

Ann Arbor City Club

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Girls Group – The City Club’s Charitable Group This Year

Just think how you were supported and encouraged when you were growing up -- by parents, mentors, and others -- to earn good grades in school, participate in extracurricular activities, and make attending college one of your goals. What if you had had none of these aids? That is the situation facing many young girls in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area.

Nine years ago, Sue Schooner founded Girls Group to help and support middle school and high school girls who have the potential to become first-generation college students. The organization provides programming to help these young women become confident, empowered, healthy, and successful individuals. Operating on a “shoe string” budget, Sue has expertly guided the organization to the present, where there are now 37 Girls Group members attending college.

Girls Group was selected last February to be the Charitable Group championed by the Ann Arbor City Club this fiscal year. On November 11, they held their annual fundraising brunch at the City Club. Approximately 200 people attended to recognize and support the achievements of Girls Group members and their families, friends and mentors. It was a wonderful affair!

As a reminder that Girls Group is still supporting them, a “care package” is sent monthly to each of the 37 girls enrolled in college. Our Community Outreach Committee has decided that the City Club will provide these “care packages” one month in the spring. Instructions regarding how you can help provide the contents for these packages will be in future issues of the *Beacon* and other City Club publications.

As you think about giving to others this holiday season, I encourage you to go to the Girls Group website (www.girlsgroup.org) and learn more about this great organization and their impressive accomplishments. If you do decide to make a donation, please let them know you are a member of the Ann Arbor City Club. Partnering is as important to Girls Group as it is to the City Club!

Susan M. Smith, President