

GIRLS GROUP JANUARY 2025 –
DECEMBER 2025

ANNUAL REPORT



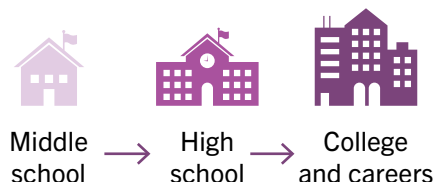
Girls Group

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 35 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.

A LETTER

from Girls Group's Executive Director and Program Director

Dear Girls Group Friends,

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 school year, one feeling rises above all others: gratitude.

Gratitude for the laughter that fills our classrooms; for the meaningful conversations that take place between students and mentors; for the participants that are discovering new strengths within themselves; and for the young women that are supporting one another as they grow into confident leaders. The energy, joy, and sense of belonging that participants bring to our programs are what make Girls Group such an extraordinary community.

This year, we had the privilege of serving more participants than ever before while continuing to deepen the quality of our services. Across our programs, participants had access to a robust mentorship network that helped them build leadership skills, strengthen their academic foundations, prioritize their mental health and well-being, visit college campuses, prepare for their careers, and form lasting connections with peers and mentors who believe in their potential. As food and housing insecurity continued to affect many of the families we serve, Girls Group also remained committed to meeting participants where they are at—providing not only programming and mentorship, but also meals, resources, stability, and a trusted community of support.

One area of continued growth and pride has been our Ypsilanti programming. We have worked intentionally to increase our presence and expand opportunities for participants and families throughout this community. It has been inspiring to support these young people as they find their voice, focus on their future, and make concrete plans for college, careers, and beyond. Girls Group remains a safe and fun place to learn and laugh, grow and grieve, and create meaningful action plans for the next steps in life. The progress we have witnessed has been uplifting, and we are excited about our future plans and commitments to deepen our impact in 2026.

As we celebrate our 22nd year, we are inspired by what lies ahead. At the end of the 2025-26 school year, we celebrated 54 high school and 14 college graduates from our program, whose names you will see listed later in this report. Summer programming is well underway, bringing new adventures, hands-on learning experiences, community-building opportunities, and countless moments of discovery. Looking toward the 2026–2027 school year, we are energized by the possibilities and excited to continue expanding opportunities for the young women we serve.

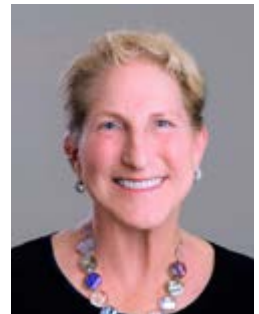
We recognize that many of our participants are navigating multiple challenges and oftentimes great need. That reality strengthens our commitment to creating spaces where girls feel seen, valued, supported, and where their needs are met. Every day, we witness the resilience, courage, and potential of the young women in our programs, and we remain deeply optimistic about what they will accomplish.

Your support makes all of our work possible. To our donors, partners, volunteers, staff, interns, families, and supporters: thank you. Together, we are building a future where every girl knows her value, recognizes her potential, and has the opportunity to thrive.

With gratitude,

Executive Director

Program Director



Sue Schooner
Executive Director



Jennifer Brents
Program Director

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



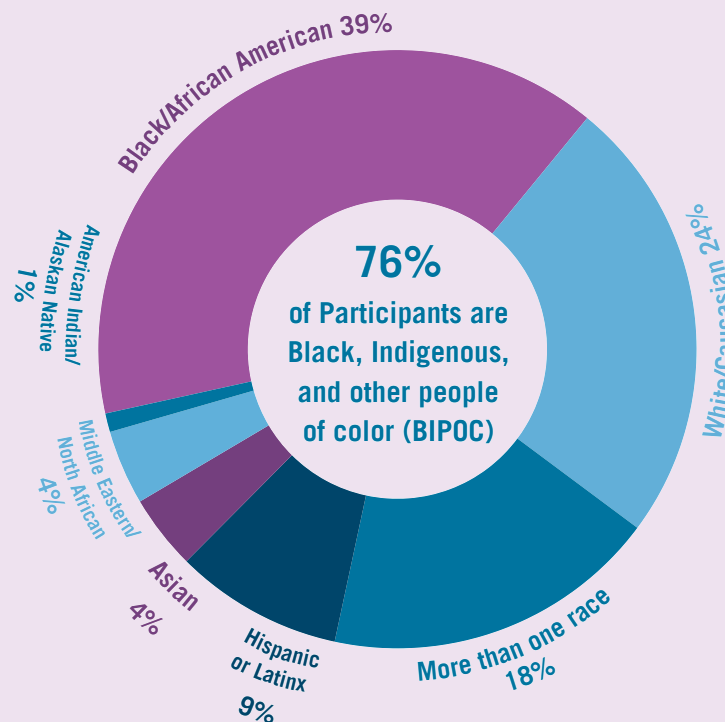
Girls Group exists because we want every young woman to be empowered to write her greatest story. Being empowered to write your greatest story means overcoming the barriers put before you by peers, family, schools, community, and society.

IN 2025, GIRLS GROUP SERVED A TOTAL OF 1,300 PARTICIPANTS.

465 Middle School ♥ 350 High School ♥ 225 College & Early Career ♥ 260 Alumni



RACE/ETHNICITY



RESIDENCY

57%
ANN ARBOR

43%
YPSILANTI

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

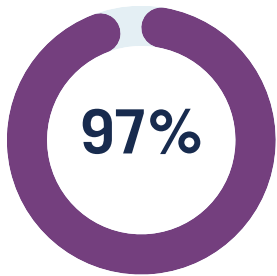
70% of participants live in Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) Households.*

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



2024-25

END OF YEAR SURVEY RESULTS



97% of participants demonstrated at least some evidence of positive developmental relationships.



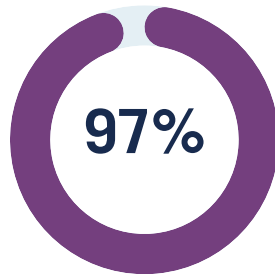
95% of participants demonstrated at least some confidence in social-emotional skills.



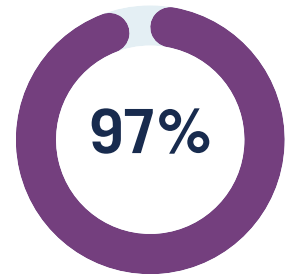
96% of participants demonstrated at least some awareness of financial empowerment.



96% of participants demonstrated at least some evidence of academic and future readiness.



97% of participants demonstrated at least some commitment to social and community issues.



97% of participants demonstrated at least some confidence in their ability to succeed.



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

299 participant surveys recorded

OUR IMPACT

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

Our programming is designed to help participants grow into confident, healthy, and successful individuals through year-round academic support, social-emotional skill building, financial education, leadership development, and access to meals. During the 2025–2026 school year, Girls Group served 1,300 participants across 35 school sites through six core programs spanning middle school, high school, college, and early career. In addition to providing individualized and group-based programming that supports academic success, leadership development, college and career readiness, and personal growth, Girls Group served **45,000 meals** and snacks to participants throughout the year. For many young people, consistent access to food is foundational to learning, well-being, and engagement, making food an essential part of our holistic approach to youth development.

Summer programming provided five days a week of enrichment opportunities, including middle-to-high school transition support, college visits, career exploration, community-building experiences, and daily meals that ensured participants were nourished while exploring new opportunities and preparing for the future.

This year also marked Girls Group’s 22nd anniversary and a period of meaningful growth. We expanded partnerships with Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ypsilanti Community Schools, and Lincoln Consolidated Schools, launched nine new program sites, and continued deepening our presence in Ypsilanti. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Girls Group continues to provide the mentorship, resources, meals, and opportunities that help young women thrive, develop as leaders, and move forward with confidence.



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS FORMAT

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

PARTICIPANT VOICES



Saran

2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

"I initially chose to join Girls Group to solely learn more about college, but little did I know, Girls Group was also going to help me mentally.

Through Girls Group, I learned more about myself by doing certain activities that had to do with connecting with others and community building."



Blessing

2025 MADONNA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

"Girls Group taught me the importance of community. Throughout the years, I've learned how to support others while also seeking support when needed. I've witnessed the power of women lifting each other up, and this sense of solidarity has been essential as I navigate my college journey. Being part of such a powerful network of women has given me the strength and confidence to continue pushing toward my goals, even when faced with uncertainty."

Girls Group 2025 Scholarship Survey Responses

"Girls Group is one of the reasons why I was able to see myself in college in the future... I was told I can have a successful future. And most importantly to me, I can redefine my life not with my negative experiences, but with my accomplishments and goals."

"There was a point where I was seriously considering dropping out of college entirely... I was facing potential homelessness... During that time, Girls Group stepped in with major support that I didn't even know was available to me."

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!**

2025

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Annual Scholarship Recipients

Maria F.	Miasol G.	Bianca P.	Naliyah R.
Blessing B.	Daniela O.	Jua’Chelle H.	Tatyana G.
Madison P.	Trinity W.	Saran K.	Mahawa K.
Elecia B.	Jessica Van den B.	Simone C.	Saran K.
Annabelle H.	Nariyah H.	Jessica P.	Fatou T.
Adelie T.	Chisom N.	Joudy M.	Isabel C.
Abwe-Yohali (Chloe) S.	Nadia F.	Jaydaka L.	Chala H.
Arionne M.	Shala B.	Mbinze E.	Jalliah A.
Minnie P.	Kennady H.	Breanna Jean P.	Kianna Fraga A.
Alisha B.	Nahsja M.	Kamryn E.	RayOnya D.

Laptop Scholarship Recipients

Elecia B.
Annabelle H.
Arionne M.
Minnie P.
Chisom N.
Anmerie T.
Joudy M.
Naliyah R.
Tatyana G.
Saran K.
Isabel C.

IN THEIR WORDS

Having mentors who looked like me, who believed in me, and who showed up consistently taught me something that no classroom could—that you do not have to navigate life alone, and that the right community can completely change your trajectory.

2025 SENIOR CELEBRATION



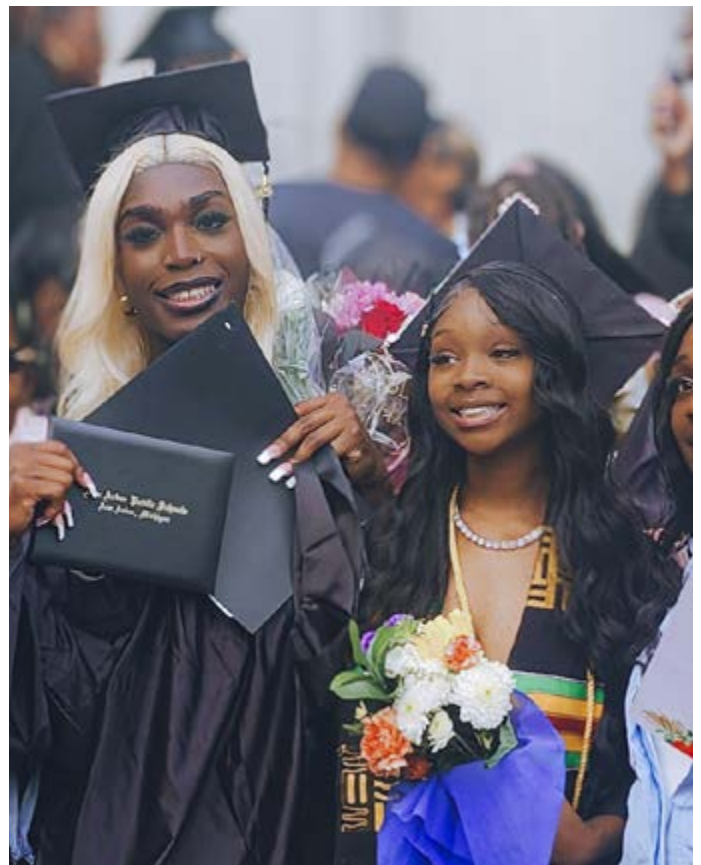
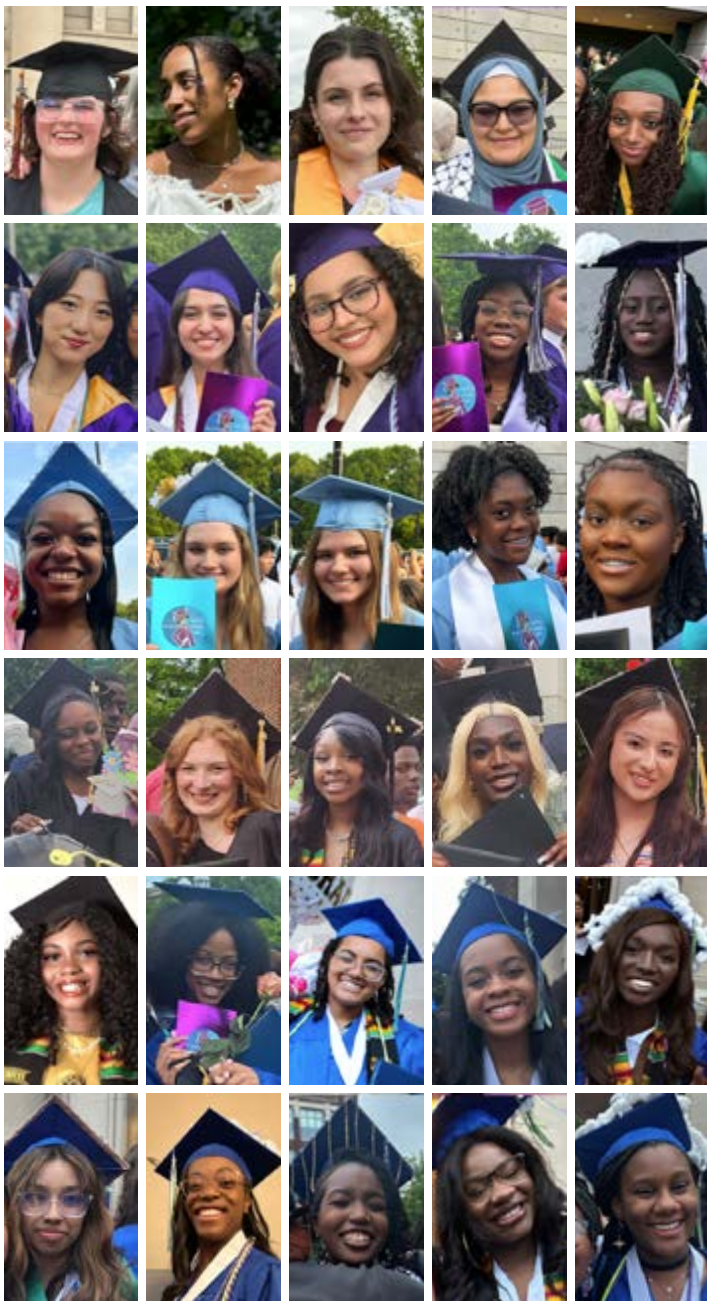
2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Anna (Aniya) M.	Janice K.	Ezareah P.	Jewlia K.	Arionne M.
Zeniab A.	Joudy M.	Alexa S.	Tray K.	Minnie P.
Annabelle H.	Mia J.	Sierra S.	Mori E.	Arielle T.
Jeane S.	Hawa K.	Maria S.	Jordan C.	Saran K.
Nadia M.	Sara G.	Alexis W.	Ashley L.	Isabel C.
Angel B.	Elecia B.	Tori W.	Fatima S.	Nadia F.
Taylor P.	Abigail C.	Savannah W.	Anmerie T.	Naliyah R.
Kennady H.	Angel B.	Arielle B.	Dominique W.	Chisom N.
Alexis S.	Jayla C.	Cassandra D.	Anyiah B.	Hannah J.
Savannah W.	Johanne F.	Tinyah H.	Nyona A.	Tatyana G.
Alayah N.	Monae L.	Alexis J.	Naveyah M.	

2025 COLLEGE GRADUATES

Tamarrah Morgan - Michigan State University
 Rajada Noblin - Michigan State University
 Damaris Potter - Western Michigan University
 Elizabeth Smith - Dorsey Cosmetology School
 Alex Cash - Michigan State University
 Sofia Robinson - Rochester Institute of Technology
 Alanah Banks - Eastern Michigan University
 Jayla Phillips - Eastern Michigan University

Dorcas Atiefu - Washtenaw Community College
 Savannah Welch - University of Michigan - Dearborn
 Blessing Batalonga - Madonna University
 RayOnya Dukes - Western Michigan University
 Chala House - Spelman College
 Kyla Turner - Western Michigan University



2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE _____ **\$2,238,421 ***

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Middle School and High School Programs \$1,125,006

College and Career Programs \$309,801

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES _____ **\$1,434,807**

Management and General \$286,914

Development \$285,685

TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES _____ **\$2,007,406**

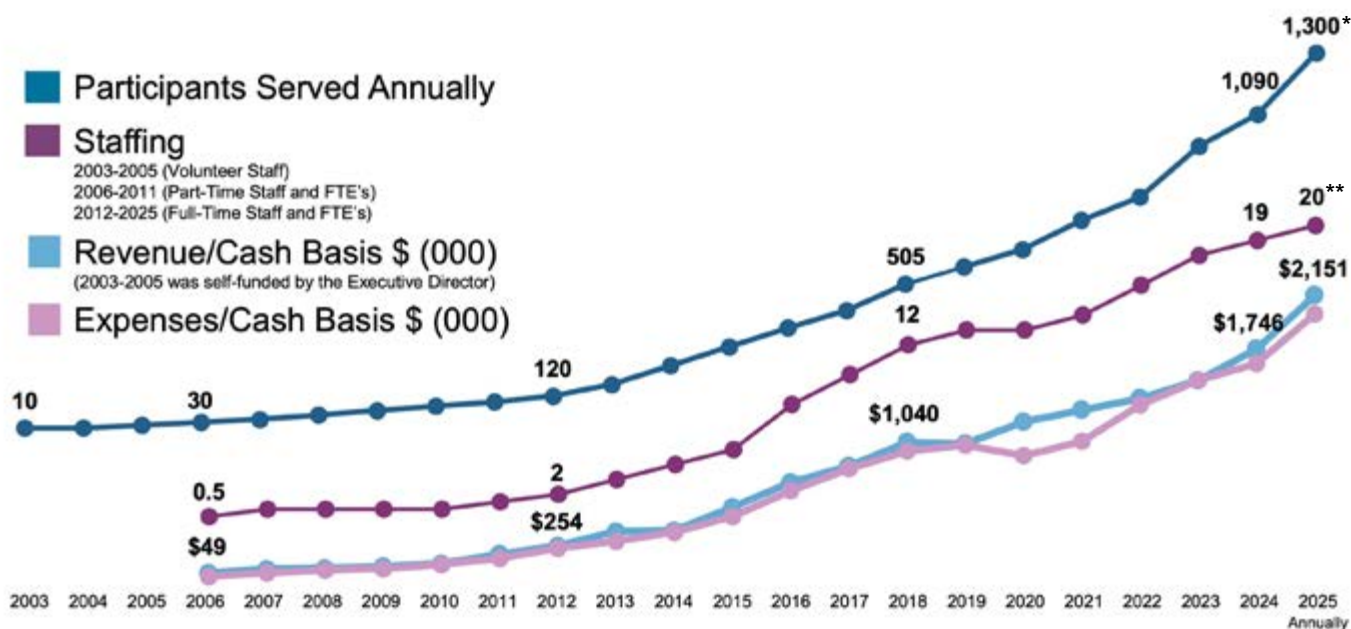
* 2024 audited revenue was \$1,823,480.

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

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

Certified audit available upon request.

GROWTH FROM 2003-2025



* 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 20 FTE's, Girls Group staff are supported by 14 social work interns.

2025 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Together, we raised \$174,000 with a net profit of \$133,000 to support Girls Group participants.

Our annual fundraiser was a tremendous success and brought many fun updates. We moved our location to the Roth Stadium Club at the University of Michigan Football Stadium and hosted almost 350 supporters! The event also incorporated an exciting new raffle and dedicated paddle raise all to help bring awareness and raise critical funding for our mission. We are grateful to every donor, volunteer, attendee, and sponsor whose generosity makes this work possible.



OUR GUEST SPEAKER



SAVANNAH WELCH GIRLS GROUP ALUMNA

My mentors always made space to listen and remind me, 'You belong here.' That kind of support doesn't just guide you, it changes the way you see yourself. Today, because of every lesson, every mentor, and every opportunity, I stand before you as a graduating senior at University of Michigan - Dearborn studying engineering. I'm a woman who is courageous, resilient, and determined to use my voice to build the future I dream of.

Full-Time STAFF



Quania Branch
Senior Social Work Manager



Jennifer Brents
Program Director



Isabelle Butler
*Middle School & High School
Program Coordinator*



Dea Chappell
*Senior College & Career
Program Coordinator*



Ramona Cox
Operations Manager



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



Kepriah Davis
Ypsilanti Program Manager



Chantelle Franklin
*Senior Ypsilanti Program
Coordinator*



Katelyn Hayes
*Middle School & High School
Program Coordinator*



Brianna Hull-Dennis
*College & Career Program
Coordinator*



Skye Jarskey
*College & Career
Program Manager*



Isabell Jazwinski
*Senior Middle School & High
School Program Manager*



Sarah Lesch
Development Director



Kirsten Richards
Fund Development Manager



Keonia Ridley
*Senior Ypsilanti Program
Coordinator*



Amaurii Roberson
*Middle School & High School
Program Coordinator*



Sue Schooner
Executive Director



Avion Williams
*Senior Ypsilanti Program
Coordinator*

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Cam LaFleur

Laurita Thomas

Nancy Leon

THANK YOU

to Our Donors for Their Continued Support



Every gift, at every level, creates meaningful opportunities for the young people we serve. Because of your generosity, Girls Group participants have access to the relationships, resources, experiences, and support they need to pursue their goals and build strong futures.

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated community of donors and partners whose investment makes this work possible. Thank you for believing in our mission, standing alongside our participants, and helping create lasting impact in our community.

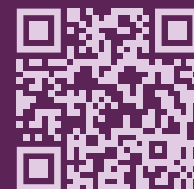


Thank you to
our 2025-2026
donors, partners,
sponsors, and
grant funders.

Scan for the list or visit
girlsgroup.org/donors



GIRLSGROUP.ORG



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