

www.MoGirlsTown.org



# MISSOURI GIRLS TOWN

Over 60 Years of Growing Hope

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## 2015 Open House

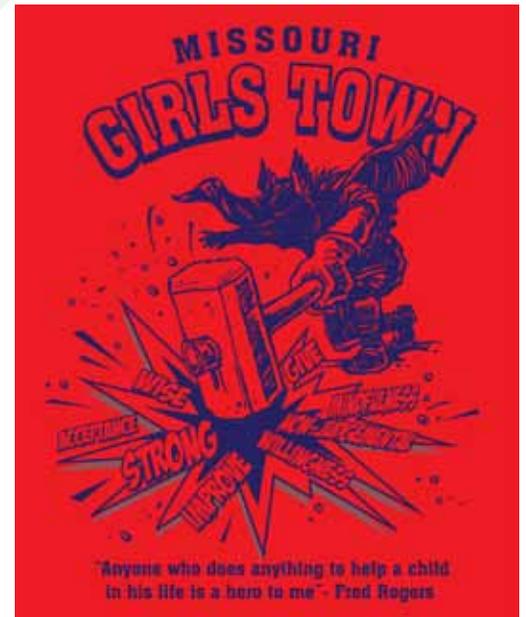
Missouri Girls Town Foundation held its 62nd Annual Open House on the McClain-Williams Campus on Saturday, October 3, 2015. The theme this year was based off the quote by Fred Rogers "Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me," and included superheroes. Many of our young women led tours of campus and every girl on campus was involved in one of the three skits that were performed. In addition to a luncheon and program there was a silent auction that included a variety of exciting items.

One young woman shared her thoughts from Open House:

*When we started getting ready for Open House, it was a long process and required patience. We helped make decorations and practiced our skits multiple times. When it finally came to the day, it was really fun! I was in one skit and helped with the other set-ups. I also wrote poems for the poem book that was sold. The skit "Super Sign" had to do with some of the reasons girls might be at Missouri Girls Town and the skit "The Devastating Dress Scandal" included the dialectical behavioral skills we have learned during our time here.*

~B

Thank you to everyone who supported Open House and a special thank you to everyone who attended!



# HER FUTURE Redefined through GENEROSITY

# One Young Woman's Story

At Missouri Girls town, we like the phrase "it is all about the girls." Below is something that was written by one of our girls. We hope you will enjoy her insight.

You may think of the word residential and think of a bunch of crazy, defiant kids who don't have anywhere else to go. To be honest, that's what I thought when I was told I was coming here, too. But I soon found out that's not the case at all.

Here at Missouri Girls Town, the girls are respected by the staff even though the staff aren't always respected by the girls. The staff here care so much about the girls and would do anything they could for them. I will be the first to say I haven't been the nicest to some staff members in the past. When I first got to Missouri Girls town, I had a bad attitude. It was my way or no way at all. I didn't like taking orders from staff members and I didn't have very much respect for them. Although I did have a rough start, I have come a long way.

In the seven months that I have been here, I have learned that you have to respect others - not because you like them or don't like them - but for the simple fact that they are human, too. I have also learned that you don't have to attend every argument that you're invited to. I have also learned to trust; trust that people actually care. Just because I have been hurt in the past doesn't mean I will continue to get hurt in the future. It could happen, but I will not know if I don't move on.

I have had plenty of good times here because staff members want kids to feel welcomed. One such time was an outing we took to Skyzone. Skyzone is a huge place with lots of trampolines. You can play basketball or dodgeball or you can just jump on the trampolines. They had music and sold concessions - it was so awesome! The best part about it is that Missouri Girls Town paid for us to go. It was my first time ever going to a place like that and an experience I will never forget.

At first, I hated this place. Over time though, I have grown attached to the people. I want to go home but I will always remember Missouri Girls Town.

~A



## Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Takela Austin! She is Missouri Girls Town's Employee of the Quarter. Takela was nominated because of her adaptability to work in different houses, her willingness to provide extra help without hesitation and the positive relationships she has with clients. Way to go, Takela!

## Missouri Girls Town Receives Generous Shoe Donation

The young women of Missouri Girls Town received a generous donation of tennis shoes from the kind folks at Shoes From the Heart. The girls were very excited to receive the shoes and the donation was greatly appreciated. To learn how you or your organization can get involved with Girls Town, please contact Kalei Holder at (573) 642-5345, k ext. 29 or email [kholder@mogirlstown.org](mailto:kholder@mogirlstown.org).



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## School Photos



Students hard at work as Mr. Long oversees.



Ms. Levin takes time to smile while helping a student.



The Lindsey Vinton Rickey School located on Missouri Girls Town's campus.

## North Callaway School District Provides More Than Education on Missouri Girls Town Campus

Missouri Girls Town partners with the North Callaway School District for on and off-campus educational services. Many of our clients attend the Lindsey Vinton Rickey School on the Missouri Girls Town Campus. Girls Town's on-campus school boasts a reduced teacher to student ratio and provides a secure and structured environment for each of our young women. There are two classes during the morning and afternoon session each day. Class work is computer based and adaptive to each individual students' needs.

This year, the on-campus school has three new teachers to welcome: Sherry Levin, Casey Bucher and Adrian Long. Ms. Levin is the lead teacher and coordinator for Missouri Girls Town. Ms. Levin was interested in getting back into teaching from working at the Department of Secondary Education. Her background in working with at-risk populations was a perfect fit for Missouri Girls Town. Ms. Levin describes what she likes best about teaching at our on-campus school, "Every day is different and has its own set of challenges. The girls are here for a variety of reasons and figuring out the best way to help them be successful is something I enjoy."

Casey Bucher is in her first year as a teacher and was drawn to Girls Town because of the small setting and intimate atmosphere. "It's inspiring to be here and see the everyday situations our girls are battling. Watching them prioritize what's important is really impressive."

Adrian Long is a 17 year veteran in the teaching field and is driven by the success of the kids. "When you see a kid being successful, you feel like you're part of that."

Ms. Levin sums it up best by saying, "We're all happy to be here and all three of us really enjoy working with the girls. It is completely different for a couple of us, but it's the feeling that we have a specific purpose - we're not just here to teach one class, we're here to help these young women become well-rounded, successful students."

Welcome to Ms. Levin, Ms. Bucher and Mr. Long!

# Gift of Appreciated Stock

Appreciated stock (held more than 1 year) makes an excellent gift to Missouri Girls Town. A gift of stock with a long-term gain entitles a donor to a charitable deduction for the full current market value and is exempt from any capital gains tax. For example, if you acquired stock for \$1,000 and the current market value is \$5,000, you can deduct the full \$5,000 and escape tax on the \$4,000 capital gain. For more information, contact Kathy Becker at 573-642-5345.

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