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August 2024 REPORT

LETTER FROM STEMS4Girls®, Inc. Board of Directors to our Supporters

Greetings from STEMS4Girls, Inc. Board of Directors

We want to share news and the excitement we felt during this past school which has kept us from communicating with you all as often as we would like to. But, first I want to thank you all for your prayers, and well wishes in support of the organization and participants who continue to show academic excellence, confidence, and a sense of belonging in STEM careers all because you make it possible with your generous support. We are delighted to update you on how your support has helped shape and sustain our three active programs:

1. STEM Literacy
2. Volunteers
3. Community Engagement

We welcome back all students and educators and hope you have a successful school year!

OUR STEM LITERACY PROGRAM -

Opportunity, Access, Exposure & Engagement

The STEM Literacy initiative seeks to find creative ways to expose children and youth, especially those living in underserved and under-resourced communities to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through our Saturday and Summer STEM Enrichment and STEM+ Tutoring services. We provide the materials and activities that will allow young children and youth to explore their STEM identity, and then we nurture their attitudes, interests, and engagement in STEM literacy. We aim to empower our youth to believe they can develop the academic





skills needed to reach their potential in science, technology, engineering, and math by providing free tutoring in science, math, and language arts.

Creating spaces of belonging in a STEM rich environment is crucial for our participants to flourish and be confident that they can succeed in a STEM career..Secondly, STEMS4Girls, is intentional about making our programs and services accessible and affordable by not charging families that do not have the economic resources to pay \$400 for tutoring and/or STEM camps. We are on the right track according to a recent parent survey and the steady growth we have seen each year. 100% of the parents

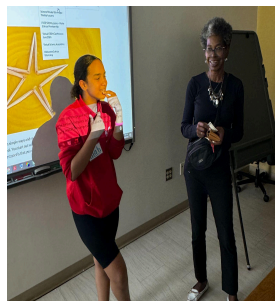
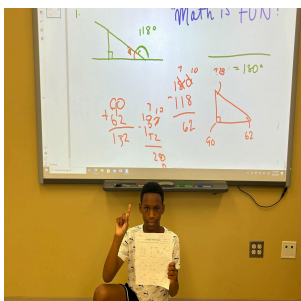
surveyed respondents said affordability and convenience was important to them.

For the academic school year 2023-24, enrollment jumped from 20 students to 35. Not only do we have a waitlist for our tutoring services that exceeded our expectations but all participants attending regularly were promoted to the next grade level and showed improvement in confidence, increase in their knowledge about STEM concepts and engagement in STEM-related discussions.

We were also blessed to hold our sessions on Saturdays from 10 until 3 pm at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). Professor David White at the School of Education, who also serves on STEMS4Girls board of directors, graciously offered space to hold our Saturday sessions at the Chevron STREAM FabLab located in the School of Education at FAMU. This partnership paved the way for us to expose our participants to 3D printing and a bunch of other state-of-the-art machinery in addition to new skills that will help them become more efficient at math, science, and language arts.

There were many success stories to be told throughout the year. Special moments that tipped the scale for me were listening to the participants declare their STEM identity, "I want to be a mechanical engineer," said one student, or when a student was excited to share how they had improved their grade in math, or watching the intensity on students' faces when working collaboratively to solve a problem.

We ended the school year with a big party at Domi Station, where the participants had a lot of fun making homemade root beer and ice cream and sharing their stories. Overall, for 7 years our STEM literacy program has been "turning stumbling blocks into ladders" of success by giving opportunity, access, exposure, and engagement to more children and youth living in Leon County who might not otherwise have the resources to participate in a high-quality STEM enrichment afterschool program.



Parent testament: "Since the beginning of the school year my son has struggled with Math. When he started the program in January he scored a level 2. When he tested again in April he scored a level 4!"

VOLUNTEERISM - A Dual Success Model

In our journey, we've discovered a remarkable phenomenon—professional development growth through volunteerism. Not only do the youth we serve thrive, but our volunteers also experience profound personal and professional growth through their dedication and commitment to be a part of STEMS4Girls' Volunteer Program. STEMS4Girls® stands as a beacon of empowerment for creating spaces that nurture and support our volunteers'

interests in leadership roles. Each year employers and medical schools are taking note of prospects that volunteered in leadership roles at STEMS4Girls. This school year, two exceptional volunteers were admitted into prestigious post-grad programs of their choosing because of their exemplary work ethics and professionalism while volunteering at S4G. In each newsletter we hope to bring you more stories about our exemplary volunteer achievements.



Lily Lamb 2024, I am proud that my STEMS4Girls experience helped secure me two medical school acceptances; I plan to matriculate into the University of Florida's College of Medicine beginning in the Summer 2024 semester. ..

Marcel Ngyhamu, Ph.D. whose leadership skills led S4G youth to a Meta Facebook Meta award was admitted to the John Hopkins Health Fellowship Program



Both Lily and Marcel stood out among their peers as having excellent work ethics and leadership skills. While Lily was a S4G tutor she asked if there was any admin work that she could do during her winter break. Lily began her grant writing skills by collecting demographics from our applicants' applications and tracking students' academic progress. It didn't take long before she was helping me with grant reports and then writing grants. Marcel's volunteering experience with S4G began one summer when he was asked to facilitate a team of youth, Facebook, Engineer for A Week challenge. Under his leadership S4G's youth earned a Facebook Impact Award for their project solving a food insecurity problem. When he asked for a reference letter to attend John Hopkins Health Fellowship Program, I had no problem recommending him with the utmost confidence that he will represent well and succeed at completing the program. We wish them the best in their studies.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - Embracing Collaborative Partnerships

Somewhere between taking classes, working, being ambassadors for S4G, recruiting participants, lesson planning, and writing grants, our volunteers carve out time to be in the community spreading the word about S4G programs and developing collaborative partnerships at the local, state, and national levels. As our programs continue to evolve we strive to be a household name by increasing our presence in the community, especially, in the Promise Zones communities of Leon County. Over the course of this school year our connections have called upon us to tell our story, at national and local levels. In addition, we continue to develop partnerships with several collegiate organizations, Tallahassee Science Fair, FAMU STEM Day, FSU Career Day, Leon County Schools, and Tallahassee Afterschool Network, as well as on the state and national level. STEMS4Girls' youth continue to participate in several Youth Services of America service days, MLK, Jr. Day, and 9/11 service day. These opportunities are creating spaces for our youth voices to be heard and recognized as STEM ambassadors.



FUNDING RESOURCES - Our Greatest Barrier!

Without 1,000s of volunteer hours, community partnerships, your gifts of support, and several grants including the American Rescue Program Acts, Leon County Children Service, Community Foundation of No Florida, and others to sustained STEMS4Girls for six years, we could not offer STEM literacy to hundreds of students, hold an annual Volunteer Appreciation event and participate in community events at no cost to our participants. As we move forward into the new year 2024-25, more financial support is needed to keep the kids we serve on track for success in the classroom and outside the classroom and at home and help them develop the critical thinking skills and the confidence they need to continue on this path of discovery in the evolving world of technology and science. Will you commit to supporting us with a \$7 a month gift? There are several ways to consider when making your gift: online at www.STEMS4girlsfl.org, by mail, or your employer's matching gift program. Many of our donors can take a tax deduction for their charitable contributions to STEMS4Girls. No matter what method you select for making your gift, we deeply appreciate your generosity.

With your support we can keep the momentum and gains going.

Warm regards,

Calendar of Up-Coming Events

September - \$7 a-month Fundraiser

- 4 STEM Literacy Sessions Begin
- 11 Patriot Day 911 Youth Service Day

October

- 17 Tallahassee Science Festival
- 24 Annual Lights on Afterschool Celebration

November

Planning

December

- 1 Kick off Year-End Fundraiser
- 3 Giving Tuesday 7 Yr Gala