



Backgrounder Girls Inc.® of Greater Indianapolis

The Early Years (1969-1979)

In 1969, three Indianapolis mothers identified a need for a safe, healthy environment where their daughters can learn, grow, and develop. They remodeled an old schoolhouse at 1125 Spruce St. in Fountain Square and founded **Girls Club of Indianapolis**.

In 1971, the **Model Cities Girls Club** is established on the near north side of Indianapolis. Four years later, the Model Cities Girls Club and The Girls Club of Indianapolis merge to form the **Girls Clubs of Marion County**. Their two sites are renamed Fountain Square and Mapleton – Fall Creek.

The 1980s

Lilly Endowment, Inc., traditionally interested in the welfare of young girls, partnered with the Fleischman Foundation to fund a long range strategic plan for Girls Clubs of Marion County. Their support also made it possible for the **National Resource Center** to open its doors in downtown Indianapolis in 1981. In 1983, the Mapleton-Fall Creek Branch moved into a renovated building at 3959 North Central Avenue and was renamed the **Mid-North Center**.

The 1990s

In early 1990, the national Girls Clubs of America organization voted to change its name to Girls Incorporated®. Girls Clubs of Marion County became **Girls Inc.® of Indianapolis**.

The 2000s

The 2000s were a decade of significant growth and change for Girls Inc. of Indianapolis. In 2000, they launched the Girls and Technology Project (also known as **She's TechKnow®**), a curriculum designed to encourage girls to pursue advanced courses and careers in technology. The following year, Girls Inc. of Indianapolis adopted the mission statement "**inspiring all girls to be strong, smart and boldSM!**" In 2003, a million-dollar renovation, transformed the Mid North and Fountain Square facilities into top-notch facilities to provide more workspace for staff, interns, and volunteers.

A significant strategic shift to Girls Inc. of Indianapolis happened in 2005, allowing the organization to expand programming into three counties – **Hamilton, Hendricks, and Boone**.

In 2007, **Patricia A. Wachtel** became the CEO for Girls Inc. of Indianapolis, kicking off a new outreach-based strategic direction for the organization. In 2008, they launched outreach partnerships with schools, community centers, and other youth agencies in key Marion County neighborhoods. These fully functioning "hub" partnerships made it possible for girls to participate in Girls Inc. programs in their own neighborhoods.

In 2009, Girls Inc. of Indianapolis celebrated its 40th anniversary, changed its name to **Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis**, and moved to a new administrative headquarters at 3935 N. Meridian Street. We now serve nearly 4,000 girls annually.