

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD IN RECOGNITION OF GIRLS GROUP ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS OPENING

October 20, 2018



Sue Schooner, Executive Director, accepted the Congressional Record on behalf of Girls Group



Debbie Dingell, U.S. Representative and Sue Schooner

MRS. DINGELL: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Girls Group for 15 years of empowerment throughout Ann Arbor. Girls Group has helped hundreds of young women achieve their goals and look forward to a brighter future.

Girls Group is an organization that mentors young women through middle and high school to achieve emotional and economic self-sufficiency by becoming first generation college graduates. The non-profit organization was founded by Sue Schooner in 2003, when she met a group of remarkable young women who were struggling with life-altering issues, such as homelessness or taking care of young siblings. With a desire to help these young women, Schooner retired from her job in order to create Girls Group and run it full time. Since then, Girls Group Ann Arbor has grown

and developed vastly. Although Girls Group has grown to take on more cases throughout the years, the organization's core mission has stayed the same: to provide each young woman year-round support and mentoring to develop character, leadership, self-confidence, and social consciousness, including the desire and ability to mentor others.

Today, Girls Group serves a total of 400 young individuals: 140 middle school students, 150 high school students, and 110 young women on their college and career journeys. Girls group offers multiple different programs to mentor young women in each stage of their life, including a college prep program, in-school programs, homework support, one-on-one mentoring, and even a summer camp. Each program takes place weekly in Ann Arbor Public Schools and at the Peace Neighborhood Center. Girls

Group participants are primarily from the Ann Arbor area, with 66% from Ann Arbor and 33% from Ypsilanti, however Girls Group will provide college prep and mentoring to anyone in need. The incredible staff works closely with many social workers and its board of directors to ensure that each young woman is getting the best care and opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Girls Group for 15 years of empowerment throughout Ann Arbor. Our community is better because of the selfless acts of the volunteers at Girls Group, and we look forward to its continued success.