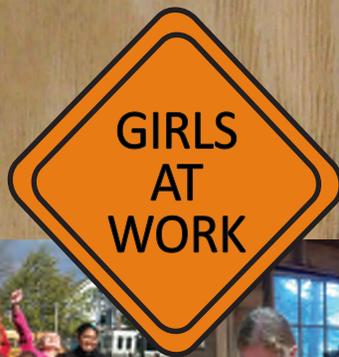


BUILDING



BELIEVING



We are happy to share with you a glimpse into so much that has happened with our young builders this year!

Empowering Women in Shelters

In early March we delivered some beautiful lockers that were built by young girls from The Circle Program. We delivered them to a shelter that housed women and children and we taught the residents how to install the lockers. Not only were these women grateful for the beautiful lockers but they were very proud of themselves for learning how to install them!



After School Pilot Program is a Success!

In May we had the opportunity to pilot an after school program thanks to the Rolfe and Rumford Foundation. We built with young girls at the Walker School in Concord as well as some teens from Child and Family Services group homes. "Girls at Work was a PHENOMENAL addition to our after-school program. As the director, I received more positive feedback from parents on this program than almost any other in 5 years. The girls enthusiasm to participate and engage was a true delight to watch. To witness otherwise timid girls confidently wielding power tools made my day" Erica Feldman A.C.E. Program Coordinator Walker School.



400 + Build at Girl Scout Centennial Weekend

This spring we were invited to build with young girls at a Girl Scout Centennial Celebration in Barnstable Mass. These first time builders were so anxious to learn how to build that they waited for up to an hour, in the rain! We managed to get just over 400 girls through the workshop we set up indoors and each builder had the chance to bring home a shaker peg board, built with pride!

"Now I know I can"

Lake Champlain was a beautiful backdrop for our summer build with Camp Hochelaga (YWCA). Our older builders built picnic tables and some really sweet benches that are displayed all over the property. Our youngest built a small shaker peg board to take home with them as a reminder of how powerful they are! Of all the comments we heard one of our favorites was "I think when I get bigger I am gonna build my own house, cuz now I know I can!"



Disability is No Match for Determination

So many of our young builders (girls at risk) have to overcome such obstacles in their everyday lives and it just seems so unfair. While many of these obstacles are not visible to most of us, Zebra Crossing out of Dover NH, an organization that serves youth with chronic health conditions, is no stranger to visible obstacles. We were excited to partner again this year with ZC and had the chance to see little builders burst with pride as they built an entire stool with the help of a peer. It was truly amazing to watch as a young girl, with an arm that is completely paralyzed, refused to let that get in her way of building. Where there is a will...



Girls Move Into Construction Wing of Manchester School of Technology

For the second year in a row, we were fortunate to receive a full week of support from the Department of Education. We built at the Manchester School of Technology

BUILDING



BELIEVING



where it was fascinating to learn that there had not been any girls in the construction wing of the school in several years. Needless to say we filled the area with lots of sawdust and an awareness that not only can girls build, but they can do it really well!

Yes we can!

It's such a treat to watch teen girls overcome so much self doubt as they learn to use power tools. We spent time in Vermont at Camp Farnsworth building with Counselors in Training (CIT's). To see them continually question every step along the way is difficult, but to see them consumed with pride by the finished product makes it all worthwhile!



Circle Program Girls: Building With Confidence

We have partnered with The Circle Program in Plymouth NH for many years. It is so exciting to build with some of the same girls from year to year. This summer the girls at CP built beautiful chairs to raise funds for their summer camp. To watch these young builders strap on tool belts and shift into building mode with very little assistance is a sure sign that building is a tool that empowers young girls to believe in themselves for the long term.



Shed: More Than Just a Structure

Most folks see a shed as a small building to store equipment. When teams of young girls at risk build a shed, they themselves see this structure as a symbol of success, a real trophy of accomplishment, teamwork, strength and determination. This summer was no exception as we built a third shed at Child and Family Services Camp Spaulding. What a treat to have such symbols of strength displayed all over the grounds of a summer camp that provides so much needed support for these girls.

Bring It!

This fall we are gearing up to 'revamp' our strategic plan with our awesome board of directors and some wonderful consultants. In an era with so many cuts to social service programs, we at Girls at Work, Inc. are working hard to continue to provide programming that empowers girls throughout New England. Join us as we strive to improve the lives of young girls at risk by exposing them to their inner power tools through building. You will meet some wonderful folks and feel good about the difference you can make!

It Takes All of Us to Empower Girls

We feel honored to provide such empowering programming to some amazing non profits throughout New England. While funding cuts are still hitting so many, we are gearing up for our third annual Musicfest to help subsidize the cost of our program to those taking a hit. It is your support that helps us make a difference in the live of young at risk girls. Please join us in November and join our Facebook page Girls at Work, Inc. for more details.



For More Information Please Contact Us:

603-345-0392

www.GirlsWork.org

Elaine Hamel, Executive Director