

**Always
There
Are
Girls**

**girls
inc.**

of Omaha

2024 Annual Report

Girls are powerful, resilient, and ready to take on the world.

This year, we reflect on how Girls Inc. continues to stand beside them, ensuring they have the support, opportunities, and encouragement to thrive.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on this past year, I am struck by the profound moments that have shaped Girls Inc. of Omaha in 2024. This was my first full year as CEO, and it has been an incredible journey—one filled with growth, challenges, and deep commitment to the mission we hold dear.

Among the many milestones we celebrated, one moment stands out as truly unforgettable. We had the privilege of sharing space with the legendary Nikki Giovanni—a woman whose words have inspired generations. She reminded us of the urgency of our work, the power of young voices, and the necessity of owning our stories. One of her most powerful quotes resonates deeply with our mission: “If now isn’t a good time for the truth, I don’t see when we’ll get to it.”

This truth—about our girls’ worth, their brilliance, and their boundless potential—is what we pour into them every day. We work to ensure that every girl who walks through our doors knows that she is Strong, Smart, and Bold—not someday, not when she’s older, but right now.

Only weeks after her visit, the world lost Nikki Giovanni. Her passing was a profound reminder that every moment is precious, and that the work we do must be intentional, impactful, and urgent. Her presence,

her wisdom, and her belief in the power of young people are gifts we will carry forward.

At Girls Inc., we don’t just prepare girls for the future—we recognize their power in the present. Every program we design, every opportunity we create, and every investment we make is rooted in the belief that our girls are already capable of transforming their communities, their futures, and the world around them. This past year, we have expanded our advocacy efforts, strengthened our leadership development programs, and ensured that our spaces reflect the brilliance of the girls we serve.

To our partners, donors, and champions, thank you for believing in our mission. As we look ahead, we will honor all of the lessons of this year and continue to uplift, empower, and stand beside the next generation of fearless, unapologetic leaders.

With gratitude and purpose,



Candi Jones
Chief Executive Officer
Girls Inc. of Omaha





Every girl deserves a world that believes in her future.

Our Mission

To inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

Our Vision

Powerful girls in an equitable society.

Our Values

Recognize and support the strength in every girl.

Respect the dignity of each human being and demonstrate genuine care and concern for the well-being of others.

Understand and appreciate diversity, embrace inclusiveness, and advance equity.

Drive for results anchored in integrity and accountability.

Collaborate for impact.

Age Groups



- 25% 5-8 years
- 28% 9-11 years
- 24% 12-14 years
- 23% 15-18 years

Household Income



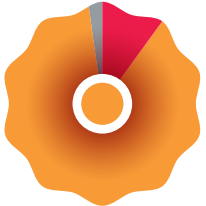
- 10% Under \$10k
- 11% \$10-20k
- 19% \$20-30k
- 20% \$30-50k
- 11% \$50k
- 29% Declined to State

Family Structure



- 40% Mother Only
- 18% Two Parents
- 6% Foster Parents
- 6% Joint Custody
- 2% Father Only
- 28% Declined to State

Ethnicity



- 10% Hispanic/Latina
- 88% Not Hispanic/Latina
- 2% Declined to State

Race



- 48% Black/African American
- 33% Multiracial
- 7% Declined to State
- 6% White
- 4% Other
- 2% American Indian/Alaska Native

An experience that's full of opportunities.

Always there are girls who need a supportive space to grow, learn, and lead in. The Girls Inc. Experience is full opportunities that prepare girls for independent life.

- **People:** Caring, nurturing adults serve as formal and informal mentors to girls, encouraging them to value their whole selves, discover and develop their inherent strengths, and receive the support they need to navigate the challenges they face.
- **Environment:** Girls-only, physically and emotionally supportive spaces where there is a sisterhood of support, high expectations, and mutual respect.
- **Evidence-based Programming:** Evidence-based, hands-on, minds-on, and age-appropriate engagement that meets the needs of today's girls. Trained staff, community program partners, and volunteer mentors ensure girls are exposed to new experiences, learning opportunities, and fun.

Healthy, educated, and independent women – that is our goal. Our comprehensive programs touch all aspects of our girls' lives by offering daily healthy meals and snacks, counseling services, technology access, and safe transportation. Our life-changing programs are focused on three core areas that address the whole girl – body, mind, and spirit.

- **Strong/Healthy:** A pro-girl environment that encourages development of inherent strengths and mental and physical health.
- **Smart/Educated:** A culture of education and lifelong learning including research-based programs in literacy and STEM.
- **Bold/Independent:** An atmosphere where girls develop the skills to elevate their voices, break barriers, effect positive change and become leaders who will change the world.



Alumna Spotlight: Joselyn Gonzalez



When I first joined Girls Inc. in the 9th grade, I was hesitant. My mom insisted my sister and I needed a structured after-school space, so we joined the Emma Lozier Center. I was shy and anxious, reluctant to leave my comfort zone. However, the welcoming staff made me feel like I belonged. Over time, I transformed from a hesitant participant into an active and outgoing Girls Inc. member, experiencing incredible opportunities that empowered me to grow beyond my wildest dreams.

After graduating from Omaha South High School, I joined the Girls Inc. team, working in various roles that deepened my connection to the mission. Now as the Director of the Emma Lozier Center, I'm excited about the opportunities the new south center site will offer our girls. With its private classrooms and Maker Space, I am thrilled to provide a haven for more girls to discover their strength, intelligence, and boldness. I can't wait to see how this new chapter inspires the next generation of Strong, Smart, and Bold girls!



Always there are girls who dare to dream and work to achieve.

These scholarship recipients embody what it means to be strong, smart, and bold, paving the way for future generations of leaders.

Scholarship Winners

Janii Blair, a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, embodies dedication and talent. An Omaha Central High School graduate with honors, she excelled in track, wrestling, and the step team and performed at Carnegie Hall. Active in Girls Inc. of Omaha since the 6th grade, she received the National Scholarship and contributed to the Black Student Leadership Council. As a pre-engineering major, Janii balances her studies with volunteering and involvement in the Afrikan People's Union and Freshman Action Team. This semester, she continues her journey at UNO while encouraging youth as a Program Specialist. Janii's passion inspires everyone around her.



95.9%
of Girls Inc. girls
say they know they
will graduate from
high school.

Anastasia Eriksen, a proud graduate of Lincoln Southwest High School, exemplifies boldness and commitment. She has been involved with the Girls Inc. Eureka! Program for five years. With a lifelong passion for science, she embraced two internships that shaped her educational future. Her experience at Branched Oak Observatory ignited her ambitions for mathematics and astronomy. Recognized for her exceptional achievements, Anastasia was honored with a Girls Inc. National Scholarship. Now at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she is pursuing her studies in Mathematics of Physical Phenomena and Data Science, all while interning at the State Museum. Anastasia is a role model for younger generations of girls to be fearless and confident in their chosen pathways.



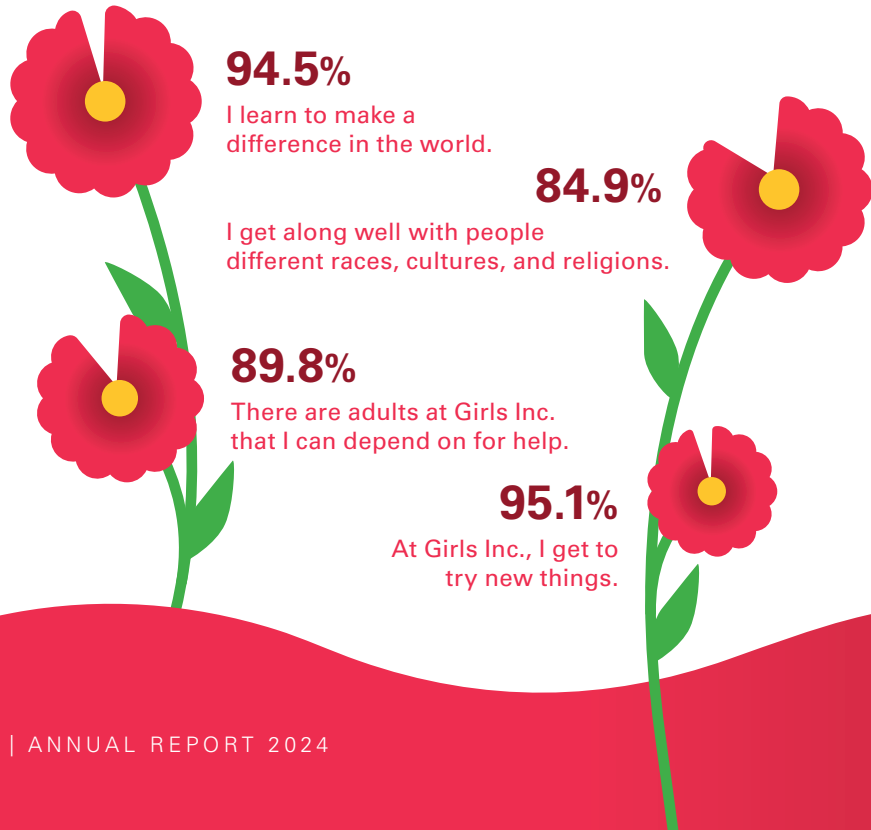
Jordan Blair, a freshman at Xavier University of Louisiana, is a remarkable example of perseverance and passion. A former captain of the Omaha Central High School track team, she shattered records while nurturing her leadership skills through choirs and the Black Student Leadership Council. Her commitment to service shone through at her church and various community events, alongside her impactful work at a summer learning center. At Girls Inc. of Omaha, she earned the National Scholarship. Jordan has embraced her new journey in New Orleans where she not only competes on the track team but also tutors fellow students and plans to study abroad—all while aspiring to make a mark on the royal court. Jordan's story is a testament to the power of hard work and community involvement in achieving one's dreams.



When we listen to girls, we see the future.

Measuring outcomes is critical to providing girls with the right support and opportunities to bloom.

- Using the latest evidence to drive quality improvement, sustainability, and advocacy efforts, we can inspire transformative action to support all girls in being strong, smart, and bold.
- Supported by our use of a network-wide database, Girls Inc. collects annual youth survey data throughout its network of 75 affiliates and over 100,000 participants.
- We use data from our national organization and other local affiliates to inform our own work and curate local programming appropriate for girls in Omaha.



Always there are girls with big dreams.

And always there are mentors, volunteers, and partners who walk beside them—lifting, guiding, and believing in their potential.

Pathfinders Mentoring: Through our mentoring programs and all-girl, pro-girl environment, girls develop positive relationships with adults. Not only do the girls and mentors benefit from their connection, but it also inspires them to create a positive impact in their communities.



Volunteers: Our deepest gratitude goes to the volunteers who continue a tradition of contributing countless hours to make a positive impact on the lives of the girls. They help raise chickens, lead sports clinics, explore science fiction, play critical thinking games, serve meals, share healthy lifestyle habits, and much more.

Program Partners: Our programs are built on a long history of collaboration with local and regional partners who bring specialized expertise to the classrooms, sports fields, science labs, yoga mats, teaching kitchens, art rooms, and much more. This access and engagement have inspired generations of girls, helping them to explore and build a strong foundation for their future growth and development.



It takes a village to ensure the girls have the opportunities they deserve.

We are grateful to our funders and supporters who make this work possible, standing with us in our mission to empower the next generation.

2024 GRANTS

African American Empowerment Network, Inc.	Mutual of Omaha
Avenue Scholars Foundation	Nebraska Arts Council
Aviture Inc.	Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
Buildertrend Solutions, Inc.	Nebraska Medical Center
Children's Hospital & Medical Center	Nebraska Medicine
CL Werner Foundation	Robert Novak & Kathleen Kirschner Olsson
Claire M. Hubbard Foundation	Omaha Public Power District
Conagra Brands Foundation	Omaha Public Schools
Deloitte & Touche LLP	Peter Kiewit Foundation
Dr. C. C. & Mabel L. Criss Foundation	Richard Brooke Foundation
Edward & Sally Malashock Family Foundation	Sokolof Foundation c/o Oakdale Strategies
Enterprise Holdings Foundation	The Acklie Charitable Foundation
Equal Play: Inspiring Confidence for Girls (EPIC!)	The Foroulis Private Foundation
First National Bank of Omaha	The Hawks Foundation
Fraser Stryker PC LLO	The Olson Foundation
Gilbert M. & Martha H. Hitchcock Foundation	The Phillip & Terri Schragger Foundation
Kiewit Building Group, Inc.	The Sherwood Foundation
Kiewit Corporation	Todd & Mary Heistand Family Foundation
Lincoln Community Foundation	United Way of the Midlands
Lincoln Financial Foundation	Weitz Family Foundation
Mammel Family Foundation	William & Ruth Scott Family Foundation
Mariner Foundation	Women's Center for Advancement
McGill Law	
Metro Omaha Medical Society Foundation	

CHAMPIONS FOR GIRLS

Champion \$50,000+

Edward & Sally Malashock Family Foundation
 Holland Foundation
 Dianne S. Lozier
 Peter Kiewit Foundation
 Richard Brooke Foundation
 The Hawks Foundation
 The Lozier Foundation
 The Olson Foundation
 The Sherwood Foundation
 United Way of the Midlands
 Richard T. Weschler
 William & Ruth Scott Family Foundation

Advocate \$25,000-\$49,999

African American Empowerment Network, Inc.
 Conagra Brands Foundation
 Dr. C. C. & Mabel L. Criss Foundation
 Lincoln Financial Foundation
 Mammel Family Foundation
 Sokolof Foundation C/O Oakdale Strategies
 The Acklie Charitable Foundation
 The Phillip & Terri Schragger Foundation



Appreciator \$10,000-\$24,999

CL Werner Foundation
 Claire M. Hubbard Foundation
 Cox Communications
 Gilbert M. & Martha H. Hitchcock Foundation
 Mutual of Omaha
 Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
 Omaha Community Foundation
 Omaha Public Power District
 Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation
 The Foroulis Private Foundation
 Todd & Mary Heistand Family Foundation
 Weitz Family Foundation



Risk Taker \$5,000-\$9,999

Altar'd State
Deloitte & Touche LLP
DMSE Sports, Inc.
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Equal Play: Inspiring Confidence for Girls (EPIC!)
Gallup, Inc.
Haku
Kiewit Building Group, Inc.
Kiewit Corporation
Manota Simon Charitable Trust
Metropolitan Utilities District
Milton & Miriam Waldbaum Family Foundation
Nebraska Furniture Mart
Security National Bank
South Omaha Historical Grant Committee
Union Pacific Railroad
Katie Weitz
Lynn Williams

Enthusiast \$1,000-\$4,999

Jane & Ray Allamong
American National Bank
Anonymous via United Way Midlands of Omaha
AO
AVA Insights
Avenue Scholars Foundation
Aviture Inc.
Baird Holm LLP
Michael O. Beatie
Paul A. & Julie K. Becker
Bellevue University
Berkshire Hathaway Inc.
Blair Freeman

Buildertrend Solutions, Inc.
David & Ann Burkholder
Central States Indemnity Co. of Omaha
Children's Hospital & Medical Center
Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson & Oldfather, LLP
College of Saint Mary
Conagra Brands Foundation
Vanessa & Chris Denney
E Creative
Tara Evans
Exchange Club of Omaha
Firespring Foundation
First National Bank of Omaha
Fraser Stryker PC LLO
Joseph Grasse
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HDR, Inc.
Tracy Hightower-Henne
Irving Harris Foundation
JE Dunn Construction
Johns Manville
Juvenile Justice
Erica Klemsz
Heather Kock
Dr. Steve & Judy Krueger
Lancaster County 4-H Council
Lincoln Community Foundation
George & Sandy Lozier
Mariner Foundation
Lynn McCormack
McGill, Gotsdiner, Workman & Lepp, P.C., L.L.O.
MECA
Metro Omaha Medical Society Foundation
Nebraska Arts Council

Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
Nebraska Medical Center
Nebraska Medicine
Murray H. & Sharee Newman
Robert Novak & Kathleen Kirschner Olsson
Omaha Police Department
Omaha Public Schools
Optimist Club of Omaha
Youth Foundation
Pinnacle Bank
Premier Claims LLC
Prodigy Asset Management
Seim Johnson, LLP
Janet Strauss
Streck Inc.
The Fred & Sally Bekins Foundation
Turner Construction Company
University of Nebraska Foundation
University of Nebraska Medical Center
UNMC Public Relations
Vic Gutman & Associates Inc.
Arnie & Anne Weitz
Whole Foods, Inc.
Billie Wilson & Michael Howard
Women's Center for Advancement
Women's Fund of Omaha
WoodmenLife



Sharing the spotlight with the legendary Nikki Giovanni.

Every year, remarkable women take the stage at Lunch for the Girls, but it's our girls who truly shine. In 2024, they proved that their voices belong right alongside the greats.

Our Lunch for the Girls event has brought together influential figures from across the country and around the world to the Omaha metro area. In 2024, it was our honor to welcome the legendary Nikki Giovanni, poet, educator, and best-selling author, who has inspired generations through her powerful words that challenged injustice and celebrate Black culture.

Girls Inc. of Omaha members played key roles in this annual event:

- Haven, Arianna, Kylee, Londyn, Ne'Cauje, and Ny'J, hosted the event gracefully and enthusiastically.
- Fatima and Talia had the unique opportunity to engage in a discussion with Ms. Giovanni, providing further insight into her impactful career and life.
- Dr. Denae Gordon, a Girls Inc. of Omaha alum and physician in our clinic, shared her journey from member to serving the next generation.

Through these conversations and a performance from 2023-2024 Nebraska Youth Poet Laureate, Aliyah American Horse, we witnessed the immense power of words.



Honoring a Remarkable Life Lived

We also had the profound honor of witnessing one of Ms. Giovanni's final public offerings of wisdom. She captivated the room with her warmth, insight, and unapologetic honesty. She impressed upon all in attendance to own their power, stay true to their dreams, and never let the world shrink them.

As we mourn her passing, we celebrate the remarkable life she led—one defined by courage, creativity, and a relentless pursuit of justice. Nikki Giovanni's influence will live on, not just in the pages of her poetry, but in the hearts of all those she inspired, especially the girls of Girls Inc. of Omaha.



Nikki Giovanni's Always There Are The Children

and always there are the children

there will be children in the heat of day
there will be children in the cold of winter

children like a quilted blanket
are welcomed in our old age

children like a block of ice to a desert sheik
are signs of status in our youth

we feed the children with our culture
that they might understand our travail

we nourish the children on our gods
that they may understand respect

we urge the children on the tracks
that our race will not fall short

but our children are not ours
nor we theirs they are future we are past

how do we welcome the future
not with the colonialism of the past
for that is our problem
not with the racism of the past
for that is their problem
not with the fears of our own status
for history is lived not dictated

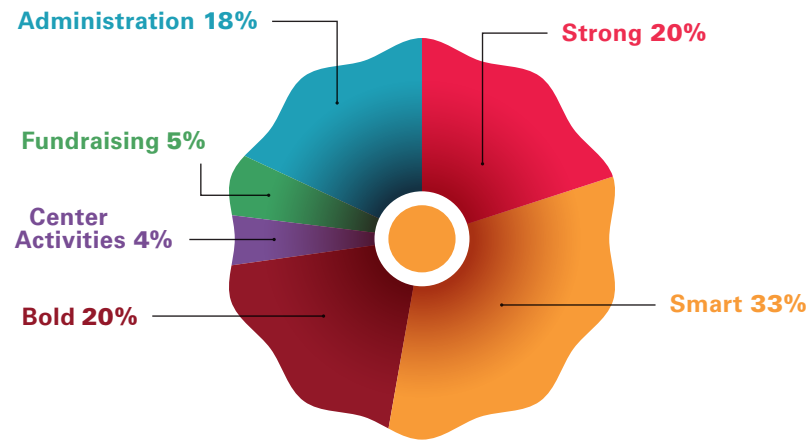
we welcome the young of all groups
as our own with the solid nourishment
of food and warmth

we prepare the way with the solid
nourishment of self-actualization

we implore all the young to prepare for the young
because always there will be children.

Your support ensures we remain strong, smart, and bold.

Behind every opportunity we provide, there is the generosity of our supporters. These numbers tell the story of our collective impact in 2024.



EXPENSES

STRONG.....	\$937,768.00	20%
SMART.....	\$1,546,554.23	33%
BOLD.....	\$936,542.24	20%
CENTER ACTIVITIES.....	\$212,755.23	4%
FUNDRAISING.....	\$236,187.50	5%
ADMINISTRATIVE.....	\$861,072.85	18%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	\$4,730,880.05	

Always there are leaders who step up for the girls.

With our dedicated board members, Girls Inc. continues to shape strong, smart, and bold women who give back.

BOARD

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 Heather Kock
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 Amy Lawrenson
 Mrunmayee Parvate
 Sherie Thomas

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 Katie Barton
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 Rhianna Kittrell
 Colee Meyer
 Samantha Salomon
 Linda Sedjro





Always, there are girls with limitless potential—waiting for the opportunity to rise. Your support ensures they are seen, heard, and empowered to lead. Your generosity shows girls you believe in them and their potential.



**Support our work
with a donation**

**girls
inc.**
of Omaha

Katherine Fletcher Center
2811 North 45th St.
Omaha, NE 68104

Emma Lozier Center
5407 South 30th St.
Omaha, NE 68107

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*We regret any
errors or omissions
in acknowledging all
the wonderful support
we received in 2024.*