

girls  
inc.

of Delaware

2025

ANNUAL  
REPORT



(302) 575-1041



<https://girlsincde.org>

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**WENONA SUTTON**

Executive Director  
Girls Inc. of Delaware

2025 marked a pivotal year for Girls Inc. of Delaware – a year defined by rebuilding, renewed momentum, and a deep commitment to strengthening the foundation of our organization.

Like many youth-serving organizations across the country, we experienced setbacks in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic. Disruptions to programming, staffing transitions, and shifts in community needs required us to pause, reassess, and rebuild with intention.

When I stepped into the role of Executive Director, our priorities were clear: restore trust, stabilize operations, and ensure that girls across Delaware once again had access to safe, consistent, and empowering programming.

With the support of our board of directors, staff, volunteers, families, and community partners, we took important steps forward. We welcomed new leadership, completed a comprehensive organizational reorganization, strengthened youth safety protocols, and modernized operational systems. We launched a new website, introduced a new out-of-school-time programming model, and completed the Affiliate Management and Assessment Tool process to reaffirm our status as a fully compliant Girls Inc. affiliate.

Most importantly, we centered the voices and experiences of our girls. Their resilience, creativity, and leadership continue to guide our work and remind us why this mission matters so deeply.

Because of the progress made in 2025, Girls Inc. of Delaware is now positioned for a new era of growth and opportunity for girls across our state.

Together, we are building a Delaware where every girl has the opportunity to grow up strong, smart, and bold.

Wenona Sutton  
Executive Director

# GIRLS INC. OF DELAWARE

## OUR MISSION

Girls Inc. of Delaware inspires all girls to be strong, smart and bold. Through mentoring, research-based programs, advocacy and safe spaces, we equip girls to grow into confident leaders who break barriers, speak up for themselves, and shape their communities.



## THE GIRLS INC. EXPERIENCE

The Girls Inc. Experience is a holistic approach that centers the whole girl. Through consistent programming and mentorship, girls build confidence, strengthen academic engagement, develop leadership skills, and form supportive relationships that help them thrive.

The Girls Inc. Experience is grounded in  
three core pillars.

**Strong:** Physical and emotional wellness

**Smart:** Academic engagement and STEAM exploration

**Bold:** Leadership, advocacy and confidence

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# A YEAR OF RENEWAL

*Rebuilding, Reconnecting, and Moving Forward*

At the beginning of 2025, Girls Inc. of Delaware stood at an important moment of transition. Families were seeking stability, schools were looking for trusted partners, and girls needed safe spaces where they could feel supported and inspired to grow.

## **What do our girls need most to thrive?**

That question shaped the work that followed. Throughout the year, we strengthened safety practices, rebuilt programming structures, deepened partnerships, and invested in systems that ensure Girls Inc. of Delaware can serve girls with consistency and excellence.

**By the end of the year, Girls Inc. of Delaware emerged stronger, more focused, and ready to enter a new era of growth and opportunity.**

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# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS AND MILESTONES

## Strengthening the Foundation

2025 was a year focused on strengthening the internal capacity of Girls Inc. of Delaware. Through strategic leadership decisions, operational improvements, and renewed partnerships, the organization laid the groundwork for sustainable growth and expanded impact.

## Organizational Growth and Strategic Reorganization

One of the most important milestones of the year was a comprehensive organizational reorganization designed to align staffing, programming, and operations with the long-term vision of Girls Inc. of Delaware.

As part of this effort, we made a strategic investment in program leadership by creating three new full-time program lead positions focused on:

- Community and Data
- Partnerships and Engagement
- College and Career Pathways

These roles strengthen program quality, deepen community relationships, and ensure girls receive consistent support as they move through our leadership and workforce development pipeline.



This reorganization strengthened accountability, clarified staff roles, and positioned the organization to support expanded programming across multiple sites and age groups.

At the leadership level, we welcomed a new Executive Director and Director of Programming and Operations, forming a strengthened leadership team focused on organizational stability, program growth, and long-term sustainability.

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# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS AND MILESTONES

## Building the Infrastructure Our Girls Deserve

Behind the scenes, significant work took place in 2025 to strengthen the internal foundation of Girls Inc. of Delaware. Policies were updated, operational procedures were modernized, and safety protocols were enhanced to ensure the highest standards for the girls and families we serve.

### Investing in Our Team

We also made important investments in our staff and organizational sustainability. In 2025, Girls Inc. of Delaware overhauled its employee benefits structure to better support staff wellness and retention.

The organization implemented a Professional Employer Organization (PEO) to strengthen HR infrastructure, streamline payroll and compliance processes, and provide expanded employee benefits. In addition, we introduced a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to provide confidential resources that support staff well-being, mental health, and resilience.

### Strengthening Internal Systems

To improve collaboration and efficiency, we built and launched an internal SharePoint intranet, creating a centralized hub for staff resources, program materials, policies, and internal communication. This investment strengthens coordination across our team and supports consistent program delivery across multiple sites.

## Partnership Alignment and Program Expansion

Throughout the year, we also focused on rebuilding trust and strengthening alignment with community partners. Schools, families, and organizations play a critical role in expanding opportunities for girls, and our work centered on ensuring Girls Inc. of Delaware was once again viewed as a reliable and collaborative partner in supporting girls' development.

One key milestone was the launch of a new partnership with Glasgow High School, supporting the reengagement of high school-aged girls and expanding leadership development opportunities for older participants.

This partnership also supported the relaunch of Project Accelerate, Girls Inc. of Delaware's college and career readiness initiative that provides mentorship, leadership development, internships, and workforce exploration opportunities for young women preparing for life after high school.

These efforts also contributed to important financial milestones. Girls Inc. of Delaware secured new funding opportunities, including support connected to the Wilmington Learning Collaborative, and successfully met our annual operating budget. Completion of the Affiliate Management and Assessment Tool process confirmed Girls Inc. of Delaware as a fully compliant affiliate of the national Girls Inc. network, reinforcing our commitment to quality and accountability.

# THE GIRLS INC. EXPERIENCE IN ACTION

*A New Saturday Cohort Model Designed for Impact*

In 2025, Girls Inc. of Delaware launched a new Saturday cohort model as our primary out-of-school-time programming structure. This model ensures girls receive consistent programming focused on leadership, academic engagement, wellness, and career exploration.

## Programs support girls at every stage of development

- **Bold Beginnings**  
*Grades K - 3rd*  
Reading readiness, healthy living, and early literacy
- **Bright Futures**  
*Grades 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>*  
Leadership development, STEAM exploration, and teamwork.
- **She Leads**  
*Grades 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>*  
Leadership, advocacy, sports and self-defense, media literacy, and healthy decision-making.
- **Project Dream Bold**  
*Middle and High School*  
Experiential learning, confidence building, early career exploration and leadership
- **Project Accelerate**  
*Ages 18 - 24*  
Internships, mentorship, workforce development and career exploration



# SIGNATURE EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Throughout 2025, Girls Inc. of Delaware created meaningful opportunities for girls, families, and community partners to engage with our mission.

## Mirror Mirror at Macy's

*A new signature experience focused on confidence building, self care and mentorship. Girls Inc. of Delaware also participated in Macy's point of sale campaign, increasing community visibility and support.*

## Passport Initiative: Australia

*A global cultural experience where girls and families explored the geography, history and traditions of Australia through hands-on learning and creative activities*

## International Day of the Girl Celebration

*Hosted with I Am My Sister's Keeper and the Wilmington Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, this event centered empowerment, safety, leadership and sisterhood.*

## SHEROS Poetry and Spoken Word Experience

*New in 2025, SHEROS created a powerful space for girls to explore poetry, spoken word and public speaking. Guided by a guest poet, girls wrote original pieces, shared their voices and discovered the power of storytelling and self expression.*

## Women on Course

*A leadership and networking experience for women professionals that explored confidence and connection through golf*

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# MEET THE TEAM BEHIND THE MISSION

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**Wenona Sutton**  
Executive Director



**Madison Jeffries-Askew**  
Program Lead – Community & Data

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**Donna Barron**  
Executive Administrative Assistant

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**Olivia Griffith**  
Program Lead – Partnerships and  
Engagement



**Jennifer Ramsdell**  
Program Lead – College and Career



**Emily Navarette**  
Director of Programming



**Amaris Prescott**  
Marketing and Outreach Coordinator

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**Daijah Young**  
Facilitator

# 2026 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In 2026 we will expand school partnerships, strengthen internal systems, grow fundraising capacity and relaunch the Strong, Smart and Bold Luncheon, our 32nd event.

## NEW 2026 INITIATIVES

### COCA-COLA FC ACADEMY AND WORLD CUP PROGRAMMING

Girls will participate in leadership and workforce pathways connected to the FIFA World Cup.

### GIRLS LEADING CHANGE ADVOCACY SUMMIT

Girls and chaperones will represent Delaware at the national advocacy summit in St. Louis.

### PROJECT ACCELERATE COLLEGE

We will look to relaunch our Project Accelerate - College program in new and improved ways.

### TEENCON IN DELAWARE

A regional Girls Inc. conference experience focused on college and career exploration will be hosted in Delaware for the first time ever.



# ONE PAGE SUMMARY



## BY THE NUMBERS

More than 300 girls served

More than 10 program sites

More than \$400k in new donor revenue

8 new community partners

85% percent facilitator retention

100% of girls reported increased confidence and decision making

## 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

New leadership

Organizational reorganization

New website launched

AMAT compliance achieved

Saturday OST cohorts launched

New signature events introduced

Expanded partnerships

New internal SharePoint Intranet

## 2026 PRIORITIES

Strengthen financial health

WLC School partnerships

Improve internal systems

Fundraising growth

Strong, Smart and Bold Luncheon relaunch

Coca-Cola FC Academy

Girls Leading Change Summit

Project Accelerate College

Host Teen Con