mother had to report to prison to begin serving time for an earlier criminal conviction. A week later while returning to the storm shelter from New Orleans with some salvaged household items, there was a traffic accident in which her grandmother and brother were killed. She survived the accident along with her baby sister.

After the funeral, FEMA flew her along with her grandfather and sister to Sarasota, Florida to live. She did well academically in school but she had emotional and social problems. She would often fight with the children in her class for the slightest reasons. For two years we could not figure out how to help her.

Then this summer she started going to Girls Inc. and began to improve her behavior and became more outgoing and positive. I think that Girls Inc. was able to help her because its activities are set up and structured. It allows girls to have a safe and secure place to just be a little girl, to have fun and enjoyment of activities without worries or cares and still obey the rules.

My name is Clarence S. and this little girl that I write about is my granddaughter Marisa W. (eight years old) who just had perhaps the best three months of her life while at Girls Inc.

It is truly wonderful that Girls Inc. could provide such a service to a child so desperately in need of it. This is just the story of one of the little girls attending Girls Inc. I am sure that there are many others.

It is a comfort to know that there is such a place of refuge as this.

With much thanks and appreciation,
Clarence S.
**SOURCES**

* Sarasota County Middle Schools Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2005-06 District Executive Summary, The Sarasota County Public Schools

** The Supergirl Dilemma, A Nationwide Survey of School-Age Children Conducted for Girls Incorporated® by Harris Interactive®

*** Girls Incorporated® National Resource Center
www.affiliatecentral.girlsinc.org

The Girls Inc.® annual report was underwritten by Becky Elder and Baskerville Advertising/ Bill Swirles.
Empower One Girl!!
Participate in our SUPPORT-A-GIRL CAMPAIGN

___ I/We will support a girl for one full year for the actual cost of services! - $3,000.

___ I/We will support a girl for a full year of After-School programming for $2,000.

___ I/We will support a girl for a full Summer of programming for $1,000.

___ I/We will support a girl for __# of month(s) at $200 per Month for After School programming.

___ I/We would like to make a one-time gift of $__________

___ Please contact me about a legacy gift.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: ________________ Zip Code: ____________
Telephone: ________________ E-Mail: ____________
Payment: _____ My check payable to Girls Incorporated® of Sarasota County is enclosed.

_____ Please charge my VISA/Master Card/AMEX
# ___________________________
Expiration Date: ____________________
Signature: __________________________

Thank you! Your contribution of any amount is greatly appreciated.
Please make your checks payable to Girls Incorporated.
Send this form, along with your contribution to:
Girls Incorporated of Sarasota County
201 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, FL 34237
Telephone: 941-366-6646

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