

Voices of

Summer 2011 Volume 11 Issue 1

girls
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Girls Incorporated
of Metro Denver

A COMBINED NEWSLETTER IN CONJUNCTION WITH **Girls Alliance**

The 25th Annual Girls & Guys Night Out Featuring John Heffron, Winner of “Last Comic Standing”



This year marks the 25th anniversary of the event, Girls & Guys Night Out (also known as Girls Night Out over the years). In 2011, the event is chaired by Hillary Adams and she is delighted to host John Heffron as the evening's comedy headliner. Having won the second season of NBC's "Last Comic Standing", John Heffron's popularity and demand has grown tremendously. Heffron's hilarious and extensive material has earned him a one-hour special and two half-hour specials on Comedy Central. He also has a new DVD entitled "Middle Class Funny" available in stores and online. You won't want to miss this hysterical evening on Thursday, October 20th at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center, 7800 E. Tufts Ave., Denver, 80237.

**Tickets: Individual tickets are \$125.
Table sponsorships are still available.**

**For More Ticket and Sponsorship Information:
Contact Camille Gallegos at 303.893.4363, ext. 109
cgallegos@girlsincedenver.org
or go to www.girlsincedenver.org/ggnotix**



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Girls Incorporated
of Metro Denver

Inspiring all girls to be
Strong, Smart and BoldSM

We Would Like to Thank the Following For Their Generous Grant Support

Adolph Coors Foundation	\$25,000	Spread Her Wings Foundation at The Giving Back Fund	\$5,000
Boeing Employees Community Fund	\$7,000	The Denver Foundation	\$15,000
City and County of Denver Mayor's Office for Education and Children	\$2,000	The Denver Foundation Technical Assistance Fund	\$3,500
Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado	\$5,000	The John G. Duncan Charitable Trust	\$3,000
Jackson National Community Fund	\$5,000	The Kullgren Family Charitable Trust	\$3,000
Lockheed Martin Corporation	\$1,000	The Pioneer Fund	\$20,000
Nelnet	\$2,000	The Rite Aid Foundation	\$5,000
Post News Season to Share-A McCormick Fund	\$30,000	The Virginia Hill Charitable Trust	\$5,000
Qwest Foundation	\$5,000	Timothy and Bernadette Marquez Foundation	\$10,000
Rose Community Foundation	\$7,000	Xcel Energy Foundation	\$15,000

Foundation Grants Received from January 15, 2011-July 1, 2011. Additional money was received to generously support specific events throughout the year.

Ms. Rita Nilson, Girls Inc. Youth Center Volunteer November 3, 1914 – May 22, 2011



Ms. Rita Nilson, Girls Inc. Youth Center Volunteer

November 3, 1914 – May 22, 2011

Volunteer of the Month, March 2009

Volunteer of the Year 2009

Ms. Rita Nilson was one of our most memorable volunteers at Girls Inc. of Metro Denver. In the fall of 2006, at the ripe young age of 92, Ms. Rita started volunteering once a week to organize the bookshelves in our Youth Center. She had been a librarian in the 1930s and thought she would be pretty good at tackling Girls Inc.'s library. In fact, from fall 2006 to spring 2009, Ms. Rita volunteered 250 hours, creating and maintaining a system that allowed our girls to easily find books at their reading level, which was an amazing gift to provide to Girls Inc. Literacy was very important to Ms. Rita, and she delighted in seeing the girls' excitement at finding books they could read and understand.

Ms. Rita touched the hearts of our girls, staff and other volunteers in a number of ways. The impact of her work, friendship and presence at Girls Inc. will be felt for a long time. In 2009, she won a Girls Inc. Volunteer of the Year award. We asked her to share a few words when she accepted the award:

"Life was once again enriched with a purpose to get the books organized so the girls knew how to find books and how to put them back on the right shelves. Early readers helped me to classify the books and choose the correct labels for the books. I enjoyed the staff, the volunteer tutors, and the girls. I thank you all. You all made three years go by rapidly. You gave my life a purpose again and rewarded me with friendship and love."

Even in her passing Ms. Rita continues to support the girls of Denver. For those of you who knew and loved Ms. Rita, her family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made on behalf of Ms. Rita to Girls Inc. of Metro Denver.

Please send donations to:

Girls Inc. of Metro Denver

Attn: Director of Development – In Honor of Ms. Rita

1499 Julian Street, Denver, CO 80204

Or donations can be made online at www.girlsincedenver.org – please list "in Honor of Ms. Rita" in the notes.

The Girls Inc. Alliance (GIA) was founded in 1995 by a wonderful group of dedicated, community-minded women who sought to volunteer their time by supporting the mission of Girls Incorporated of Metro Denver (GIMD). They created a fundraising arm to assist GIMD in procuring the money necessary to offer custom programs, scholarships and opportunities for young girls in the community.

Their success has exceeded their wildest dreams. Over the past 16 years, GIA has grown to nearly 200 members, provided countless volunteer hours, and contributed over \$3.5 million to support GIMD.

GIA members are the organizational backbone of the many signature events that benefit GIMD, including Girls & Guys Night Out (Girls Inc.'s major fundraiser); Membership, Margaritas and Mojitos (GIA's annual membership drive); and the summer carnival, offering fun and back-to-school supplies for the girls. Revenue from these events, and others, contributes nearly 18% of GIMD's annual budget.

To join GIA, go online to www.girlsincdenver.org and click on the "Alliance" tab.

From Your Girls Inc. Alliance Presidents Cissie Megyesy and May Wilson

2011 has been such a great year so far! There are so many wonderful things we have accomplished and many more fantastic events and activities to come.



Membership, Margaritas and Mojitos was held on January 25th and was a terrific evening. MAX generously hosted this year's event at his new store in Cherry Creek. Melinda and Katie Dark did a phenomenal job organizing and executing the evening and even brought us in under budget without leaving out any of the fun details! Lily Loya attended the event and spoke on behalf of Girls Inc. as a former girl member and current volunteer. She is

so articulate and represents the mission of Girls Inc. perfectly. Despite a very snowy evening, nearly 100 women attended the event and a good time was had by all.

Our Vice Presidents of Membership, Diane Lopez and Nancy Shea, have also done a great job working to follow-up with past members who were unable to attend the event to help achieve our membership goals for calendar year 2011.



© Allie Moore

The Carnival was held on July 7, 2011 at the Girls Inc. Gymnasium. The event created a ton of fun with a Mardi Gras! Approximately 120 girls attended from the Girls Inc. summer programs. Allie Ingalls and Aleece Barr worked hard to make sure

the girls had a wonderful afternoon. At the end of the Carnival each year, girls are presented with a backpack full of new school supplies to start off their new school year. Our Backpack and School Supply Drive Chairs, Ellen Britt, Jenny Kummer and Corra McCallin, were able to fundraise enough to purchase supplies for 150 backpacks!



The Celebration Luncheon occurred on June 3, 2011 at the Girls Inc. Gymnasium with a crowd of 250 participants. The event celebrated the success of Girls Inc. programs during the 2010-2011 school year, honored the girls and families served by Girls Inc., highlighted the opportunities created for Girls Inc. through our donors, and awarded \$45,000 in college

scholarships to six deserving young women: Allie Alarcon, Georgette Gbekie, Ashley Gilson, Aziza Mustafa, Inass Bounovar, and Cristina Uribe Reyes.

This successful event was supported by many generous financial supporters, including: CoBank, Saunders Construction, Pam McCoy, Zenith Sourcing, Linda Brisnehan, Theresa Donnelly, Kim Haverly, Nancy Shea, Eliza Buyers, Elizabeth Paulsen, Alice Stephens, the Helen M. McLoraine Girls Inc. Scholarship Fund at the Denver Foundation, and The Pioneer Fund. In Kind sponsors included: Lockerpartners Promotional Web Video, HOT 107.1 Radio, Colorado Public Television 12, Taqueria El Gallito, Happy Cakes, Garbonzo's, Work Options for Women, Popchips!, Whole Foods Market of Cherry Creek, and DaVinci Sign Systems. For this first time the event also hosted a raffle, with special thanks for raffle donors: Southwest Airlines, Cheryl Tilly, Hyatt Regency Tech Center Hotel, Matrix Fitness Spa, Whole Foods of Cherry Creek, Linda Johnson Garrett, Xcel Energy, Linda Brisnehan, Diz's Daisies, Maggiano's Little Italy, Denver Children's Museum, Heidi's Deli, Lauren Naylor, and Theresa Donnelly. Thank you so much to everyone who attended the event and who helped make it successful!

The next Alliance Meeting will be at Lauren Naylor's house on September 8, 2011. A coffee bar and pastries will be hosted by our Hospitality Chairs Katharine Honnen and Christy Jordan. An Evite invitation will go out a few weeks before the meeting, but put it on your calendars now as you won't want to miss!

There is no way we could be having such an outstanding year if we did not have so many strong, smart, and bold people in this organization. Thank you for all your hard work. We are looking forward to the next few months as we continue to work together to complete our goals for 2011!



We're sure you've received your Save the Date postcard for Girls & Guys Night Out on October 20, 2011 at Hyatt Regency Tech Center. Chair Hillary Adams is doing an outstanding job on this event and has organized great committees who are working hard to ensure a wonderful evening. It is the 25th year of this event, and with the winner of "Last Comic Standing" John Heffron as our entertainer, it will sell out, so get your tickets soon, it's going to be a blast! You could even celebrate the 25th by bringing 25 of your friends!

2011 Calendar of Events

- August 17th** – Annual Meeting of the Girls Inc. Board, 5:30-7:30pm, Home of Linda Brisnehan.
- September 6th** – Start of School year sessions for Teen and Youth Programs.
- September 10th** – Volunteer Orientation 9am-1pm
- September 10th** – Xcel Energy Day of Service
- September 15th** – The Table Hostess Party for Girls & Guys Night Out will be held from 5-7pm at the home of Michelle Hanley.
- September 17th** – Volunteer Training 9am-4pm
- September 24th** – Weekend Workshop*: Intro to Anatomy for Middle and High School girls.
- October 9th** – Weekend Workshop*: Assertiveness/Communication for Middle and High School girls.
- October 20th** – 25th Anniversary of Girls & Guys Night Out. Comedic entertainment provided by John Heffron at the Hyatt Regency DTC.
- October 25th** – Start of Teen Center Session II
- November 13th** – Weekend Workshop*: Relationships/Personal Values for Middle and High School girls.
- December 11th** – Weekend Workshop*: Abstinence/Contraception for Middle and High School girls.

*All Weekend Workshops will be facilitated at Girls Inc. of Metro Denver's West Colfax facility for Middle and High School girls.

To learn more about any of Girls Inc. of Metro Denver events visit our website at www.girlsincedenver.org

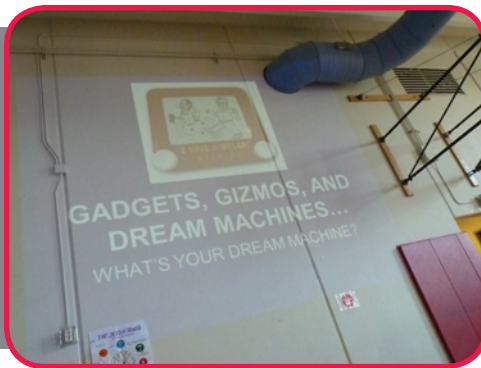
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BuildIT Taking Technology to the Top



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GIMD has been selected as one of the 21 Girls Inc. affiliates to implement the pilot program, Build IT. This curriculum for middle school girls is aimed at developing Information Technology (IT) fluency and increasing interest in mathematics and knowledge of IT careers. Build IT is a problem solving curriculum that capitalizes on girls' interest in design and communication technologies and incorporates performance tasks for IT fluency assessment.

Build IT is fundamentally a curriculum about design. The way in which the curriculum was developed uses an Understanding by Design framework, a term that focuses the design of curricular materials on the ultimate goal of understanding rather than memorization or coverage. Each unit, therefore, is guided by a set of Enduring Understanding- the big ideas of a discipline. The big ideas in Build IT draw from the disciplines of computer science and mathematics.

During GIMD summer sessions, 85 girls participated in Build IT classes during all three sessions of summer programming. The class was designated into three units and lessons ranged from designing your "perfect hangout area" to blog creations to an introduction to HTML. At the end of each unit the girls invited their friends and families to "Family Tech Night" at the Girls Inc. West Colfax center and presented what they had been working on throughout the session. We are excited to offer this curriculum during our 2011-2012 school year as well.