



## **Girls Inc. receives \$20,000 U.S. Bank Community Possible grant; celebrates grand opening of new STEM space**

**Denver, Co. (September xx, 2018)** – Girls Inc. is excited to open the doors on a new STEM space thanks in part to a \$20,000 Community Possible grant from U.S. Bank. The new makerspace will feature two 3-D printers, virtual reality sets, tools, a mobile photo studio, and crafting machines among new computers and iPads and many other enhancements.

Girls Inc. of Metro Denver (GIMD) serves approximately 2,400 girls and youth annually through its center-based and school programs, which include after-school and summer programs, evening and weekend workshops, and break programming. Programs focus on “whole-girl” development that equips girls to navigate gender, economic and social barriers and grow into healthy, educated, and independent adults. An essential element of the Girls Inc. experience is providing girls with access to girl-centered, motivating, deliberate, and interactive activities that promote girls’ strengths and creativity.

Girls Inc. of Metro Denver President & CEO, Sonya Ulibarri said, “Giving girls access to these tools and technology will have long-term benefits. Even if some of these girls have access to these technologies in their classrooms at school, this will provide a unique opportunity for them to explore their ideas and questions in a girls-only, pro-girls space. GIMD can serve an important role in expanding learning and develop their curiosity further – this opportunity for empowerment cannot be understated.”

The Makerspace will be a collaborative area where girls can gather to create explore, innovate, create, and problem solve. Encouraging girls to engage (and play) with 3-D Printers, software, robots, electronics, craft and building supplies, will broaden their horizons and broaden their curiosity for the world around them. In addition to Do It Yourself projects, this space will also support the learning objectives of GIMD’s STEM and entrepreneurship programs.

“We believe in the power of play and its ability to bring joy, to help develop problem-solving skills, creativity and relationships and to build social and emotional learning,” said Hassan Salem, Colorado Market President for U.S. Bank. “That is why we are so thrilled to celebrate with Girls Inc. as it opens up this new STEM space, inspiring the next generation of engineering and technology leaders. We can’t wait to see what these girls create next.”

This summer, U.S. Bank and its 74,000 employees are making work and play possible for one million people by helping young people learn how to start their own businesses, refurbishing play spaces and providing \$6 million in Play grants to nonprofit organizations across the country (Work grants to be announced this fall). It’s part of U.S. Bank’s corporate social responsibility work focused on economic development, which comes to life through Community Possible, the company’s giving and engagement platform that closes the gap between people and possibility in the areas of Work, Home and Play.

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**ABOUT Girls Inc.**

Girls Inc. of Metro Denver (GIMD) was founded in 1983 by individuals committed to reducing the number of girls becoming teen mothers, dropping out of high school, and entering correctional facilities. GIMD is an affiliate of the national Girls Incorporated organization, a recognized authority on girls' issues with a history dating back to 1864. Its mission is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold, and its vision is a world in which every girl values her whole self, discovers her inner strengths, and achieves her goals.

**ABOUT U.S. BANK**

U.S. Bancorp, with 74,000 employees and \$461 billion in assets as of June 30, 2018, is the parent company of U.S. Bank, the fifth-largest commercial bank in the United States. The Minneapolis-based bank blends its relationship teams, branches and ATM network with mobile and online tools that allow customers to bank how, when and where they prefer. U.S. Bank is committed to serving its millions of retail, business, wealth management, payment, commercial and corporate, and investment services customers across the country and around the world as a trusted financial partner, a commitment recognized by the Ethisphere Institute naming the bank a 2018 World's Most Ethical Company. Visit U.S. Bank at [www.usbank.com](http://www.usbank.com) or follow on social media to stay up to date with company news.

**About Community Possible**

Community Possible is the corporate giving and engagement platform at U.S. Bank, focused on the areas of Work, Home and Play. The company invests in programs that provide stable employment, a safe place to call home and a community connected through arts, culture, recreation and play. Philanthropic support through the U.S. Bank Foundation and corporate giving program reached \$58.4 million in 2017. Visit [www.usbank.com/communitypossible](http://www.usbank.com/communitypossible).

