

# Strong, Smart, & Bold.

girls  
inc.  
of Jacksonville

## President & CEO Address to Stakeholders



Hello, everyone!

I'm Deidra Simon, the new CEO of Girls Inc. of Jacksonville, and I am thrilled to be part of this inspiring organization. From my first day, I've felt the energy and support from our staff, volunteers, and partners. These experiences have fueled my excitement for the potential we can unlock for our girls.

Girls Inc. of Jacksonville stands on a strong foundation built by those who came before us and the ongoing dedication of our current team, board members, and supportive partners. Together, we're creating a world where girls are empowered to be Strong, Smart, and Bold.

This fall, I look forward to engaging more closely with the schools we serve and inviting you to join me on school visits. These tours are a wonderful way to see firsthand the safe, pro-girl environment we cultivate and the powerful programming that equips girls to thrive. In the coming months, I look forward to meeting you, learning about your involvement, and working together to support the remarkable young women in our community.

**“Together, we're creating a world where girls are empowered to be Strong, Smart, and Bold.”**



## The Making of a Princess

Among the many activities our Elementary girls participated in during the summer, their favorite activity was making their very own princess with Heavenly Oven's Nutrition Program. This activity was special to our girls because not only were they able to construct their own princess with an array of foods and treats, they were also reminded of all the princess attributes they possess within themselves, such as grace, a strong work ethic, kindness, and of course beauty!



What Ms. Chelsey, loved most about this activity was that, even though each girl was given the same products and foods to create their Princess', each Princess was different!

# Strong



This spoke to the fact that each and every one of us are unique and wonderfully made. Though we have similar attributes, everyone expresses themselves differently, and that's what displays our uniqueness. Seeing their sticky smiles as they sneaked icing glue in their mouths was such a pleasure to see, kids being kids. Having fun and being creative!

Ms. Chelsey Pough, Girls Inc. of Jacksonville's Elementary Program Manager said this of the program:

**"I am pleased that I was able to curate that kind of atmosphere for my girls. I am also very grateful to our community partner, Heavenly Oven's Nutrition program, for implementing impactful hands-on activities that builds upon our mission to inspire all girls to be Strong, Smart and Bold."**

## Greetings Girls Inc of Jacksonville Community !



It is such an honor to join the wonderful work of Girls Inc as the High School Program. I come with an extensive background in youth development, program management, and curriculum design. I hold a Masters Degree in education and above all, I have a huge passion for ensuring that our young ladies have the tools they need to elevate their positioning in a world that may not always support them.

*Smart*

In only a short time in the role, I have been able to begin the revamp of Project Accelerate – an initiative that the girls can utilize up until age 22, connecting with community partners such as The Links, attend our Pumpkin patch event, and begin programming with the young ladies at Joshua Christian Academy. It has been a busy start, and I am so grateful to be able to contribute to this team in a meaningful way!

I have to give a huge shout out and thank you to the dedicated women of Girls Inc of Jacksonville for welcoming me with genuine care and support. I have so many ideas to bring to the role and am excited to continue to build a community of support around the girls we get to serve!

With Gratitude,  
Mrs. Alexis Ross , M.Ed  
Girls Inc of Jacksonville  
High School Program Manager



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## #EndPeriodPoverty

Statistic shows that 1 in 5 girls in the U.S. miss school because they don't have period protection.

2/3 of low income women and girls do not have access to adequate period products.

This year the middle school program has chosen to #FightAgainstPeriodPoverty! They have been hosting a feminine hygiene drive to pack emergency kits for girls and women at their school and surrounding communities!



With the aiming goal to pack 200 hygiene kits, the girls have collected and overflow of sanitation pads, soaps, deodorants, lotion, tooth brush, tooth paste and so much more! The ladies are set to pack out kits for their Thanksgiving volunteering project! The kits will be dispersed throughout the Girls Inc Programs as well as local community pantries.

Ms. Tiffney Funches Girls Inc. of Jacksonville's Middle Program Manager shares:

**“The Girls have been learning how to identify and strengthen their leadership qualities through our “Lean In Girls” curriculum. Where we are redefining leadership and the impact that we can have even as young girls. For some of the girls, this will be their first opportunities to exercise their voice and leadership.”**



# BOLD

## A Pumpkin Maze!

On October 26, 2024, Girls Inc of Jacksonville collaborated with Eartha's Farm Market at the weekly fresh market to host a pumpkin painting event. This vibrant celebration showcased community engagement and creativity. With vendors and volunteers from A Child's First Teacher, City Year, VyStar, AARP and Ms. Jasmine on face painting, the event provided a variety of enjoyable activities for families, including a read aloud, pumpkin decorating, slime making, and opportunities to see and interact with live goats.



City Year and Girls Inc. walked nearby to invite youth and their families from local apartment complexes, ensuring broad participation in this free, family-friendly event.

Strong  
Smart &  
**BOLD**

Attendees left with an abundance of treats, free pumpkins, and cherished memories, enhanced by the excitement of raffles that allowed many to win prizes from the Girls Inc. table. With children of all ages participating, the event fostered a sense of community spirit and joy, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended. There was also an opportunity to purchase fresh-grown fruits and vegetables planted by Eartha's farm & Market.



# A ROARING THANK YOU TO

GIRLS IN OF JACKSONVILLE 14TH ANNUAL DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

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girls  
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Girls Inc. of Jacksonville

**Save the Date!**  
**Daddy Daughter Dance- Sneakers Ball**  
**January 25, 2025**

**Thank you to our title sponsor:**



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**DANCE**  
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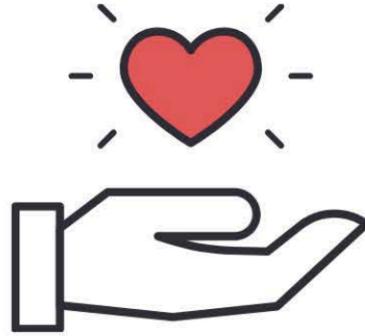
*Daddy Daughter*

**girls inc.**  
of Jacksonville

**THEME:**  
Sneaker Ball 4-8PM

**\$85**  
per couple  
**\$25**  
per additional girl

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025**  
Adam W. Herbert University Center - UNF 12000 Alumni Dr.  
Jacksonville, FL 32224-2678



## Looking to get more involved in your community?

Girls Inc. of Jacksonville is in search of committed volunteers to help out at our Daddy Daughter Dance on January 25, 2025, or the 9th Annual Women of Vision Celebration Luncheon on March 22nd, 2025!

Scan the QR code to sign up to be a volunteer today!



Contact Tiffney Funches at [tfunches@girlsincjax.org](mailto:tfunches@girlsincjax.org) for more details!

PLEASE REMEMBER

**GIRLS INC. OF JACKSONVILLE**

on

**Black Friday. Cyber Monday.**  
**#GIVINGTUESDAY**

**December 03, 2024**

VISIT [WWW.GIRLSINCJAX.ORG](http://WWW.GIRLSINCJAX.ORG) TO DONATE  
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

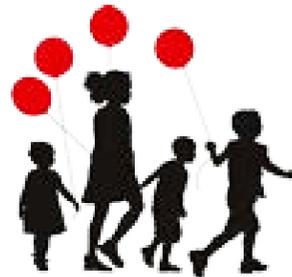
**THANKYOU**

# Thank You!

With your help, we continue to inspire all girls to be Strong, Smart and Bold!



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# Thank You!

With your help, we continue to inspire all girls to be Strong, Smart and Bold!



**Fanatics**



**AMERICAN CIVILITY ASSOCIATION**  
*Building Kindness Together for Safer Schools.*



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**WOMEN'S GIVING**  
ALLIANCE  
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# girls inc.

## of Jacksonville

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### CONTACT US

**For more information about our mission and programs:**

**(904) 731-9933**

**DSimon@girlsincjax.org**

**Visit us on the web at [www.girlsincjax.org](http://www.girlsincjax.org)**

**100 Festival Park Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32202**

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