

January – December 2024

ANNUAL REPORT



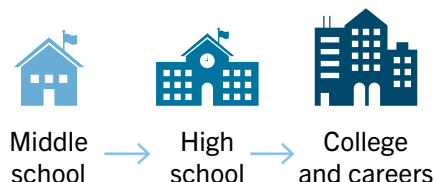
Girls Group

Building a better future
one girl at a time

MISSION

Girls Group empowers young women to achieve emotional and economic self-sufficiency by ensuring they graduate from high school and begin their college or career journeys.

PROGRAMMING SPANS:



PARTICIPANTS ARE MENTORED BY EXPERIENCED STAFF AND INTERNS



YEAR-ROUND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMMING FOCUSES ON:

Academic readiness
Financial education

Social/emotional life skills
Community service



VISION

The vision of Girls Group is to help economically disadvantaged young women achieve self-sufficiency. The ultimate ambition is that each young woman finds their voice, defines their goals and dreams, and moves forward in the world with pride and self-confidence.

6 CORE PROGRAMS

SCHOOL-YEAR PROGRAM

Weekly in-school and after school programs at 29 sites; individual & group mentoring.

SUMMER PROGRAM

Summer camps 5 days a week; middle and high school transition support.

COLLEGE & EARLY CAREER

Individual and group support; scholarships and emergency funding; career counseling.

COLLEGE & CAREER PREP

1:1 mentoring for application, essay, and FAFSA support; career planning; college tours.

YEAR-ROUND ENRICHMENT

Family Engagement Program; Youth Leadership Council; Saturday workshops & field trips.

ALUMNI SERVICES

Communication and reunions; networking opportunities; mentor younger participants.

WHO WE SERVE

Girls Group helps students achieve economic and emotional self-sufficiency through:

- High school graduation
- College attendance and graduation
- Social-emotional growth, financial education, and career development



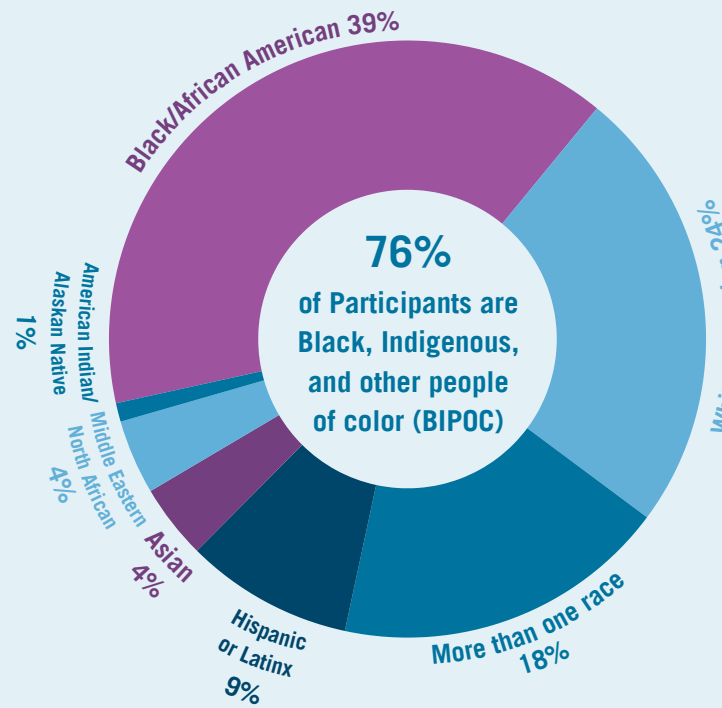
Many participants say that they initially come to the programs for the free pizza, but stay for the sisterhood they develop.

IN 2024, GIRLS GROUP SERVED A TOTAL OF 1,090 PARTICIPANTS.

405 Middle School ♥ 260 High School ♥ 205 College & Early Career ♥ 220 Alumni



RACE/ETHNICITY



RESIDENCY

61%
ANN ARBOR

35%
YPSILANTI

4%
OTHER

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

70% of participants live in Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) Households.*

*ALICE households earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county.

*These percentages will be adjusted as the school year progresses. Families are not required to report household income; this number is estimated base on information collected.



HOW WE SERVE

Girls Group provides year-round comprehensive group and individual mentoring programs in schools and the community.

The mentoring relationship helps young women discover who they are, shape their lives, and learn how to engage with and contribute to the world around them. Programming activities are designed to teach problem-solving, decision-making, and leadership skills that are critical to navigating the challenges of growing up. Building on this foundation of belonging and life skills, participants set and reach goals, specifically graduating high school and getting to and through higher education.

Girls Group uses a strengths-based approach to college and career readiness, focusing on four themes:

ACADEMIC READINESS

The beliefs, attitudes, and skills needed to meet academic requirements, self-advocate, and persevere to overcome obstacles.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL READINESS

The beliefs, attitudes, and skills to manage emotions, develop healthy relationships, set positive goals, and pursue dreams.



FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

The beliefs, attitudes, and skills to pursue employment, be empowered to take ownership of financial decisions, and achieve financial stability.



COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

Recognizing your greatness by engaging in quality community service learning that develops social awareness, builds character, and expands possibilities.

Our participant centered model is foundational to building a vibrant community of support for participants. Girls Group works intentionally with interconnected factors in a participant's life, including staff, peers, families, schools, and communities. All programs are planned, developed, and implemented by highly-trained, talented, and compassionate Girls Group Staff. Girls Group's effectiveness is, in large part, due to long-term and supportive mentoring relationships, which begin in middle school, and carry through into high school and college.

OUR IMPACT

Girls Group helps students achieve economic and emotional self-sufficiency.

Girls Group helps participants to stay in school, develop a college mindset, graduate from high school, become first-generation college students, and create lives with successful careers and healthy relationships. Our 21-year history clearly demonstrates that involvement with Girls Group changes the trajectory of a student's life, and positively impacts future generations.

The statistics are daunting. Almost 30% of students who are either low-income or students of color, will not graduate from high school. And, students who drop out of high school are 150% more likely to live in economic disenfranchisement than their peers who graduate. Over the last 21 years, 100% of participants actively involved in Girls Group have defied the odds and graduated from high school.

We address root causes of economic disenfranchisement on a daily, year-round basis, and provide students with the mentors, motivation, tool kits, and action plans needed to succeed in their college and career journeys. The Girls Group College & Career Readiness format provides comprehensive and holistic support for participants across important life stages.



*We build
the bridge*
**between
participants and
their future success!**

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS FORMAT

100% of actively engaged participants graduate from high school!

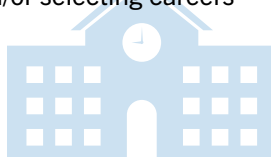
6-10th Grade College & Career Mindset

Owning your power and finding your voice to dream bigger



11-12th Grade College & Career Readiness

Preparing for the future by applying to college and/or selecting careers



High School Graduates College & Career

College and career journeys
Mentoring younger participants



**Our Graduation Success
Since 2003**

425 High School Graduates
and Counting

113 College Degrees Earned
and Counting

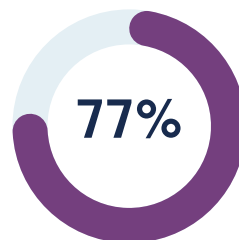
2023-24 END OF YEAR SURVEY RESULTS



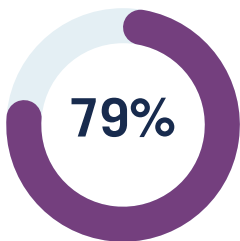
90% of participants demonstrated a commitment to community service.



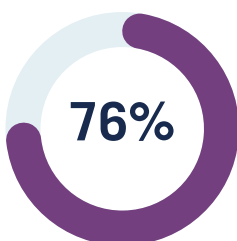
83% of participants developed positive mentoring relationships.



77% of participants demonstrated social- emotional skills including advocacy, teamwork, self-management, social awareness, and healthy relationships.



79% of participants demonstrated the beliefs, attitudes, and skills to pursue employment, take ownership of financial decisions, and achieve financial stability.



76% of participants demonstrated academic readiness.



80% of participants believe they can succeed & are planning for their future.



100% of high school seniors who were actively engaged in programs graduated from high school!

Hear From GIRLS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

Your support of Girls Group programs helped students accomplish their goals and graduate! These young women worked so hard, and we are proud to celebrate this milestone alongside them.

Here is what they had to say about the impact Girls Group has had on their lives.



Kianna

2022 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

“The sense of community and camaraderie within Girls Group has inspired and motivated me. Interacting with other members who have similar goals and aspirations has been extremely empowering, and knowing that I have a supportive network of peers and mentors rooting for me has given me the confidence to overcome any obstacles that may arise.”



Manuella

2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

“One thing I really like about Girls Group is the people that are in it. I’ve always liked the thought of being my own boss. I always dreamed of having my own business and running something that I could call mine and find my purpose.”

Reflecting on her high school graduation, she said, “When I walked the stage, I was just so proud of myself.”

30% of students of color and economically disadvantaged students will not graduate high school. Yet, since the beginning of Girls Group, **100% of Girls Group high school seniors who are actively involved in programs have defied the odds!**

2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUES

TOTAL REVENUE _____ **\$1,823,480***

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Middle School and High School Programs \$981,833

College and Career Programs \$144,203

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES _____ **\$1,126,036**

Management and General \$274,704

Development \$242,099

TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES _____ **\$1,642,639**

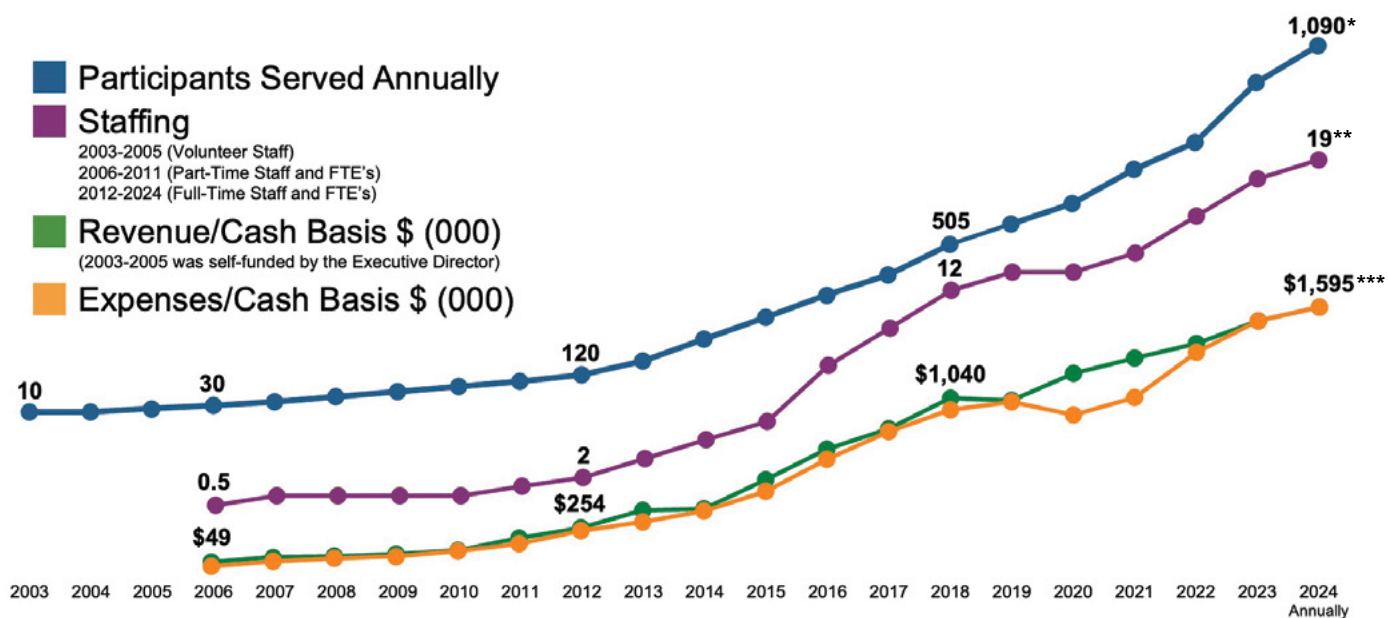
* 2023 audited revenue was \$1,474,192.

Changes in revenue, year over year, reflect the use and timing of multi-year commitments.

On a cash (unaudited) basis, revenues exceeded expenses.

Certified audit available upon request.

GROWTH FROM 2003-2024

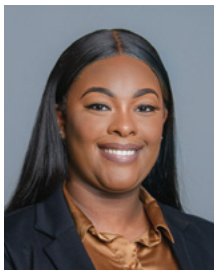


* Students can participate in Girls Group long-term, from 6th grade through College and Career. They are also able to drop-in for a year or years.

** In addition to 19 FTE's, Girls Group staff are supported by 14 social work interns.

***Unaudited financials

Full-Time STAFF



Quania Branch
Social Work Manager



Jennifer Brents
Program Director



KC Curless
*Middle School & High School
Senior Program Coordinator*



Kepriah Davis
*Ypsilanti Program
Manager*



Chantelle Franklin
*Middle School & High School
Senior Program Coordinator*



Niara Ginyard
*Middle School & High School
Program Coordinator*



Tabitha Hill
Operations Coordinator



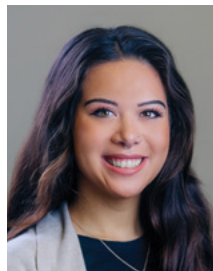
Skye Jarskey
*College & Career
Program Manager*



Isabell Jazwinski
*High School
Program Manager*



Sarah Lesch
Development Director



Bradey Resulta
*Middle School
Program Manager*



Keonia Ridley
Program Coordinator



Amaurii Roberson
*Middle School & High School
Program Coordinator*



Kayla Schindler-Mallires
Operations Advisor



Sue Schooner
Executive Director



Briana Wilson
*College & Career Senior
Program Coordinator*



Jonjalyn Winchester
*Middle School & High School
Senior Program Coordinator*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A LETTER

from the Girls Group Executive Director and Program Director

Dear Girls Group Friends,

2024 was another year of great impact for Girls Group! We are proud to be serving girls, young women, and families on a year-round basis. Girls Group staff enjoyed a joyous and productive year with 29 weekly programs within the schools, group and individual college and career prep, family engagement, weekend enrichments, summer programs, youth leadership council, and much more!

One of the unique and transformative aspects of Girls Group is that we ideally meet girls as early as 6th grade. We then continue our programming and relationships through middle schools, high school, college and career.

This year was particularly gratifying, as we rose to the challenge of expanding our reach into the Ypsilanti school district. This meant bringing on additional staff, and bringing our critical programming to more of the youth who need it most.

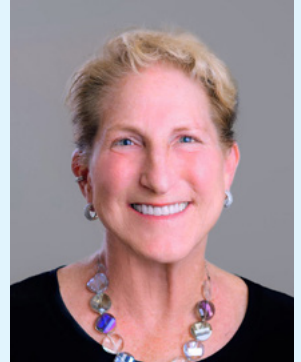
The Girls Group team focused on expanding its impact in Ypsilanti through strategic program growth. We launched a new group at ACCE (Achieving College & Career Education). We also launched lunchroom mentoring at four more schools—Lincoln Middle School, Washtenaw International Middle Academy, Ypsilanti Middle School, and ECA (Early College Alliance).

These efforts strengthened community presence and provided students with consistent support, mentorship, and connection. As a result, student engagement increased, relationships with school staff improved, and referrals into broader programming—including college and career preparation and summer enrichment—became more seamless.

To ensure that we had enough coverage to support expanding programs in Ypsilanti, where students face significant barriers to success, we hired an additional program coordinator dedicated to serving students in Ypsilanti Schools. The addition of this team member, thanks to generous funders, is allowing us to maintain Girls Group high-quality mentorship programming and prepare for future expansion.

One of the most exciting achievements this year was increased student engagement. Many more participants accessed College and Career Prep services to prepare for graduation and future opportunities. Students also joined Saturday workshops, and college and career tours—including the Ohio Spring Overnight Tours and fully funded trips to Michigan State University's summer overnight programming. Combined with ongoing in-school mentoring, these programs strengthened relationships and laid the groundwork for continued success.

As 2025 is well underway, we continue to expand our services to more youth in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. As we know, education is one of the most effective tools to break the cycle of poverty. We continue to develop more programming to ensure that Girls Group participants are on their paths to economic and emotional self-sufficiency.



Sue Schooner
Executive Director



Jennifer Brents
Program Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Schooner".

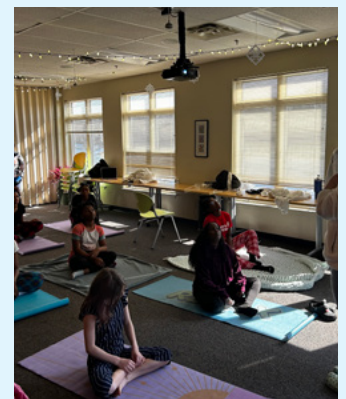
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Brents".

Program Director

THANK YOU

to Our Donors for Their Continued Support



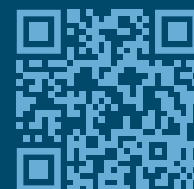
Thank you to every donor and partner who makes our work possible.

Your support helps young women graduate from high school and take their first steps toward college or a career. You make it possible for them to build emotional strength and grow into their full potential. The full list of 2024 donors is available at [girlsgroup.org](https://www.girlsgroup.org).

We're deeply grateful for your continued commitment to our youth.



GIRLSGROUP.ORG



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