

#### Girl Power's Monthly Newsletter



#### Message from the President – Thema Campbell

As Girl Power ended our summer fun, camps and vacations, we've entered the 2018/19 school year with renewed vigor and our commitment to "Improving Our World, One Girl at a Time!"

Last school year Girl Power achieved an eighty-five percent overall success rate in improving our student's ABC's (attendance, behavior and course performance). This school year our goal is a 100% ABC success rate. We have expanded our reach and investment in girls to include Richmond Heights Middle and Olinda Elementary Schools to have an even greater impact, serving girls and families who need our services the most. With the help and support of community partners, funders and trained dedicated staff, we plan to raise the bar on outcome achievement for every girl we serve this school year and beyond.

Our girls deserve nothing less than to be fully equipped to attain educational excellence, make informed decisions and pursue the things that guarantees their success in school and in life. We are happy and enthusiastic about the new school year. Good luck to all in the new school year and God Bless!

# Girl Power in the Community It Takes a village Back to School Block Party

On Saturday, August 11th Girl Power, Lotus House, Concerned African Women, Jessie Trice Community Health Systems, Inc. and the Overtown Youth Center, hosted Overtown's first annual "It Takes A Village" summer fun, health fair and back to school block party, from noon to 5:00 pm. Girl Power set up an interactive fun filled table with a photo booth and back to school supplies for the children of Overtown and the surrounding communities. Parents and children stopped by our table and took pictures at our photo booth. We used this opportunity to bring awareness to the community about Girl Power's work in Overtown and even recruit students for upcoming programs. The day was filled with music, entertainment, and even included an opportunity for parents to get their children vaccinated. FIU had their mobile mammogram bus there as well, and women were able to get a screening done right then and there. Altogether, it was a great event that assisted in getting our children ready for the school year. There was plenty of fun to be had, dancing in the streets, water slides for the children and delicious soul food and food for the soul prepared by Jackson's Soul Food and Lil Greenhouse Grill. When all was said and done, as we cleaned up the streets and scurried the children away, Girl Power along with the other partners all agreed that this is worth repeating next year, and the next and next.



### Student Spotlight - Mahogany Porter



Mahogany Porter has been participating in Girl Power programs for the past two years. Most recently she attended the College and Career Readiness STEAM Summer Camp, where she participated in math and science labs, coding sessions, yoga and many other activities. When Mahogany first enrolled in our Summer Camp in 2016 she faced many challenges. She had behavioral issues both at home and in school. Girl Power staff enrolled her in the Girls Intervention Program after that Summer Camp, and during her time there she made great strides in improving her behavior. Mahogany set goals and really changed her way of dealing with conflicts and difficulties.

During the 2018 Girl Power STEAM Summer Camp Mahogany worked very hard to make it the most educational and successful experience for herself. Whenever she had a difficulty she immediately communicated with her instructors, and made it a point to resolve conflicts using tactful resolution skills. Our Summer Camp includes a Code Fever competition, where the girls worked on revamping social media campaigns for local businesses, including Girl Power. The girls worked on this for the six weeks of the Summer Camp and then prepared to present their work in front of a panel of judges. After presentations the judges chose first, second and third place winners. Mahogany was determined from the beginning to win first place. She took every opportunity to practice and made sure her presentation was absolutely perfect. Presentation day came, and she did an amazing job. Needless to say she won first place! Mahogany and the Summer Camp instructors are so proud of the improvements she has made. These are the stories that make our work worthwhile at Girl Power.

# 2018 GIRL POWER ROCKS AWARD HONOREE



## Constance Collins, Esquire.

Girl Power's 2018 "Girl Power Rocks Award" honoree is non-other than Constance Collins, Esquire.

Constance is President and Executive Director of the Sundari Foundation, Inc., a nondenominational 501c3 public charity, best known as the Lotus House Women's Shelter, and its supporting foundations, Lotus Endowment Fund, Inc., Lotus Village Development, LLC, and Lotus Supporting Foundation, Inc. A lawyer and businesswoman prior to founding Lotus House, she has served as a full-time volunteer for the Lotus family of charitable organizations since 2004, founding and overseeing the development, operations, programming, services, research and growth of the Lotus House and it's all new, state of the art, comprehensive

homeless services facility in Lotus Village, setting new standards on a national level with trauma informed, evidence based, best practices, and proven strategies to ending and preventing homelessness that put children first and respond sensitively to the gender specific needs of women.

In addition to Constance's trailblazing accomplishments as President/Executive Director of Sundari Foundation, Inc., Girl Power has been a direct benefactor of her charitable contributions and has partnered with her on several community projects. Constance Collins was the very first supporter of the Mama Hattie House Residential and Educational Complex, stepping up to the plate offering site control on a plot of land in Overtown to secure a GOB award.

### GIRL POWER'S 6TH ANNUAL GOSPEL BRUNCH EXPLOSION



Book tix now at http://bit.ly/gpbrunch18 Interested in becoming a Corporate Sponsor or Media Sponsor contact us in the comment section or direct message us or call the office at 305-756-5502.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



On Sunday, November 4th, 2018 from 2 to 5 pm, Girl Power will host our 6th Annual Gospel Brunch Explosion featuring Girls' Choir of Miami and a guest performance by SENSERE. The brunch will be hosted by Beth David Congregation, 2625 SW 3rd Avenue, Miami, FL 2 pm. All proceeds will help fund Girl Power's intervention and prevention programs and services including after-school and the Girls' Choir of Miami. During the Gospel Brunch, we will serve a delicious brunch prepared by Chef Amaris Jones and Chef Irie. Book tix now at http://bit.ly/gpbrunch18 Interested in becoming a Corporate Sponsor or Media Sponsor contact us in the comment section or direct message us or call the office at 305-756-5502.

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