

GIRLS INC. GAZETTE

- 2009 Issue - "Inspiring all girls to be Strong, Smart & Bold"

July 2009

Exploring "Choices": Girls Summit 2009

On April 28, 2009, just under 300 girls from middle and high schools in the metro Atlanta area joined together to take part in special programming designed to help them begin to prepare for successful educational and professional futures. The theme for our 2009 Girls Summit was "Choices," based on the signature Girls Inc. life skills program. The purpose of this program is to assist girls in reaching their educational and career goals by empowering them to make positive decisions, successfully transition into womanhood and handle the onset of greater pressures and responsibilities.

Girls gathered on the campus of Georgia Tech to take part in specialized workshops and a panel discussion with local female community leaders. In addition, they heard from key note speaker, Superintendent of Schools, Kathy Cox. Her speech was moving and motivational, and the girls were excited to hear from her. Girls were able to interact with her and ask questions about their personal educational and career choices as well as the education system in Georgia.



Scholarship winners with Cathy Cox, Georgia's Superintendent of Schools

The Girls Summit is Girls Incorporated of Greater Atlanta's way of helping girls to understand the importance of education in ensuring future success. In the workshops conducted by female corporate and educational leaders, girls created a vision of their future and explored the choices/decisions that can positively or negatively affect their ability to realize that vision. They also participate in a panel discussion with young, successful females who shared their life experiences and helped participants begin to think about their own educational and career paths, and potential for success. Panelists included: Brenda Freeman, Chief

Marketing Officer, TBS, Dr. Sylvia Wright, MD - Dermatologist, The Honorable Susan Edlien - Judge, Fulton County State Court and Brooke Jackson Edmond - Owner, Friday's Franchises. The session was moderated by Girls Inc.'s own board member, Shirley Powell, Sr. Vice President, Corp Communications, TBS.

Girls left the summit with a foundation of knowledge designed to help them advance toward future goals by exposing them to skills in money management, risk taking, communication, career/job planning and financial planning for education and adult life.

Along with workshops, panel discussions, speakers and fellowship, Girls Inc. awarded scholarships to three girls based on winning essay submissions. A special thank you to our scholarship sponsor AT&T and congratulations to our winners:

- First Place (\$1,500): Meagan Else Elder, Sr. Tucker High School
- Second Place (\$1,000): Julia Alysse Reisman, Sr. Riverwood High School
- Third Place (\$500) : Zenyth Sheppard

Golfing for Girls: The 2009 Women's Golf Classic Tournament & Auction



Girls Incorporated of Greater Atlanta hosted the Women's Golf Classic and Live Auction Featuring Caddies as part of our annual Golfing for Girls event this spring! Our seventh annual Women's Golf Classic at Bradshaw Farms was a huge success! Over 160 attendees, including players and caddies, came out for a fun day of golfing, food and drinks to support the programs Girls Inc. offers to the girls of greater Atlanta! New golfers who didn't feel ready to participate in the scramble took a group lesson, and we finished the day with a live and silent auction and awards ceremony.

The week before the Golf Classic, Girls Inc. welcomed over 200 guests to a Live Auction at Whiskey Blue in Buckhead. Guests had the opportunity to bid on packages including golf caddies for the next week's classic, as well as packages for in- and out-of-town getaways featuring hotel, restaurant, and spa certificates! One lucky bidder walked away with the opportunity to appear in a walk on role in Tyler Perry's next film!

Special thank you to our event sponsors McKenna Long & Aldrige, PriceWaterhouse Coopers and Whiskey Blue as well as all of the course sponsors!

In Her Own Words

"Thank you for having Girls Inc. I really had a great time. I met good people and we are best friends now. So your idea of having Girls Inc. was a really great idea. Also, Girls Inc. had ups and downs but it was cool. The only bad thing about it was it was only once a week. I wish that it was all week and every day. I liked it. Ms. Sandra was off the chain, she was really cool, she would ask us stuff to talk about and that we could talk to her about. She was cool because sometimes she made us laugh and had us do fun activities. Usually it would be me who could make the girls and Ms. Sandra laugh...so like I said, Girls Inc. was a great idea!

-Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy Participant, Lilburn MS

Another Great School Year - Highlights from 2008-09 Programs

After School at the Cobb-Marietta Center

The most recent school year marked growth and success for Girls Incorporated of Greater Atlanta. Reaching more girls than in previous years, the Cobb-Marietta Center was host to 119 girls in the 2008-09 school year. Girls in the center benefited from homework help, individualized tutoring, signature Girls Inc. programs and specialized activities conducted by both program staff and volunteers.

- Volunteers from the Cobb Junior League implemented unique Operation SMART (Science, Math & Relative Technology) activities and exercises.
- With help from the Falcon's Fitness Zone and the Coca-Cola Foundation, girls in the center participated in various sports activities. The center began a new track team comprised of 29 girls. Girls received new uniforms, participated in competitions in track and basketball and began building a Double Dutch Jump Rope Team.
- Girls also expanded their creativity through two very unique art experi-

ences: the INDIVIDUALITY fashion design course with The Art Place and Cobb Truancy Courts that culminated in a fashion show of the girls' unique fashion designs, as well as the Dear World Photography Course and Exhibit with Sista-graphy and Women in Focus in which girls' photos were exhibited publicly at Central Branch of Atlanta Public Library System.

Outreach & The Latina Initiative

The organization is also excited about programs completed throughout the metro community via our Outreach Department. This department is comprised of mobile staff and volunteers who travel to schools, churches, apartment complexes and youth centers to provide signature Girls Inc. programs. This department successfully completed 74 programs, approximately 30 workshops and served 1864 girls this school year. Girls primarily received prevention education programs giving them the knowledge skills and attitudes necessary to make positive choices, combat negative peer pressure, use career, education and life planning as a deterrent to

risky behavior and become leaders in their communities.

Additionally, Outreach has a special focus on serving Hispanic girls through its Latina Initiative. In the 4th year, this initiative provides bilingual programming to girls and their parents, ensuring that all girls are inspired to be strong, smart and bold. Through the initiative, Girls Inc. provided Latina programs to 634 girls. This department's success is due in largely to partnerships with various school systems and community associates including: Cobb, Fulton, DeKalb and Gwinnett County Schools, Trinity Presbyterian Church, The United Way of Metro Atlanta, Franklin Road Weed and Seed and The Goizueta Foundation.



Just Around the Corner: The 2009 Giving Girls Wings Event

Girls Incorporated of Greater Atlanta is preparing for its annual Giving Girls Wings Event. This year, the organization is excited to announce a different type of event. Hosted at the offices of Nelson and Mullins in Atlantic Station, the 2009 Giving Girls Wings Event will be a cocktail reception focusing on preparing participants to become actively involved in inspiring girls to be strong, smart and bold. The program will feature the Strong, Smart and Bold Scholarship awards program sponsored by the Coca-Cola Foundation. Girls from the metro Atlanta's 13 counties will be invited to submit essays explaining what makes them either strong, smart or bold. Each winning essayist will receive a \$2,500 scholarship that can be used for any educational purpose. Winners will be announced at the Giving Girls Wings event and we share the spotlight with 3 deserving women who each embody Girls Inc.'s mission.

For more information, or to register for the event, please visit our website at www.girlsincatl.org.

Calling all Wings Host/Hostesses: Girls Inc. is offering a unique opportunity to host friends, family and colleagues at the 2009 Giving Girls Wings Event. Hosts will be asked to invite 10 guests to come to the event and learn more about what it means to inspire girls to be strong, smart and bold. Hosts will be trained to educate and entertain their guests during the event. To learn more about becoming a host, please contact Grace Eagar at 678-686-1740 or via email to geagar@girlsincatl.org.

Event Details:

When: September 23, 2009 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Where: The law offices of Nelson and Mullins Atlantic Station, 201 17th Street NW, Suite 1700 Atlanta, GA 30363

Volunteer Highlight Laronda Brown

Girls Incorporated is only able to be successful with support from the community. Our most cherished help comes from caring adults who volunteer their time to provide programming to our girls, help with administrative duties and ensure proper upkeep of our facilities.

Laronda Brown has been a volunteer with Girls Inc. of Greater Atlanta's outreach department since 2007. She is greatly committed to serving her community and trying to help girls gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to become strong, smart and bold women. This past school year, she has been an incredible asset to our Outreach Department. She facilitated 3 programs in 2 different schools and received positive feedback from the school partners - they want her back next year! She is flexible, always open to trying something new, and completely reliable. She truly inspires the department and the girls with her sense of humor and passion for helping girls. The Outreach Department and our organization are truly lucky to have her as part of the volunteer team!