



Impact over 2,000 girls each year by donating your time, talents, wisdom and financial support

Dear Friend,

Do you ever think of those women who helped you to become the person you are today? I am sure there were many such women. Strong, outspoken, gentle, quiet, old and young from diverse backgrounds. Mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, teachers, co-workers, bosses, and friends. How did they influence you, and provide you with a chance to achieve your dreams?

I offer you an opportunity to honor those women and “pay it forward” by supporting the girls and young women served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama through a new initiative, the “Advocates for Girls Giving Circle.”

At Boys & Girls Club of South Alabama, we witness every day the impact of programs specifically designed to help girls develop their unique selves. These girls come from different circumstances, many having already experienced a lifetime of trauma. A great many of them live in single-parent households with limited resources. The challenges they face are almost overwhelming. But each one of these girls has the potential to excel and accomplish great things. They have dreams and aspirations.

As an Advocate for Girls you will impact the lives of over 2,000 girls each year who desperately need your time, talents, wisdom, prayers and financial support. There are several ways to serve as an Advocate. Enclosed is more information and a membership form. Please consider becoming an Advocate for Girls, thereby keeping the sisterhood of women helping women a reality for future generations.

On behalf of “our” girls,

Brenda N. Carlisle

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Chief Philanthropy Officer

ANNUAL ADVOCACY LEVELS

Annual Membership: \$600 / Year or \$50 / month
Young Professional: \$365 / Year or \$31 / month

JOIN US TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Full Membership benefits include the opportunity to:

- Create Great Futures for girls
- Receive a quarterly e-newsletter with updates on how your support is changing lives
- Have your advocacy acknowledged on BGCSA's website, Facebook page & other social media platforms
- Volunteer as a tutor, guest speaker and/or field trip chaperone at Clubs
- Provide job shadowing opportunities for girls
- Utilize your gifts and talents by serving on planning committees for special events
- Honor those women who have advocated for you throughout your life journey at an annual luncheon



**advocates
for girls**
women's giving circle



Winter 2022 Newsletter



Make a “forever” difference in the lives of girls and young women in our community.

SMART GIRLS



SMART Girls (Skills Mastery And Resistance Training) is a small-group health, fitness, prevention education and self-esteem enhancement program designed to meet the developmental needs of girls in three age groups. Through dynamic sessions, highly participatory activities, field trips and mentoring opportunities with adult women, Club girls explore their own and societal attitudes and values as they build skills for eating right, staying physically fit, getting good health care and developing positive relationships with peers and adults. The girls engage in social projects for their community,

and learn skills such as etiquette for a professional business luncheon. They have heard special speakers from the DA's office and the Mobile Police Department, and have been treated to fun activities with special partners such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Wind Creek Atmore.



THE FOCUS OF ADVOCATES FOR GIRLS



- EDUCATE** - Provide a platform for women in the community to learn about and address issues faced by girls and young women today.
- ENGAGE** - Offer opportunities for the Advocates to directly support Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama programs which address those issues, with their time, talents and financial resources
- EMPOWER** - Empower other women to become Advocates and make a “forever” difference in the lives of girls and young women in our community.



On Friday, March 18th Advocates For Girls will hold the Expanding Our Vision Empowerment Conference. Girls from 10-13 years old from the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama will be invited to attend this special event where we recognize outstanding girls, like our 2022 Youth of the Year Finalists. The summit will be held at the Junior League of Mobile on North Sage Ave. The girls who attend will hear special guest speakers, enjoy a luncheon and participate in breakout sessions with

prominent women in the community. Door prizes will be available to our special guests as well. Expanding Our Vision Conference will engage, empower, and equip our girls with the knowledge and skills to amplify their voices, learn what it means to be authentic versions of themselves, and propel them into key leadership roles in the future. We will be discussing topics like success, self-esteem, bullying, relationships, and much more. This empowerment conference will include

keynote speaker Cassandra Burks, forums with local women leaders, one-of-a-kind breakout sessions, relevant networking opportunities, Advocates for Girls Scholarship announcements, and informative booths that you don't want to miss! Contact Brenda Carlisle at bcarlisle@bgcsouthal.org if you are interested in participating or sponsoring this inaugural event for our Club girls. The event limited to the first 75 girls to register.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR GIRLS

At the Expanding Our Vision Empowerment Conference, we will be presenting special Advocates for Girls Scholarships to middle school girls for their continuing growth and empowerment. Girls will have the opportunity before the conference to apply for the scholarship and write a short essay on why they would like to be considered. If you are interested in making a financial contribution to these scholarships, please contact Brenda Carlisle at bcarlisle@bgcsouthal.org or 251-680-0144.



WELCOME BACK MEROE WILLIAMS

Reflecting upon her eight years as a member of the Boys & Girls Club in Wake Forest, North Carolina, Meroe Williams does not consider herself as having been an "outstanding" Club kid. "I was certainly never selected as Youth of the Month," she laughs, "because I did sometimes get in trouble. Although I participated in other programs, I most enjoyed all the sports opportunities the Club provided, and the gym was my favorite place to be."

After high school, Meroe earned a degree in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Forensic Sciences from the University of North Carolina – Wilmington. She worked as a legal assistant, but found herself bored by a 9:00-to-5:00 desk job. So when her Coast Guard husband, Bryce, was transferred to Mobile, Meroe went to work at a downtown coffee shop where she enjoyed meeting people. But she kept hearing about job openings with the

Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama. "I thought I might enjoy working with kids, but because I was not the ideal Club kid, I did not think I would be right for the job" says Meroe. However, her family convinced her that was exactly the reason she needed to apply.

Meroe accepted a part-time Program Assistant position in June, with BGCSA at its Hollinger's Island Branch, and found she loved the work. When the full-time Branch Director position became open, she immediately applied and has now been in that position since August. "My family was correct," states Meroe, "because I find that I really understand the kids, and can relate to them. I've found my place once again at a Boys & Girls Club!"



GIRLS WISH LIST

Nearly 1 in 5 American girls have either left school early or missed school entirely, because they did not have access to menstrual products. We are collecting feminine hygiene products for distribution to girls in need. Feminine products of all types, sizes, and absorbency are needed. They may be dropped off at our Administrative Office, or ordered online to be shipped to us from our Walmart or Amazon wish lists linked on our website www.bgcsouthal.org/giving-societies

