

#150068A

# Girls Place

A Place to Go...

...A Place to GROW



501 (c) (3)

City of Gainesville Commission Meeting

February 18, 2016

2101 NW 39th Avenue

[www.girlsplace.net](http://www.girlsplace.net)

# Who We Are

<b>March 1981</b>	The Gainesville Junior Woman's Club began investigating the need and interest for a girls club in the community with surveys and public meetings.
<b>January 1985</b>	Renae Clements (our first executive director) was hired.
<b>June 1985</b>	The first Girls Club summer day camp was held at Sidney Lanier School, run by volunteers and was an incredible success.
<b>November 1985</b>	The City of Gainesville granted Girls Club 5.3 acres of land.
<b>September 2008</b>	The Girls Club underwent a name change and officially became Girls Place, Inc.
<b>October 2013</b>	Renae Clements retires as Executive Director after 28 years of service. Janna Magette, PhD. is hired as her successor.
<b>July 2015</b>	Girls Place celebrated its 30th year of hosting Summer Camp for Gainesville Girls.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kacey Anderson  
 Erica Brown, Secretary  
 Michele du Bois  
 Kristen Farrell  
 Virginia Griffis  
 Marynelle Hardee  
 Amy Howard  
 Edwina Hurst  
 Meg Hendryx  
 Jaron Jones  
 Sheila Jones  
 Natalie King  
 Debby Knopf  
 Cassie Macias  
 Charlett MacMillian  
 Myra Morgan  
 Francisco Oquendo  
 Matt Pendleton  
 Celia Slater  
 Kathy Viehe, President  
 Alan West, Treasurer

# Who We Are...



Janna Magette

Christi Arrington

Kaihla Szunko

Tara Mercurio

Lisa Kopp

Executive Director

Program Director

Athletic Director

Operations  
Director

Assistant Program  
Director

B.A., Davidson College  
M.S., Florida  
Ph.D., Florida

B.S., Florida  
M.S., Florida

B.S., Central Michigan  
M.S., Florida

B.S., N.C. State  
M.S., Florida

B.A., St. Louis-Missouri

# 2014

## VALUES

At Girls Place we believe that all girls should be encouraged, challenged, and supported to become independent, self-motivated individuals.

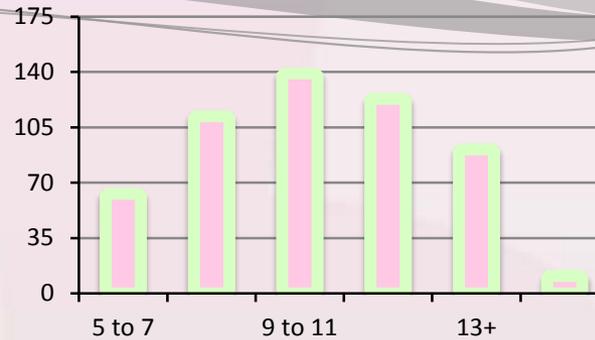
## VISION

Girls Place girls become independent, supportive, kind, caring women who are leaders in their communities.

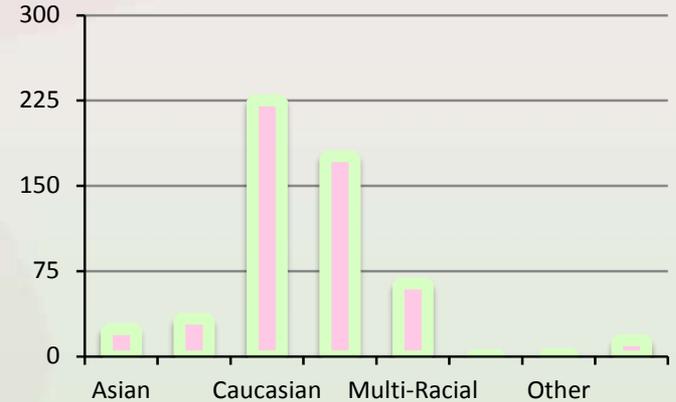
## MISSION

At Girls Place, we empower girls to grow courageous, strong, and self-sufficient. We inspire our girls to celebrate themselves—their minds, their hearts, and their physical well-being.

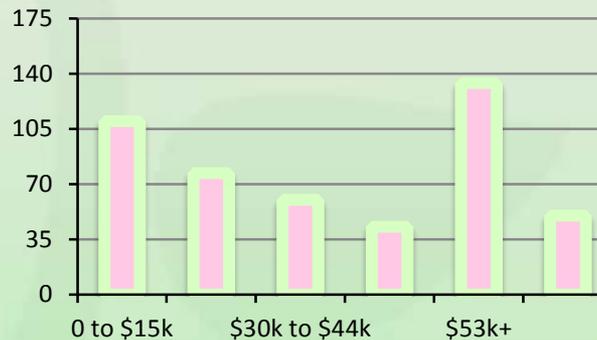
## AGE BREAKDOWN



## ETHNIC BREAKDOWN



## HOUSEHOLD INCOMES



**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 539**

# What We Do...

- Achieve: Academic Counseling and Help Increasing Educational Victories Everyday (United Way)
- After School
- Athletics
  - Volleyball: Fall and Spring Leagues
  - Basketball: 3-on-3 Winter League
  - Softball: 12U Team in City of Gainesville League
  - Track: Spring Season with Boys and Girls Club
- BrainPower: Counseling and Wellness Program (CDBG)
- First Place Leadership: Authentic Leadership Academy
- Summer Day Camp





# Our Challenge

- We currently have a wait list for all programs
- After School (15+), Summer Day Camp (30+)
- The size and length of leagues are restricted due to space
- So far, in 2015, there have been over 30,000 people through our facility
- Want to grow without limiting access and opportunities to the girls of Gainesville

# Our Vision

- Convert the infield of the track at the Kiwanis Challenge into a multi-purpose field for Girls Place activities (After School, Summer, and Athletics—60+ interested in soccer/lacrosse)
- Girls Place incurs all costs for the conversion
- City of Gainesville provides maintenance
- Together, Girls Place and City of Gainesville coordinate a schedule benefitting Girls Place and the community
- Build a multi-purpose gymnasium

# The Vision



- If approved, Girls Place intends to conduct a feasibility study and design a capital campaign for the entire project.
- Converting the infield of the Kiwanis Challenge Park would be Phase One.
- The project would not begin until the proper funds secured.
- It would not make sense to ask donors to contribute to a project which may or may not be approved.

# The Future of Girls Place...



- Fits both the City of Gainesville and Girls Place strategic master plans.

CONCEPTUAL PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS VISION

**Community Parks**  
 ADA accessibility is a major issue in Gainesville's community parks. Additionally, the City should try to de-program some of its community park spaces in order to restore flexible open spaces. There is a need to improve pedestrian routes and access both to and within the parks. Site-specific recommendations for community parks include:

- Albert "Ray" Massey Westside Park:**
  - Provide accessible routes to the playground and picnic areas.
  - Supplemental parking strategy may be warranted.
  - Outdoor restroom is in need of renovation and upgrading.
  - Artists' field lighting and the basketball court lighting is old and inefficient and should be replaced.
  - New dogpits, batting cages and bleacher areas are in need of upgrades.
  - Pave the walking path around the park to meet ADA requirements.
  - Add more water fountains and concessions throughout the park.
- Kiwans Challenge Park:**
  - Consider the consolidation of Kiwans Challenge Park and Greenway Park into a single, unified park site. Currently no paved linkage between the parks exists.
  - Replace playground surfacing with ADA compliant poured in place rubberized material.
  - Existing ADA access pads within playgrounds have deteriorated and/or may not be of the proper dimensions to be adequate for handicapped access.
  - Ensure accessible routes to major park components, especially the play area, by addressing pavement cracking and/or heaving issues observed.
  - Evaluate the feasibility of furthering the partnership between the city and the adjacent rehabilitation center and Girls Place Inc. in an effort to better maintain and activate the park space.
- TB McPherson Park:**
  - Provide accessible routes to the playground, at least one set of softball diamond, basketball court, restrooms and a picnic area.
  - Replace hand-trash cans with more aesthetic containers.
  - Add play features to the community pool to expand appeal.
  - Activate the park through more community partnerships and outreach to bring more activity to the park.

RECREATION, & CULTURAL AFFAIRS MASTER PLAN PAGE 59



Questions &  
Thank you!

