



Girls Incorporated® of the Greater Capital Region

2012 Annual Report



962 Albany St., Schenectady NY 12307
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www.girlsinccapitalregion.org

Inspiring ALL girls to be strong, smart, and bold!SM



GE Celebrates with

Girls Incorporated of the Greater Capital Region

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE



imagination at work

The Girls Inc. Mission

Girls Incorporated® is committed to a vision of empowered girls and an equitable society. Through life-changing programs and experiences that help girls navigate gender, economic, and social barriers, Girls Inc. inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.sm

Research-based informal education programs encourage girls to take risks and master physical, intellectual, and emotional challenges. Curricula is delivered by trained, mentoring professionals and addresses the areas of culture and heritage, health and sexuality, leadership and community action, career and life planning, sports and adventure, and self-reliance and life skills. In a positive, all-girl environment, girls ages 5 to 18 are equipped to:

- *achieve academically*
- *lead healthy and physically active lives*
- *manage money*
- *navigate media messages*
- *discover an interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers*

With our free after-school programs in both our Albany and Schenectady sites, the Summer Fun day camp program, all-day activities during school vacation weeks, community outreach programs, including Girls' Summit and GE Technology Day and Job Shadow Day, and other programs including Eureka!®, our agency served a total of 11,407 girls in 2012.



A Year of Transition

In April, as the organization celebrated its milestone anniversary of serving girls in the Capital Region for 75 years, the Board of Directors was searching for a new Executive Director. Following Gail Wilson-Giarratano's departure in March, Jennifer Amstutz, former VP for Program Development, oversaw operations as the agency's interim President/CEO.



In September, the organization welcomed new Executive Director, Ashley Jeffrey. Ashley spent eight years with the American Cancer Society, most recently as the Capital Region's Community Mission Manager. She advocated for access to early detection and prevention policies for the underserved, and consulted with local businesses and health care companies on the Gold Standard for cancer prevention and early detection. Ashley herself is a cancer survivor. She made it her mission to ensure that the words "you have cancer" would be heard by fewer and fewer individuals.

A Siena College graduate, Ashley is a member of the Albany Promise High School, College, and Career Success Task Force; the New York State After-school Network Greater Capital Region Workgroup; Albany-Colonie Women's Business Council; and the United Way Agency Chief Executive Council. She was a panel expert for

Girl Model and *Miss Representation*, and also served on the Board of Directors for the Albany chapter of the Salvation Army.



A shining example of "strong, smart, and boldSM," Ashley was the only girl in her martial arts testing group, and holds a black belt in Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan.

Our Eureka!® Moment

Of the 90+ Girls Inc. affiliates in the U.S. and Canada, in 2012 our Greater Capital Region agency became the 9th to offer the free, five-year Eureka!® program. We are extremely grateful to SEFCU and the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) for donating \$800,000 in financial and in-kind support needed to offer the inaugural five-year program. In total, 30 slots are available. After soliciting interest from girls throughout the area, and interviewing candidates and parents, 27 girls committed to the five-year program.

This multi-year effort combines STEM, sports and personal development activities with an intensive experience on a college campus for four weeks starting the summer before 8th grade. Girls return to CNSE for their second summer and participate in a new and different four-week day camp. In years three and four, girls choose from a number of placements in local businesses and organizations for their Eureka! Internship Program. For the final summer, the



program coordinator helps each girl secure an internship, job, or summer program on her own.

In preparing girls for their next step after high school, Eureka! encourages discovery and exploration with hands-on activity, rather than just listening.

Placing girls on a college campus reinforces the importance of higher education. Girls have access to top-level scientists on the job in a world class facility. The program utilizes gender-based learning methods to effectively engage girls, and measures outcomes. From September to June, girls must take part in monthly Eureka! programs and earn enough credits to proceed.

The program coordinator works with each girl to develop a plan that meets her individual interests and needs.

Sponsors

Signature Sponsor

As our exclusive Signature Sponsor, **GE** generously supports our mission annually, consistently contributing over \$100,000 through the GE family of employees, businesses and the GE Foundation. The lead sponsor of the **Operation SMART®** (Science, Math, And Relevant Technology) program, GE helps to enhance the organization's capacity to educate and inform girls of fields that are increasingly important and continue to be underrepresented by women. The goal is to build girls' enthusiasm and skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) through high-quality, hands-on, inquiry-based education and personal contact with role models in STEM fields.



For **Technology Day** on the GE Research Foundation campus in November, members of GE's Women's Network engaged 75 girls and leading scientists and engineers with fun activities.

Job Shadow Day in April placed girls on GE's downtown Schenectady campus aside employees at work. Many of them hail from different parts of the US, while others come from areas across the globe. Despite geographic differences and occasional communication barriers, on Job Shadow Day or Technology Day Girls Inc. members and GE employees speak the same language – technology for the future!

President's Circle

President's Circle sponsor **National Grid** annually provides Girls Inc. with very



generous support that funds our **Summer Fun** summer camp program, which runs for four weeks in Schenectady and six weeks in Albany. Each day, 70 girls from kindergarten through 8th grade enjoyed physical activity and play, including swimming,

as well as hands-on activities that incorporated STEM learning, and self-reliance and life skills programs. Each week's activities enveloped a different educational theme, and girls participated in unique field trips and presentations. It also enables us to offer a selection of enrichment opportunities to girls during April vacation week.

At the Saratoga County Fair every year, Summer Fun participants are National Grid's guests. In addition to enjoying rides and cotton candy and all other aspects of a summertime fair, girls get front-row seating for an educational demonstration of National Grid's work and its role in the community.

Executive Circle

Time Warner Cable (TWC) is an Executive Circle sponsor. With our focus on helping girls become educated and independent adults, and TWC's focus on STEM education, this partnership presents generous educational opportunities for girls.

The **Annual Girls' Summit** is TWC's full-day forum designed to advance women in science and technology. Workshops throughout the day are centered on STEM and also incorporate leadership and problem-solving skills. In 2012, nearly 100 seventh-grade girls from the Ballston Spa and Greater Amsterdam school districts participated in the CAMM (Connect A Million Minds) concept of giving girls the skills to solve the problems of tomorrow.

In collaboration with local schools, Girls Inc. provided an additional 100 Capital Region girls with **Operation SMART On the Go** programming held in different schools around the area. This encourages every girl to explore by providing basic knowledge of math and science processes while allowing for discovery and questions. This hands-on, research-based national Girls Inc. curriculum encourages risk taking, observation, and creative thought with programs that focus on areas such as forensics, astronomy, engineering, architecture, and chemistry.

By engaging girls in science and math, **Albany Medical Center (AMC)**, also an Executive Circle sponsor, looks to stimulate girls' interest in health care careers with a program called Explore! This supports AMC's workforce development initiatives as well as its commitment to improved quality of life for the communities it serves. AMC provided opportunities to expose girls and their families to health care careers ranging from those that require limited education and skills to those that require advanced-level education and

knowledge. With field trips during after-school and summer programs, AMC showed girls different health care jobs and careers.

To Our Volunteers

With the time, talents, and treasures given by members of our **Cornerstone Group**, and so many individuals, businesses, and organizations, girls from throughout the Capital Region continue to experience the programs at Girls Inc. that help them regain the inner strength to make healthy choices and create brighter futures. In a day and age when down time is rare, you have chosen to give your time to girls and their families – **Thank You.**

We know, all too well, that without this generosity and caring, Girls Inc. members - especially those who come from economically disadvantaged families - would not have been exposed to the career possibilities and activities that may help them break negative cycles. Without our caring volunteers, the positive role models and safety that is Girls Inc. would not be known by the girls who need it the most. Thank you for your commitment to local girls and to the mission of Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region.



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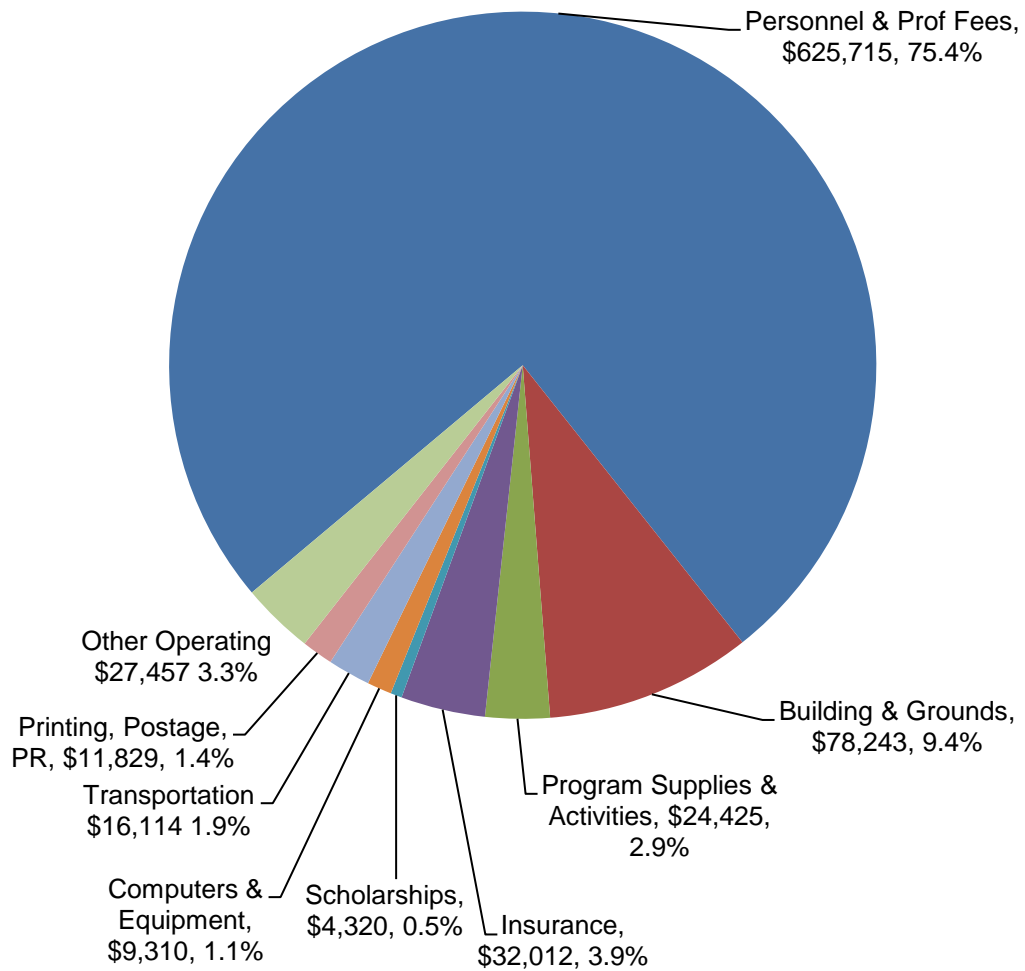
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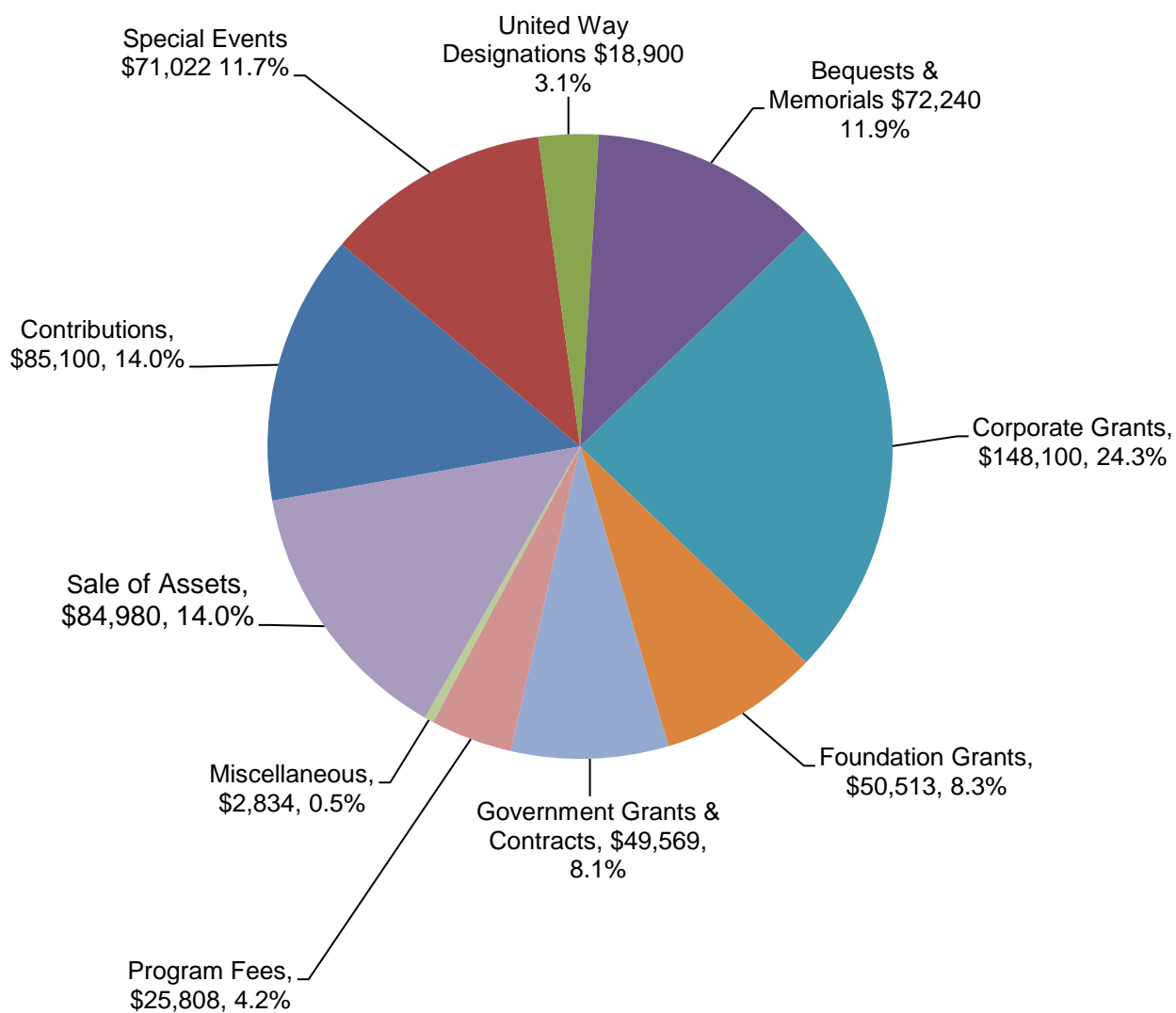
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 Capital Wine & Liquor
 Mr. Lee Castleman
 CDPHP
 The Century House
 Georgere Chrysogeios
 Circus Café
 Clifton Park Pizza
 Cohoes Muisc Hall

Crisafulli Bros. Plumbing and Heating
 Gretchen DeKalb
 Desmond Hotel & Conference Center
 Ms. Nancy DiCerbo
 Mr. John Digesualdo
 Eagle Crest Golf Course
 Elissa Halloran Designs
 Patti Ellis
 Empire Merchants North
 Enve Hair Loft
 Ms. Roxanne Farnell
 Felthousen's Florist & Greenhouse
 First Columbia, LLC
 Ms. Ann Fisher
 Fit for Life Wellness Center
 Fitness Together
 Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum & Art Gallery
 Frank Gallo & Son Florist
 Fresh Market
 The Ginger Man
 Mona Golub
 Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
 Hair Studio One
 Hampton Inn & Suites Albany Downtown
 Hannoush Jewelers
 Healing Path Massage
 Ms. Gail Hessney
 Hillcrest Golf Course

Howe Caverns
 Iron Works Golf Course
 Ms. Joanna Jackson
 Jacob's Pillow Dance
 Jenn Moak Photography
 Joe Namath Football Camp
 Johnny Tillerweed
 Lake George Steamboat Company
 Ms. Deborah LaMontagne
 Mr. & Mrs. Tome & Andrea Lantz
 Renee Lipscomb
 Longfellows Hotel & Restaurant
 Lynne's Candles & Inspirations
 Helen MacDonald
 MiSci
 Moon & River Café
 Mr. Michael Mullaney
 Mildred Elley and Austin's School of Spa Technology
 National Baseball Hall of Fame
 New York Football Giants
 New York Jets
 Niskayuna Wines & Liquor
 Old Bryan Inn
 Olde Saratoga Brewing Co.
 Palace Theatre
 The Pottery Place
 Mr. Henry Pritchard
 Mr. John Reschovsky
 Ms. Cheryl S. Richardson

Rose & Kiernan
 Sally Quinn Interiors
 Ms. Kathleen Sanders
 Saratoga Spa Golf
 Mr. Richard Scharphorn
 Schaubert Stables, LLC
 Ms. Rose Marie Schrader
 Ms. Linda M. Sciocchetti
 Silver Parrot
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Slater
 Snip-its Kids Haircuts
 Ms. Angela R. Stimpson
 Superior Business Products, Inc.
 TGI Friday's
 Time Warner Cable Media
 Tri-City Valley Cats
 Vicarious Visions
 Mr. William Vining
 Washington Tavern
 Ms. Melanie Welch
 Ms. Korrin White
 Yono's Restaurant
Every gift from every donor is greatly appreciated! If your name is missing or listed incorrectly, please accept our apology. Let us know and we will be sure to update the electronic version of this report.



A photograph of two women wearing white hard hats and high-visibility yellow safety vests. Both hard hats and vests feature the National Grid logo. The woman on the left is wearing safety glasses and looking down. The woman on the right is also wearing safety glasses and looking down. They appear to be in a professional or industrial setting.

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