

While the first half of 2020 has presented a unique set of obstacles and challenges, nothing can stop STEMS4Girls from working hard to expand and improve our organization. Our commitment to gain your trust by providing quality service to our students, volunteers, community, and donors, has led us to add several new faces to the administrative staff. We are building a responsive team of dedicated individuals all working to improve how we communicate with our audience via quarterly newsletter, email, and social media.

In addition to our new recruits, STEMS4Girls is also making strides in the area of finances and fundraising. We are continuing to develop existing partnerships, and have initiated a corporate giving matching project that should allow us to increase our donor base in order to sustain our programs. A very notable achievement in our fundraising efforts over the first half of 2020, is that we have seen over a 100% increase in revenue since the first half of 2019. This fantastic increase in funds is due to a grant awarded to STEMS4Girls by the Community Human Service Partnership bridge grant program. S4G is extremely grateful to be the recipient of such a generous grant and plan on using this money to purchase liability insurance, software, invest in developing our current programs, as well as launch new ones. Although the grant will be making an astronomical impact on our ability to improve our organization, our fundraising team has certainly been on the ball as well- as we have had 2 fundraisers in the months of May and June that allowed us to reach our \$700 STEM Stimulus fundraising goal. The ultimate goal of S4G is to generate enough funds to launch a new STEMtec program, as well as a Tutorial/Mentor program as an addition to our existing STEM Literacy programs.

Unfortunately, the STEMLit afterschool program did not reach its desired number of participants due to getting a late start and early ending caused by the stay in the shelter policy imposed by the governor. However, all but 1 of the 11 students being monitored January through March showed significant improvement in their science vocabulary and knowledge scores, as well as an understanding of three forms of energy. Our hope is that they will retain this knowledge and be more comfortable participating in classroom discussion when these topics arise. Our tutoring efforts with 2 children showed amazing improvement. Both began our tutoring sessions with C's and below in most subject areas, and both ended the school year on the honor roll. Additionally, the S4G Volunteer Coordinator, Gabbi Savino, is doing a great job at recruiting and retaining a pool of 20 volunteers to further develop our tutoring programs. Before the pandemic, we had exceeded our objective of 20 active volunteers by 7 and had 35% of our active volunteers return for the summer. Way to go Gabbi!

The good news doesn't stop there, as S4G is also in the process of negotiating a meeting space with a local organization called The LIFE Village, an innovative human enrichment group specializing in social-emotional learning & development. The facility is located in DISC Village on Pensacola street and will allow us to have meetings, workshops, and tutorial sessions for our programs. This could potentially be our host site for a couple of our upcoming events, such as STEM Literacy Drills for Skills and Tutorial sessions that are scheduled to begin in July, or the Lights On Afterschool Programs Science Expo being planned by our own volunteer Antonio Acosta, that is to take place on October 22. We are excited to work on partnering with this awesome organization and have already become a collaborative partner of the United Partners for Human Services as well.

As we embark upon our third year of operation- know that we would not have come this far without those of you who continue to support and invest in STEM4Girls. We appreciate each and every one of you who has made sure we had the resources we need and supported our efforts to increase access to quality STEM Literacy education for all children, especially our girls, living in underserved and underrepresented communities. Please take the time to consider a monthly investment of \$25.00 or an annual investment of \$600.00 to support our future STEMtec and STEMsci after school programs. Your investment is tax-deductible and will have a huge social impact with yields far greater than the monetary investment.

Although the current state of the world can feel hectic and overwhelming at times, STEM4Girls refuses to remain stagnant. We are dedicated to the success of the audience we serve and will continue to work hard to gain your trust, crush our goals, and keep it moving by turning stumbling blocks into ladders of sustained growth.  
Stay well and COVID-19 free!

Blessings,  
STEMS4Girls, Board of Directors  
June 30, 2020

-Written by Crista Clayton