Washington D.C. Chapter Self Esteem Building

Family Empowerment

Girls on the Rise Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

After school program runs Monday – Friday from September through mid-June. Summer Camp runs six weeks from end of June to beginning of August. Note: during the school year we have quarterly weekend events sponsored by Girls on the Rise and the DC Chapter.

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $533,865

Value of in-kind donations (estimated total): $2500

**Partnerships**

City Gate, St. Thomas More Catholic School, Ingenuity Prep Charter School, Hart Junior High, Project Create, DC Public Library, YMCA Capitol View,

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? Assisting with after-school and summer camp activities/workshops, referring girls to the program, partnering with CCS staff to ensure school success.

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 135-150 children, 100 families.

Age range of clients served: 5 to adult

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working): 50

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? take the girls on fieldtrips, host various drives for hygiene products, and winter accessories, sponsor a holiday boutique (where girls can “shop” for Christmas gifts for their parents), provide customized Easter Baskets, help maintain the community garden

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: To empower at-risk girls and their families. Provide program participants with the vision to plan and the tools to build their future.

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? girls ages 5-18 have six week summer camp and girls 8-18 have a 10 month daily after school program. The programs provide academic enrichment, activities to promote leadership, positive relationships, decision making and self-esteem

In 2010, the Society started the Girls on the Rise Empowerment Program, a prevention and enrichment program designed to engage at-risk girls and their families. The program offers girls various opportunities for growth including activities and experiences that promote academic, personal, social, emotional, cultural and recreational development. Girls on the Rise provides a daily after-school program for 45 at-risk girls and a six week summer camp for 75 girls. Clearly, the need is great in this the community, especially for the women and girls residing there; the Christ Child Society is there to programmatically support these deserving families with our services.

Using positive youth development principles and a holistic approach, The Christ Child Society’s Girls on the Rise program provides at-risk girls from an underserved ward of Washington DC with a safe and supportive environment where they can grow, learn, have fun and develop confidence. The program offers academic support and tutorial assistance, health and fitness, transition support, and leadership opportunities – all meant to help the girls develop the vision to plan – and the tools to build – their future. All after-school and camp activities are based on the principles of Positive Youth Development. . All of the CCS clubs and activities, such as Girl Talk groups, Movie Club, Kindness Club, Healthy City, Book Club, Girls on the Run and reading with the DC Library, all coincide with the principles of confidence, caring, character, competence and connection.

The girls, ages 8-18 who participate in the program are residents of the Washington Highlands neighborhood of Ward 8. The community is centered on the intersection of 4th and Atlantic Streets SE, an intersection that was rated the 22nd most dangerous in the country. The girls attend this program at the Mary Virginia Merrick Youth Center which is a respite from the violence and a beacon of hope for this incredibly underserved community. The Merrick Center was built through a partnership of the Christ Child Society, Archdiocese of Washington and the DC Government. While the building is an important addition to this blighted area of the District, it is what happens inside the Merrick Center that is most important.