

# Girls Incorporated® of York Region

*the new face of girls*

## Annual Report 2008



## TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Newmarket Community Centre  
200 Duncan Drive, Newmarket

Thursday, May 21st, 2009

### AGENDA

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Introduction – Board, Staff and Guests
- Review of Voting Procedures
- Adoption of Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> AGM
- President's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Adoption of Financial Report
- Appointment of Accountants
- Committee and Staff Reports
- Nominating Report and Election of Board of Directors 2009/10
- (Other Business)
- Staff Recognition
- Adjournment

**girls  
inc.®**

Inspiring all girls to  
be strong, smart  
and bold. <sup>sm</sup>

#### ***Girls Incorporated of York Region Mission:***

Empowering girls to realize their full potential through gender specific programming that  
inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. <sup>sm</sup>



**United Way**  
of York Region

## MINUTES OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MAY 22, 2008

Old Town Hall, 460 Botsford Street, Newmarket

**Present:** Ranji Singh, Lyn Alcock, Sylvia Fisch, Chanel Mills, Heather Hack, Ashley Martin, Bev Newman, Leslie Chung, Robin Holloway, Cherie Daniel, Ann Armstrong attend by proxy.

**Called to order:** 7:22 – Quorum confirmed

**Review of Voting Procedures:** by Ranji Singh

**BOD Nominations:** Chanel – motioned to nominate Robin Holloway and Cherie Daniel as board members, Ranji seconded, carried.

**Adoption of Minutes from last year’s AGM:** motion by Sylvia, seconded by Chanel, carried.

**President’s Report:** Ranji presented President’s Report.

Ranji thanked the staff, board, and community. As we impart our message, through gender specific programming, we celebrate growth – to approximately 800, we reached 1200. Our girls are where we experience the satisfaction of results. As planned, we have successfully phased out the Matching Program. Thanks to: Trillium, United Way, Raptors, for contributions. Ranji reported the BOD is aggressively recruiting members. Ranji thanked the BOD for their support. Ranji expressed his gratitude to the staff and board while he learns about his new role. Heather motioned to accept President’s report, seconded by Sylvia, carried.

**ED’s Report:** Lyn presented the ED’s Report

Lyn is proud of the constant growth in 2008. GIYR is proud of the increase in girls reached in the last year. An important step was made this year as the Canadian Federation was established. York Region media thanks, Bingo masters – thanks, Volunteers- thank you. Staff – thanks. Lyn had many people to thank for their support over the last year – Staff, volunteers, York Region Media. Sylvia motioned to accept the ED Report, Chanel –seconded, carried.

**Financial Report:** Respectively prepared by Lyn and presented by Ranji.

In the last year, we had significant funding from United Way, York Region Media, and the Trillium Foundation. We also continued to receive funding from the Bingo sessions – however they are challenged, but proactive to continue. The Howl on the Hill had a new sponsor, but was still a great fundraiser. ED significantly reduced expenses continually through out the year (Kudos to Lyn). Fund development is still a high priority, already promising. Heather motioned to accept financial report, Chanel seconded, carried.

**Auditor’s Report:** accepted by email.

**Auditor’s Appointment:** Ranji motioned to appoint Kim A Macdonald as auditor for term of 1 year, seconded Sylvia, carried.

**Committee & Staff reports:** Heather motioned to accept committee and staff reports, seconded by Sylvia, carried.

**Other Business:** Judy Bell – would like to host an initiation meeting. September 18 – Judy will attend to answer questions.

**Next Meeting:** June 19, with July Orientation BBQ @ Lyn’s TBD by email. Donations & People needed for Gala & garage sale. Donations for raffles, food will be provided.

**Adjourned 8:46 p.m.:** Ranji motioned to adjourn the meeting, Heather seconded the motion, carried.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Staff, Board, Supporters and Community:

As we strive to “empower girls to realize their full potential through gender specific programming that inspires all girls to be strong, smart and bold”, we celebrate our continued evolution and growth in membership for the girls we serve in spite of reduced funding dollars.

This evening’s AGM brings the opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges for Girls Incorporated of York Region in 2008.

The passion for the cause as well as satisfactory working conditions is reflected in a relatively stable workforce through the year. Stipends from National have facilitated access of training for our staff (and board).

An aggressive board recruitment campaign which started in 2007 continues with encouraging result. I look forward to continuing this recruitment campaign if the new board accepts my offer to serve as the Board Recruitment and Education Chair. We shall continue to focus board membership intake twice yearly to allow for formal board introduction and initiation.

Since receiving full Girls Inc affiliation in October 2004, we must now proceed with the recognition of an almost complete turnover among staff and volunteer directors since the initiation of our affiliation application process in 2002. It is therefore imperative to remind ourselves of the reasons that compelled this agency to the Girls Inc brand. Our agency’s recent acquisition of copies and conversion of the digital beta PSA is a starting contribution to a necessary and bold comprehensive brand identity plan. Strength in our brand is essential as we seek new funding sources and expansion of our service.

I am proud to be working with the people of Girls Incorporated of York Region:

- The staff and volunteers whose passions embody our purpose and mission.
- The volunteer board for their support of the work of the staff and volunteers.
- Our funding stakeholders who enable our work.
- Most importantly, our program recipients – Girls, through whom, we experience results which confirms the success and need for our programs, and our organization.

I look back at my past two years with appreciation of the staff and the volunteer board for their patience and support of me as president. I look forward to continue serving on the board, albeit in a different volunteer capacity in 2009 as we aspire to inspire girls to be “strong, smart and bold” so that they may be “the new face of girls in an equitable society”

**Respectfully Submitted by**

Ranji Singh  
President, Board of Directors

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

"What its children become, that will the community become..."

### **Suzanne La Follette (1893-1983)**

At Girls Incorporated of York Region we mean it when we say that we want to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold! To make this mission a reality we provide innovative, effective programs on-site, in school and cooperative housing communities, in community centres, at arenas and various other locations throughout York Region and Bradford. At Girls Incorporated of York Region girls are a part of a safe, supportive community--a place that's just for girls. They are valued as individuals with essential worth. They know that they are entitled to be heard, to be taken seriously, to dream big dreams and develop the knowledge and skills to pursue those dreams. Knowing that GIYR is there for them, they envision a future without limitations; a future of "empowered girls and an equitable society".

2008 was a year of constant growth for Girls Incorporated® of York Region. A focus of 2008 was to enhance youth participation; with Funds from the Ontario Trillium Foundation we provided programs for girls 12 – 18 years in six unique communities increasing the number of youth registered by 56%. Full time after-school programs are being facilitated for girls 6 – 8 and 9 – 11 years in Georgina, Newmarket and Richmond Hill and we continue to provide lunch, after-school and weekend programs. The total number of girls affected by GIYR programs in 2008 was 19,547; 950 girls registered for GIYR programs; and in 2008 we provided our first summer day camp. We know we are making a difference as we have discovered through discussion with our girls and parents, staff and board members, peer organizations and funders; Girls Inc. programs have been identified as critical for girls and unavailable anywhere else in the Region.

Highlights of 2008 include; Girls met photo journalist Paola Gianturco when she visited our centre. Judy Jaegar, President of the BOD for the Women's Centre of York Region, organized a wonderful fund raiser, Women Who Light the Dark, featuring Paola's stories and photos. Girls Inc girls also read poems written by girls from around the world who are living with abuse and violence. It was an honor GIYR will not forget. Thank you Judy for including us!; Girls Inc members were interviewed and asked their thoughts on 'Body Image' for an article in the "Well Being" magazine where they were featured along side Dr. Carla Rice; the new Girls Incorporated Public Service Announcement was released with one of GIYR girls being featured in the video (we are very proud!); for the second year, women from CFUW put together 200 runner bags for our annual Howl on the Hill (this is such a time consuming job and the help was a huge benefit to the organization) the women also volunteered their time at our event helping to serve food to hungry runners; GIYR was chosen as a pilot site for Girls Incorporated's Build I T program; Girls held a successful International Women's Day event; and celebrated our first Girls Rights Week with all (less one) municipality's and the Region proclaiming Girls Rights Week for GIYR. Events were held all week highlighting the work being done by girls and Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen thrilled the girls when he showed up for the evening.

To all of the volunteers that give of their time, their money and their love whether a Board Member, 1-1 Match volunteer, Program Facilitator or event volunteer, a huge heartfelt THANK YOU! We could not do what we do without you. While it is our 'vision' that inspires us it is our 'mission' that drives us; I thank you for sharing in it! Girls Inc of York recently lost a dear friend; Dick Illingworth. Dick was a strong supporter of GIYR, he made permanent note of when the Howl on the Hill was happening and always invited us onto his TV show to 'talk up' the run. We will miss him; he was a true champion of our cause.

And, to the amazing women that I have the honor of working with each and every day; thank you for ensuring that girls have the opportunities to reach their full potential. It is your passion, your enthusiasm and your commitment that keeps the girls coming back to programs! I look forward to another year of working with you to reach more girls.

**Respectfully Submitted by**

Lyn Thompson-Alcock, Executive Director

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The year 2008 was a highly successful year for the agency in many ways. We were blessed with many funding opportunities including the Trillium Foundation, the Canadian Women's Foundation and the Maple Leaf Foundation. We remained focused on increasing agency awareness in our community which we realize is a key success factor in obtaining funding from new sources.

Consistent with prior years, we received our core funding from the United Way of York Region totalling \$92K for which we are extremely grateful. We submitted our annual funding application to the United Way for the 2009-2010 funding year and were successful. Thanks so much to Lyn and her staff for their amazing effort in putting the application and presentation together.

Our gaming revenues continue to be a steady source of revenue for the agency. We currently operate weekly Newmarket bingo sessions. We also had sessions in Aurora during 2008 however these will not continue in 2009 due to the hall closure. The combined revenues were \$29k in 2008 down from \$36k in 2007 (note: 2007 includes Nevada revenue). We expect to exceed these levels in 2009 if our experience in the first quarter of 2009 continues at the Newmarket bingo hall.

Our Special Events Coordinator has lots of fresh ideas and we are excited as new events are created to raise agency awareness and funds. We are looking forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Spring Ungala Gala on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Overall, operating expenditures for the agency were just slightly less than the previous year. Our Executive Director, with the support of the staff, has been very successful in keeping expenses at their lowest possible levels.

For the year ended December 31, 2008, we have a deficiency of revenue over expenditures of \$10k as compared to an excess in the prior year of \$4k.

The challenge before the agency for 2009 will be to continue to explore other avenues of fundraising in order to diversify and expand our fund development initiatives.

**Respectfully Submitted by**

Robin Holloway, Treasurer

## **THANK YOU TO:**

United Way of York Region for funding After-school programs  
Canadian Women's Foundation for funding In-school lunch programs  
Ontario Trillium Foundation for funding Project BOLD/Material Girls/Photo Voice  
The Leafs Kids Fund for funding Girls enCourage  
Town of Newmarket Bingo for funding In-school lunch/weekend programs  
Toronto Raptors for inviting our Members to attend games and meet players through the Player Ticket Program  
CHUM Wish Foundation for funding the annual holiday celebration and providing gifts for girls  
Newmarket Royal Canadian Legion for funding In-school Lunch programs  
Federal Government through HRDC for funding Summer staff  
Ontario Teachers Federation for continued bi-annual cash donation

## **For Generous In-kind donations and continued support;**

Sapori Italiani · Best Buy · Home Hardware Newmarket · Frogpond Farm · Seneca College  
Franklin Club · Mysteriously Yours Dinner Theatre · St. James Church, Bradford · Bethany  
Cooperative Housing, Keswick · York Region District School Board · Michael's, Markham  
Zehr's, Keswick · Content's Unlimited, Keswick · The Running Room · Spinning Entertainment  
St. Andrew College Aurora · Shoeless Joe's East Gwillimbury Alexander Mackenzie S.S.  
Metro Stores, Newmarket · Shoppers Drug Mart, Bradford · Shoppers Drug Mart, Newmarket  
Town of Newmarket · Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury · Town of Richmond Hill · York  
Region Police · Jersey P.S. · Lakeside P.S. · Poplar Bank P.S. · Highview P.S. · Rogers P.S.  
Sutton P.S. · Black River P.S. · Northern Lights P.S. · Summitview P.S. · Woodbridge P.S.  
SNAP Newmarket · SNAP Aurora · The Era/Banner · Georgina Advocate · Richmond Hill Liberal  
· Rogers Communications · Aurora Cable TV · Costco Newmarket · Nothing But Water · Canadian  
Federation of University Women · Boston Pizza Newmarket · State Farm's Women Volunteer  
Group · United Way of Greater Toronto · IBM Employees Fund · Lush Cosmetics · Sonic Boom ·  
Suites @ 1 King West · Starbucks Newmarket · Goodlife · Price Choppers Aurora Newmarket  
Veterans Association · Optimist Club of Aurora · Lions Club of Aurora · Stephenson's Rental ·  
Cobs Bread · Aurora United Church Women · Bell Canada · Ontario Power Generation Employees  
Charity Trust · Compass Food Sales · Wyeth Consumer Health Care  
Dove Self Esteem Fund · Mars Canada Inc · Scholastic Canada · Walmart · Nature's Emporium

# 167 new members registered in 2008

## Respectfully Submitted:

Nikki Kastelic & Susan Bowman-Stewart  
Youth Coordinator Program Coordinator  
Girls 12 - 18 years Girls 6 - 11 years

Girls Incorporated of York Region operates in one of the most diverse ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic regions of Ontario. In 2008, GIYR continued our commitment to serving girls by providing programs to 900+ girls in York Region and Bradford. Continued efforts to build on brand and mission exposed Girls Inc programs to 167 new families across York Region/Bradford and earned Girls Inc of York the distinction of being one of two most diverse organizations out of all Girls Inc affiliates; we served girls from 12 ethnic/cultural backgrounds (recognized by the Canadian census). GIYR also had the distinction of being one of two most multilingual organizations; 51% of participants have home languages other than English (13 home languages spoken). This past year saw great expansion in our programs and we have been receiving positive feedback from the community and schools about the impact of our programs on the girls in the community. In 2008, a total of 12 lunch programs, 6 after-school programs and six community programs for youth were delivered throughout York Region. Programs target issues such as group cohesion, peer pressure, bullying, self-esteem, economic self-sufficiency, media awareness and leadership skills.

**Living Safe & Strong – Project BOLD**



**Girls enCourage - Bradford**



**Photovoice**



**Seneca College Eco Fish – May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007**



**Toronto Raptors**



Girls 6-11 years learned literacy, science and math skills in a fun environment using creativity and imagination as learning tools. Baking was a fun way to learn math when recipes were altered to work with our toaster oven; we became Mad Scientists, experimenting with many different substances and journaling our observations and girls kept journals about family and traditions and as a group used their imaginations and creativity to write their own Christmas stories.

Youth 12-16 years attended the Science Centre and Raptor's games; participated in Rock Climbing, Snow Tubing, Horseback riding, Treetop Trekking, and Windsurfing. Girls learned to use power tools and held Photo Exhibits, Family Tech Nights. Youth invited elected officials, family members and community members to discuss how abuse and violence affects their lives and how leadership experiences and similar opportunities function as important prevention tools that benefit both girls and the greater community.

**Franklin Fishing – August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007**



**Material Girls**



We continue to support **57** girls, their 1-1 Match Volunteers and their families.

**Mayor Tony VanBynen & Friends**



**Girls enCourage -**



**Respectfully Submitted:**

Elena Manica  
Special Events Coordinator

**United Way of York Region**

Our partnership with UWYR continues to grow and strengthen each and every year. The support received both financially and in organizational development allows us to enhance and expand program and service delivery. Girls Inc. participated in the 2008 Campaign and we had a lot of fun raising money for UWYR by selling lunch, holding an auction, selling cupcakes and team building activities.

**Howl on the Hill - Sunday October 28, 2008**

Our 29<sup>th</sup> run/walk was held at St. Andrew's College in Aurora. We would like to thank the Running Room for being our run sponsor; we look forward to a long and happy relationship with them. We want to thank: St. Andrew's College, Don Valley REACT, St. John's Ambulance, York Regional Police, Town of Aurora, Town of Newmarket, the Region of York, IGA in Aurora, Boston Pizza Newmarket, Starbucks Newmarket, COBS Bread, Gordon Forbes for photo's, Rogers Television's Local Notes, Shoppers Drug Mart in Aurora, Chip Time Results, Upper Canada Mall, The Era Banner, SNAP Aurora, The Month Ahead and all the wonderful volunteers, staff and board members who helped make the day very special. Huge thanks goes to Spinning Entertainment for donating their services for the day.

**New in 2008 "Un-Gala" Gala – June 21, 2008**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual "Un"Gala Gala was a night of dinner, dancing, poker, and prizes! It took place on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7pm at Shoeless Joe's Sharon Location. Considering this was its first year, the Gala went quite well. A special thank you goes to the following companies and organizations: Best Buy Newmarket, Home Hardware Newmarket, Frogpond Farm Niagara, Mysteriously Yours Dinner Theatre, Lush Cosmetics, Sonic Boom, Suites at 1 King West, and Saponi Italiani, and SNAP Newmarket.

**Bingo**

Unfortunately, 2008 saw the closure of the Aurora Bingo Hall. Thank you so much to Barb Perdeaux for all of her years of dedication and support. Barb kept everything going for us at the Aurora Hall. And thank you to Barb's team; Daryl, Donna and Mel, we definitely could not have done it without you. The closure of the Aurora hall brought the opening of full time Bingo to the Newmarket hall. Thank you to Kathleen Masters and her team; Arvella Marshall and Dianne Caldwell. New games continue to be introduced and strategies to draw in new players are worked on by the ANCA board of directors. They continue to implement a customer loyalty program, a reward system for players to collect points for prizes. All in all, promotions and incentives continue to be offered at the halls to attract newcomers and returning patrons.



## **Board of Directors for 2008**

The following individuals have the remaining periods left in their term as a member of the Board of Directors;

**Year one of first two year term;** Linda Gilkes

**Year two of first two year term;** Robin Holloway

**Year one of second three year term;** Ann Armstrong, Sylvia Fisch, Heather Hack

**Year two of second three year term;** N/A

**Year three of second three year term;** Chanel Mills, Ranji Singh

## **STAFF 2008**

Lyn Thompson-Alcock	Executive Director
Sarah Breese	Program Director
Ashley Martin/Nikki Kastelic	Youth Coordinator
Elena Manica	Special Events Coordinator
Bev Newman	Program Specialist
Susan Bowman-Stewart	Program Facilitator
Crystal Palmer/Amy Honeyman	Program Facilitator
Jerrine Pearson/Sonia Ashton	Program Facilitator