



girls  
inc.  
of the Valley

Her  
Future,  
Our  
Future.

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**girls  
inc.**

Founded in 1981, Girls Inc. of the Valley is an independent affiliate of the national organization Girls Inc., the country's leader on issues affecting girls and young women.

Girls Inc. of the Valley delivers life-changing programs that inspire girls to be strong, smart, and bold. In a pro-girl and girls-only environment that is physically, socially and emotionally safe, the Girls Inc. experience equips girls to navigate gender, economic and social barriers and grow into healthy, educated and independent young women.



## A message from our academic leaders

Dear friends,

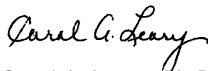
**Her Future, Our Future:** there is no better way to convey the impact of Girls Inc. on our region. As leaders in higher education, we have witnessed first-hand the profound difference that Girls Inc. makes on the young women who, despite seemingly impossible odds, remain in high school, enroll in our colleges, and graduate to become leaders in their communities.

Young girls who might otherwise be stripped of aspiration are encouraged to dream. More than 85% of the girls who participate in Girls Inc. programs say that they think positively about their future and that they plan to go to college. Most of these girls will be the first in their families to do so. And, thanks to Girls Inc. they arrive on our campuses prepared to tackle the rigors of higher education, to strive beyond their wildest imaginations, and to succeed.

Girls Inc. programs, offered for years at its location in Holyoke, are now provided at many schools in Holyoke, Chicopee, and Springfield, with plans to expand to additional schools in the years ahead. The goal is to reach more than 1,000 girls annually as a result of this campaign.

Their future is indeed our future. We are pleased and excited to be Champions for Girls Inc. and hope you will join us in promising these young women a brighter future.

Most sincerely,



Carol A. Leary, Ph.D.  
President, Bay Path University




Yves Salomon-Fernández, Ph.D.  
President, Greenfield Community College



Christina Royal, Ph.D.  
President, Holyoke Community College



Sonya Stephens  
President, Mount Holyoke College



Kathleen McCartney  
President, Smith College



Mary-Beth A. Cooper, Ph.D., D.M.  
President, Springfield College

## Creating a future without barriers

The barriers girls face even today in the U.S. are real and profound. Open to all, Girls Inc. supports the girls who need us the most – girls from low-income communities who might otherwise not have access to the resources, experiences, or mentors who can help them overcome obstacles to reach their full potential.





## What girls face

### Across the US

- 1 in 5 girls live in poverty
- 1 in 6 girls will not finish high school
- Students from low-income families are 5X more likely to drop out of school
- Over 1 in 20 U.S. teen girls become pregnant each year, the highest teen pregnancy rate in the developed world

### Here in the Valley

#### Household income

Hampden County has the second lowest median household income level in Massachusetts. The number of public school students identified as economically disadvantaged is high:

- 78% in Holyoke
- 77% in Springfield
- 54% in Chicopee

#### Graduation rates

91% of MA girls graduated from high school in 2017, yet the graduation rates in the Valley are lower:

- 74% of Holyoke girls
- 82% of Springfield girls
- 85% of Chicopee girls

#### Teen pregnancy

Teen pregnancy rates in Hampden County are among the highest in MA:

- Holyoke is #3
- Springfield is #8
- Chicopee is #16

#### Girls served

The girls served by Girls Inc. are:

- 67% Latina, 19% Caucasian, 14% African American
- 66% live with just one parent
- 77% have family incomes below \$30,000

## THE CAMPAIGN:

# Giving girls a future full of possibility

Girls Inc. is launching a \$5 million dollar campaign, Her Future, Our Future, to better meet the needs of girls from low-income communities in Hampden County and beyond.

This is the first time that Girls Inc. of the Valley has embarked upon such a major fundraising effort. We are reaching out to individuals, families, businesses, local and state government, and private foundations to request multi-year support of this three-part campaign.

Together, over the next 5 years, we can make it possible for Girls Inc. to increase the number of elementary and teen girls served by 300%, reaching over 1,000 girls annually. The cumulative impact on the region is thrilling. The more girls that participate in transformative Girls Inc. programs, the greater the impact will be for girls, their families, and the community.



## THE PROGRAM:

### 3 pathways to success

- 1 Building a new home with room to grow**  
A dynamic state-of-the-art headquarters and program center in Holyoke  
**\$3 million**
- 2 Reaching more girls across the Valley**  
Significantly expanding our geographic reach in public schools in Springfield, Chicopee and beyond  
**\$1 million**
- 3 Supporting Eureka! where learning never stops**  
Our innovative 5-year STEM program that prepares girls for college and career  
**\$1 million**







## ① Building a new home with room to grow

After nearly thirty years, Girls Inc. will consolidate its current operations from two locations into one, building a new 15,000 square foot state-of-the-art headquarters and program center in downtown Holyoke.

Operating under one roof will be transformative: increasing efficiency, and access to new technologies, integrating staff training, and allowing greater collaboration among staff, volunteers, families, and of course, the girls. Furthermore, the new headquarters will serve as home base for staff working offsite in the public schools, providing the infrastructure needed to vastly expand the number of girls we serve.

The facility will be active year-round – offering elementary and teen programs during the week, and bringing girls from across the Valley to Holyoke for weekend and summer programming.

Conveniently located near the Holyoke Transportation Center, our new headquarters will be readily accessible and a true home for all girls in the Valley.





## ② Reaching more girls across the Valley

Girls Inc.'s strategic plan calls for geographic expansion, focusing on communities that have a high concentration of low-income families. Over the next 5 years, we will grow by 300% to meet the educational and developmental needs of girls in Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke and beyond.

Our partnerships with area public schools hold great promise, providing a critical long-term means to reach the girls who need us most. We bring our trained experienced staff and our research-based curricula directly to the schools. School partners commit dedicated space in their

buildings for a Girls Inc. Center, and assist with recruitment, scheduling and enrollment. Inside the schools we are able to replicate the empowering girls-only, pro-girl environment that characterizes our current Holyoke program centers.





### 3 Supporting Eureka! where learning never stops

Despite the growing need for STEM professionals in our workforce and the economic opportunities provided by STEM careers, women — particularly women of color — continue to be severely underrepresented. Eureka! is Girls Inc.'s flagship program that increases STEM exposure and education for girls in grades 8-12. Girls Inc. launched Eureka! with 35 girls in 2013, in partnership with the College of Natural Sciences at UMass Amherst. This exceptional collaboration between Girls Inc. and UMass uniquely meets the needs of both organizations.

The thriving program can now serve 125 girls annually, creating a pipeline of girls from underserved communities with the skills and confidence to apply to college and prepare for the job opportunities offered in these dynamic and growing fields.

The campaign will fund Eureka! for one cohort's full 5-year experience. This will enable Girls Inc. to fully track and document our success, securing the program and solidifying its role as an important regional pipeline to higher education and STEM careers.



## Please invest in her future



We invite you to be part of Her Future, Our Future: The Campaign for Girls Inc. of the Valley. Interested individuals, families, corporations, and foundations can help provide the financial support for the campaign's programmatic, expansion and facility goals.

We will proudly recognize your generosity and commitment to building better futures for girls. You can name furnishings, equipment and facilities in Girls Inc.'s new home, or add your name to the prominent major donor wall at the following levels:

<b>Vanguard</b>	<b>Luminary</b>	<b>Advocate</b>	<b>Ally</b>	<b>Partner</b>
<b>(\$50,000+)</b>	<b>(\$25,000+)</b>	<b>(\$10,000+)</b>	<b>(\$5,000+)</b>	<b>(\$1,000+)</b>

Donations can be made through gifts of cash, securities, life insurance, real property, life-income gifts or other deferred gift options. Gifts may also be made as memorials or tributes to loved ones. (Please see the Ways of Giving insert for details.) Every gift to the campaign is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you. Her future is indeed our future.



# Her Future, Our Future.

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inc.**

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