

PROGRAM RECOGNITION AWARD
INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/PROGRAM
YGIRLS PROGRAM, FEBRUARY 17, 2009

Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

This program was undertaken to learn about the work of the Ygirls and to educate other members of the community by inviting attendance at a meeting and having the YWCA Executive Director, Linda Czerkies and Ygirls Director, Brenda Fudge provide information about the program. They arranged to have the very young girls engaged in a project of making instant ice-cream with some older girls assisting them so we could meet the girls personally and both observe and join in with the event. YGIRLS is a YWCA program for young girls 8-18 and interracial. The program provides social enrichment, mentoring and needs financial support. YGIRLS has been in existence for a number of years as GIRLS, INC. Economic straits has prevented them from spending \$1,700 to belong to that group. The Y is undergoing many changes and needs community help and involvement for this program. Financial constraints threaten worthy programming.

Our Branch wishes to help the YGIRLS because we are a powerful advocate and visible leader in advancing equity for women and girls and this is a proven effective program. In fact, Linda Czerkies, and the Parent Alesia McDaniel and Ygirls Volunteer, Rita Terrazas were Ygirls themselves years ago and are wonderful examples of the merit of the program.

The MVB AAUW planned the event, with 2 taking the lead for personal contacts. This took at least 7 hours to coordinate, plan and many phone calls and email and 2-1/2 to attend. The Evening Business & Professional Women co-sponsored this event and both groups sent out personal invitations, flyers and YGIRL brochures to members and community leaders. The U/R Metro League of Women Voters also

sent out an email message to their members regarding our event and the need for Ygirls support.

Invitations were also sent to Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito and City of Utica Mayor's wife Mrs. Cynthia Roefaro. Both are known supporters of young women and women's issues. The local newspaper, the Observer Dispatch was asked to cover this event to engage the wider community in support for Ygirls and to provide our group with community visibility for our Mission. Mrs. Roefaro notified the YWCA she could not attend and we did not have a response from Assemblywoman Destito. The newspaper did not send or cover the event. We emailed pictures which may/may not be put in Community News.


We had 4 members and one guest at the meeting. The pictures show the extent of the Program the YWCA had planned for larger participation.

While the YWCA officials and friends presented financial and volunteer opportunities, no decisions were made at that time.

Lessons Learned: No important event should not be planned in February in Central New York. The night was very cold and dark (even for 6 pm) and the YWCA is located in downtown Utica. BPW President Sunderlin, who intended to attend, explained she got home from work, the weather was nasty, so she stayed home. No other BPW member attended.

While we did not achieve some anticipated results, we are still going to discuss support for the Ygirls at our Board Meeting in March. The personal contact was motivating. Those of us who attended were very impressed with the work that is being done. The mothers are very supportive because the program teaches their daughters to be confident and strong and smart! They will make excellent future AAUW members.

The outstanding committee of YWCA women are very spirited and intelligent and they enjoyed the dialog with professional women of AAUW. They are looking forward to continued partnership and sharing of knowledge with us.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Rajchel, President

Please see attachments: Flyer, pictures, brochures, Program

YGIRLS PROGRAM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH
6:00 pm
YWCA
1000 Cornelia Street, Utica



"CLOSING THE GENDER GAP"

LEARN ABOUT THE YGIRLS PROGRAM AT THE YWCA

Ygirls is a haven for girls to find their own voice, take healthy risks, and enrich their futures through educational experiences designed specifically for, and by, them.

Girls ages 6--18 find inspiration, mentorship, and encouragement at Ygirls. Program hallmarks include non-traditional career exploration, financial education, and college visits. Curriculum is driven by participants of the program and tailored to the unique needs of girls in today's world. Members of Ygirls make life-long friendships with one another, YWCA staff, and community members.

"ADOPT A DREAM PROJECT"

LEARN HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

The Adopt-a-Dream program is an opportunity to make a connection with a member of Ygirls, and help her to achieve her dreams through financial support. Your partnership with Adopt-a-Dream is an investment in next generation's leadership.



This program is sponsored by the MVB of the American Association of University Women, and supported by the Utica Evening Business & Professional Women, and MV Women's History Project with invitations to all women's groups

Please confirm your attendance with Mary Chapin at 737-0504, maryqcl@verizon.net

name

age

race

gender

birthplace



YWCA Mohawk Valley

1000 Cornelia Street, Utica, NY 13502

www.ywcamv.org

The issue of gender, the status and image of girls and women, and the equality of gender based representation are compelling topics for both genders to explore. However, females especially need the critical thinking skills necessary to distinguish messages, whether positive or negative, relating to gender.

Ygirls - "where determination & dedication lead to success", is a research-based, developmentally-appropriate program for girls, ages 6 to 18, aimed at building resiliency, and personal and social competence.

Our all-girl, pro-girl program helps participants succeed in life by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to become self-sufficient, while simultaneously addressing critical areas that have been shown to reduce youth engagement in a wide-range of risky behaviors. Our strengths-based, skill building approach creates a safe space for girls to address risky behaviors, build on protective factors, and improve relationships in a format that interests and engages girls.



Program

girls

LINDA CZERKIES, YWCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	WELCOME
MARY CHAPIN COMMUNITY ACTIVIST	PURPOSE
BRENDA L. FUDGE YGIRLS DIRECTOR	PROGRAM OVERVIEW
ALESIA MCDANIEL PARENT	PARENT COMMITTEE
PAMELA MARTIN PARENT	PROGRAM IMPACT
MARGARET REED SHELTON YGIRLS ADVISORY BOARD	PROGRAM IMPACT
RITA TERRAZAS YWCA BOARD/YGIRLS VOLUNTEER	PROGRAM IMPACT
LINDA CZERKIES	CLOSING



What is Ygirls?

Ygirls is programming for the real world. A haven for girls to find their own voice, take healthy risks, and enrich their futures through educational experiences designed specifically for them. Ygirls is open to All girls, 6-18 years of age, residing in the Mohawk Valley.

Why only girls?

Girls must conquer social, legal, and cultural barriers that are different than those faced by boys. By providing space and programming that is targeted specifically to girls' needs and challenges, we are able to put them on the same playing field as boys.

What do you do?

Every week is different - you're never bored. Some of the things we've done include: cool science projects like - making lip gloss; belly dancing & drumming; attending community events; touring the Harriet Tubman House and The Women's Museum; and taking a ride in an Cessna airplane.

What do you talk about?

Guest speakers come in to talk about things like body image, self-esteem, peer pressure, and career choices. You have opportunities to express your opinions and speak freely with your peers about things that are important to you.

Ygirls provides a safe place for girls where they are given tools to express themselves with originality and enthusiasm, accept who they are, take healthy risks, and strive to be responsible and self-sufficient community members.

Participants learn through hands-on, real world experiences that serve to raise awareness, develop critical thinking skills and encourage positive growth.



We provide comprehensive programs that focus on areas relevant to girls:

- leadership & community action
- self-reliance & life skills
- career & life planning
- health & wellness
- culture & heritage

making an impact

"Ygirls is a lot of fun and it teaches me how to make smart choices. I've made a lot of new friends too"

- 12 year old Ygirls participant

"Before our daughter started attending Ygirls, she didn't think too much of herself. Ygirls has truly given her the confidence to do anything she puts her mind to."

-Parent of a Ygirls participant

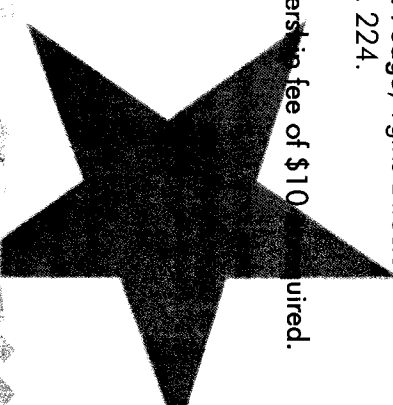
"Ygirls challenges girls in ways that other youth programs can't. It creates an environment for girls to explore their potential, to go to college, to build careers, and to expand their sense of what is possible."

-Brenda Fudge, Ygirls Director

how do i enroll in ygirls?

Contact Brenda L. Fudge, Ygirls Director at 732-2159 ext. 224.

An annual membership fee of \$10 is required.



Where do I enroll in Ygirls? How do I enroll in Ygirls? How do I enroll in Ygirls?



closing the gender gap

Girls are less likely than boys to describe themselves as very knowledgeable or confident about financial issues and managing money.

(Louis Harris and Associates, 1998, Money Talks!)

An International study revealed that in every country surveyed the female stereotype was weaker and less active than the male stereotype.

(Williams, J., *Pan-cultural Gender Stereotypes Revisited: The Five Factor Model, Sex Roles*)

Approximately one in three girls does not feel that she has opportunity for open discussion in classes.

(Horatio Alger Association, 1999, *The State of Our Nation's Youth*)

Girls in grades 9—11 indicated overwhelmingly that they would be interested in learning about how to pay for school.

(Louis Harris and Associates, 1998, *Money Talks!*)

provides a safe place for girls where they are given the tools to express themselves with originality and enthusiasm, accept who they are, take healthy risks, and strive to be responsible and self-sufficient community members. Ygirls is focused on areas relevant to girls.

**eliminating racism
empowering women**

YWCA

mohawk valley
1000 Cornelia Street
Utica, NY 13502

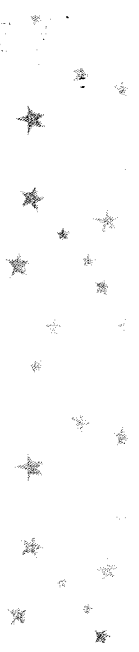
www.ywcamv.org • 315.732.2159



experiences for the real world

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YWCA



The best way to communicate with me about my Adopt a Dream partnership is via

- email postal mail

I am also interested in learning more about

- Volunteer opportunities with Ygirls
- Ygirls programming and curriculum
- Upcoming YWCA events
- Other programs of the YWCA

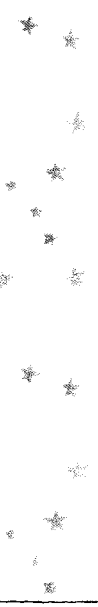
Thank you!

Your partnership is truly valued.



Please send this form to
 YWCA Mohawk Valley
 1000 Cornelia Street
 Utica, NY 13502.

Please feel welcome to contact Brenda L. Fudge, Ygirls Program Director, with any questions, at bfudge@ywcamnvalley.org or 732.2159 ext. 224.



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