Field of Dreams 2023

Generation Unstoppable
Dear Friends,

It’s hard to believe that it’s already been a year since we gathered together to celebrate 27 years of Girls in the Game. The past year has been a time of change for so many of us. Career changes, a refreshed focus on health and wellness, and so many other topics appeared not only in the news but in our own discussions. It was a year of looking inward and thinking of how to approach the future with a new perspective and a new focus on what genuinely fuels and empowers us.

And it was no different for Girls in the Game. While the coaches and girls continued to rebuild in-person programming to levels last seen in early 2020, the organization took some time to focus in on how it can continue to evolve with the changing needs of the girls and the cities that we work in. We completed the What Girls Need Now report, the culmination of a year-long needs assessment of girls and families in five west side neighborhoods. Staff also completed a full curriculum revision to ensure that all coaches directly understand the trauma-informed approach that guides all of Girls in the Game’s programs while also ensuring that the curriculum topics are dealing with what girls need and want to learn about, providing them the physical and social-emotional results that we look for in our evaluation efforts. And already in 2023, our Board of Directors has started a new strategic planning process, creating a plan that will guide the organization for the next three years.

For 28 years, Girls in the Game has been an organization that has consistently challenged itself to better serve girls. The goal has never been to just provide girls with an after school program for a year or a camp experience for one summer. Rather we strive for girls to grow up with Girls in the Game, giving them direct leadership and coaching experience as they age, developing confidence that will serve them later in life. The goal has been to help to create Generation Unstoppable year after year, to continue to create girls who will lead those around them throughout their lives.

When a girl joins Girls in the Game, it can be because she likes to play sports. She may want to be part of a team and learn the lessons that go along with that. She may want to coach and be a role model for younger girls. Or she may just find the program as she looks for something to do after school and not really know what she wants from it. Ultimately, the choice is hers.

Regardless of why she lands at Girls in the Game, there are things that she will receive. Confidence. Encouragement. Conviction. And inspiration. And that’s what matters most. It doesn’t matter why a girl joins Girls in the Game; it matters how she feels at the end of a programming session. We want girls to feel unstoppable. And to take that feeling with them as they go to college or get their first job. As they deal with all of the obstacles that life can put in their way. That is Generation Unstoppable. And that is why we are all here tonight.

We are incredibly proud to be Co-Chairs of tonight’s event as well as members of the Board of Directors for Girls in the Game. We have seen firsthand the impact this program has had on nearly 60,000 girls since its inception. On behalf of our amazing planning committee and our Board, thank you all for being here tonight. Soon you will hear from our honored Champions as well as girls, all of whom exemplify the idea of Generation Unstoppable. We hope that you enjoy the night, find some inspiration in the words that you hear and continue to work to help others feel unstoppable every day.

Thank you,
Crystal Andrews Banks and Norah Larke
2023 Field of Dreams Co-Chairs
2023 Field of Dreams Gala
February 23, 2023

6:00-7:00pm: Cocktail Reception

7:15pm: Program Begins

7:20pm: Welcome to Field of Dreams

7:30pm: Dinner

Salad:

Bibb and Arugula, Roasted Bosc Pear, Wisconsin Tilston Point Blue, Spice Glazed Pecan, Vermont Cider Vinegar Dresssing

Entrée:

Honey Lime Amish Chicken with Red Skin Au Gratin, Charred Asparagus, Grilled Lime and Natural Chicken Jus

Or

Mushroom Filled Ravioli with Wild Mushrooms, Sauteed Zucchini and Madeira Sauce
(Vegetarian)

Dessert:

Traditional Crème Brulee with Fresh Berries

7:50-8:45pm: Program

8:45pm: Thank You

Reminder - Silent Auction Closes at 9:00pm

9:00pm: Silent Auction Check Out

A special “High Five” to the amazing Field of Dreams planning committee members for planning another much-anticipated event!

Crystal Andrews Banks (The Kraft Heinz Company) and Norah Larke (Wintrust)
2023 Event Co-Chairs

Tanara Boxer | Shannon Coomes | Erin Cullen | Sara Davey | Erika Del Giudice
Peggy Kusinski | Madelyn Ryder
Generation Unstoppable
Girls in the Game gratefully acknowledges the following 2023 Field of Dream Sponsors!

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For over 16 years, Girls in the Game has partnered with Loyola University Chicago to assess participant impact and program quality. The 2021-22 school year marked a return to in-person programs following a mostly virtual year due to COVID-19. However, 2021-22 was still not a “typical” program year for Girls in the Game. During the year, participants had to adjust to being back in-person, while still dealing with disruptions due to COVID. While some programs continued to take place in-person, other shifted to the virtual space again. However, despite all the challenges, we know that girls are strong, and that our programs provide a safe space to be themselves, release stress and connect with peers and coaches. The Girls in the Game 2021-2022 program evaluation examined the ways in which the Girls in the Game After School, Middle School, Teen Club, and Teen Squad programs supported the physical and psychological well-being of their participants.
After School: Elementary

- 79% of girls maintained or improved their safety awareness
- 81% maintained or improved their calmness score (i.e. went from “jitter” to “calm”)
- 71% maintained or improved their leadership score
- 77% maintained or improved their self-awareness
- 81% reported having fun at Girls in the Game
- 83% reported feeling safe and comfortable at Girls in the Game
Teen Squad girls reported significant improvements of college preparedness over the course of programming. In addition, they reported significant improvement in an aspect of emotion regulation related to using coping strategies. A majority of girls maintained high levels of emotion regulation, healthy relationships, positive beliefs about their body, self-awareness, community, leadership, self-efficacy, and self-esteem over the course of programming.

When asked about their favorite parts of the program, sports and games were the most popular response by girls in Teen Club, followed by the conversations that took place in the program. The majority of girls (85% and more) said Girls in the Game met their expectations and many added that they learned a lot and had fun. The majority also reported that they would recommend the program to a friend and that they feel prepared for Leader to Leader.
Teen Programs
(includes findings from both Teen Club and Teen Squad Surveys)

89% of teens would recommend Girls in the Game to a friend
74% of teens maintained or improved their leadership scores
74% of teens maintained or improved their self-esteem scores
82% of teens maintained or improved their college readiness scores
75% of teens maintained or improved their healthy relationship goals
Judge Rosemarie Aquilina earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Western Michigan Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1984 after earning her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Michigan State University in 1979. She was the first female JAG Officer in the Michigan Army National Guard and retired with 20 years honorable service.

After owning a successful law practice she was elected to the 55th District Court she served 4 years as Chief Judge and Sobriety Court Judge and was then elected to serve as a 30th Circuit Court where she is in her 14th year.

Judge Aquilina is a Law Professor at Western Michigan Thomas M. Cooley Law School and Michigan State University College of Law.

She is a motivational speaker and author. She authored three fictional novels: Feel No Evil, Triple Cross Killer and All Rise. Her memoir, Just Watch Me, was released December 2020 in partnership with Audible, Reese Witherspoon and Hello Sunshine.

Judge Aquilina, is the mother of five children, has three grandchildren, and resides in East Lansing, Michigan.
Lauren Jiggetts joined top-rated WGN Morning News as an anchor in July of 2017. Prior to WGN-TV, Lauren spent ten years at NBC 5 as the weekend evening news anchor and reported on the weekdays. She joined NBC 5 Chicago as a general assignment reporter in January 2007 and covered the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London. She also co-hosted NBC’s coverage of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon in 2015 & 2016. Prior to joining NBC 5 Chicago, Jiggetts worked as a reporter and fill-in anchor for WLVI-TV (Boston’s CW).

Lauren graduated cum laude from Harvard University and she is a graduate of Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire. She was born in Chicago and currently lives in Chicago with her husband and two sons.

Lauren received a national and regional Emmy in 2011 for her contribution to the station’s coverage of the Burr Oak Cemetery Scandal. She has also received multiple local Emmys including one for her contribution to NBC 5’s coverage of the Chicago Marathon. In 2015, she received the Irv Kupcinet Media Award at the 41st Annual Ed Kelly Foundation Gala. In 2007, Lauren was the recipient of the Community Partnership Award from Spertus College.

She started her career as an anchor and reporter for the award-winning “Channel One News” in Los Angeles. The daily 12-minute newscast is sent via satellite to 12,000 middle and high schools nationwide. Jiggetts was selected by Harvard University’s Institute of Politics to participate in the Director’s Internship Program. She worked in the public affairs office at MTV Studios in New York City, where she focused on their anti-discrimination campaign. During college, she interned in the newsrooms of WFLD-TV (Fox Chicago) and ChicagoLand Television (CLTV).

She has volunteered on the boards of Share Our Spare & Special Olympics Chicago. She is the daughter of former Bears offensive lineman Dan Jiggetts.
According to the Illinois High School Association, the CPS high school matchup between Coach Mayfield’s Fenger Titans and Coach Rhea’s DuSable Panthers is believed to be the first time in men’s varsity high school football history that two women faced off as head football coaches. They are role models for future generations and an accomplishment for high school football programs nationwide.

Coach Mayfield, from the Cabrini-Green neighborhood of the North Side of Chicago, was recently named head coach for Fenger in 2021 after her student-athletes recommended her for the position. Mayfield previously worked as a security guard at Fenger High School and coached her son’s peewee team until she decided to reinstate the school’s football program, which had been defunct since the pandemic began.

Coach Rhea, from the City of Harvey on the South Side of Chicago, had her start as a coach by coaching youth football back in 2013 to eventually becoming the defensive coordinator at DuSable in 2019. Last year, Rhea made history as the first Black woman to serve as head coach of a CPS men’s varsity football team. Rhea also played semi-pro for the Chicago Force as a backup defensive tackle for two years.

credit to CPS athletics for Championship Bio
Girls in the Game would like to thank the following individuals and organizations whose efforts helped contribute to the success of this evening as well as helping us to create Generation Unstoppable over the past 28 years. Your continued support has allowed Girls in the Game to continue to help girls to discover their strength and become changemakers, wherever their lives take them.

**The amazing 2023 Field of Dreams Event Co-Chairs and Committee** who made this event come to life! Your positivity, creativity and dedication make each of you a pleasure to work with. Thank you for spending close to a year of your lives to plan this night. Your passion is evident and you are truly inspirational.

**Co-Chair:** Crystal Andrews Banks, The Kraft Heinz Company  
**Co-Chair:** Norah Larke, Wintrust

**Committee Members:**  
Tanara Boxer | Shannon Coomes | Erin Cullen | Sara Davey | Erika Del Giudice | Peggy Kusinski | Madelyn Ryder

All of the incredible 2023 Champions. While not everyone could attend in person, we thank you for willingness to be part of tonight. You are all role models for the girls that we serve and helping to create Generation Unstoppable in your own unique ways!

**Girls in the Game Board, Auxiliary, Staff, Interns, and Volunteers** who help Girls in the Game achieve its goals every year. Thank you all for your guidance and dedication. Our work isn't possible without each of you.

**Our sponsors and silent auction donors** for their commitment to our organization. Your support has allowed us to help girls to stay in the game and make an impact on the future of tens of thousands of girls over the years.

And finally, **Garrett Popcorn** for their generous donation of takeaway gifts for all of the night’s guests. For all in attendance and anyone else who helped the mission of Girls in the Game over the past 28 years, **Thank You!**

Each of you have played a crucial role in helping us to build Generation Unstoppable with every new year.
GIRLS IN THE GAME

CHIP IN FOR GIRLS

Save the date for our 24th Annual Chip in for Girls Golf outing! We are returning to Cantigny to celebrate Generation Unstoppable

Tuesday, June 20th
Cantigny Golf, Wheaton IL.

LEARN MORE AT
WWW.GIRLSINTHEGAME.ORG/GOLFOUTING
Girls in the Game thanks our Board

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Shahara Byford-Board Vice Chair
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CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, founded in 1995, Girls in the Game provides and promotes sports and fitness opportunities, nutrition & health education, and leadership development programs that have helped and empowered over 45,000 girls and women; and

WHEREAS, Girls in the Game is dedicated to serving girls in diverse communities throughout Chicagoland by helping to ensure that girls from every community enjoy equal opportunities to participate in constructive activities and improve their health; and

WHEREAS, Girls in the Game provides girls with formative experiences that encourage them to make positive changes and choices regarding their health, leadership potential, and self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, Girls in the Game also offers innovative year-round programming that addresses the whole girl through involved curriculum and energetic team-building; and

WHEREAS, for 28 years, Girls in the Game has broken down barriers that young women face in sports and fitness programs, and in life, while also empowering girls and young women by providing them with a range of pertinent skills and lessons they can take off the court and field to apply to life and society; and

WHEREAS, this year, Girls in the Game will mark its 28th Anniversary, and host their highly anticipated fundraiser event “The Field of Dreams” Gala on February 23, 2023 to recognize the girls in the program; the champions of the organization, Sports Champion Ishwara Glassman Chrein, Health Champion Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Leadership Champion Sam Rapoport, and Life Champion Ashton Washington; and celebrate 28 years of empowerment:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim February 23, 2023 to be GIRLS IN THE GAME DAY IN CHICAGO in recognition of the many important and beneficial programs that they provide to our City’s young women, and encourage all residents to support this organization that impacts our city and our future.

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2023.

Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor
GOING THE EXTRA MILE FROM LESS THAN A MILE AWAY

31 YEARS AND COUNTING

WE’RE PROUD TO SPONSOR GIRLS IN THE GAME
Hill is a proud supporter of Girls in the Game. Empowering girls to build the future!

#Generation Unstoppable

hillgrp.com
2022 Highlights
1. $25,000 Donation to help offset 2022 Summer Registration costs by Gatorade X Candace Parker.
2. $22,500 New sporting equipment purchased to support Girls in the Game wish lists needs.
3. To learn more about Gatorade’s Equity in sports commitment, visit Gatorade.com/community.
Tanara Golston and Boxer Family Foundation

Tanara Golston and The Boxer Family Foundation is honored to support Girls in the Game
Minimizing risk and maximizing health

nationwide.

ASSURANCE IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF GIRLS IN THE GAME AND CELEBRATE YOUR VERY IMPORTANT WORK EMPOWERING GIRLS AND INSPIRING THEIR CONFIDENCE AND LEADERSHIP.

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Supporting opportunities

Peoples Gas is happy to be a part of Girls in the Game’s 28th Anniversary Field of Dreams Gala.

We, too, believe that no goal is too high for young women.

Together, we are empowering the communities we serve.

Peoples Gas®
We Keep Life Moving®
Empowering girls. Impacting futures.

We’re proud to support the Girls in the Game Field of Dreams Gala honoring champions who have made an impact in the areas of sports, health, leadership and life. Their efforts help girls grow up to be happy, healthy and strong.
Championing Success

Akerman proudly supports Girls in the Game for its life changing mission to educate girls about their inherent strength, empower them with skills and confidence, and set them on a path of success in all facets of life.

LaKeisha C. Marsh, Chicago, IL
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Founded by H.W. Kinander, Sr. in 1955, Electri-Flex Company continues to manufacture the highest quality liquidtight flexible conduit in the industry. Today the company continues its success under the leadership of the third generation of the Kinander family.

Join us in celebrating the past 60 years of success as we lead the way towards the future.

“Quality, service, and loyalty to our partners.”
- H.W. "West" Kinander, Jr., former President and co-owner in 1991

Reliable has a long-standing history of empowering women since 1920.

The tradition is continued with our support of Girls in the Game!
Is happy to support Girls in the Game and the Field of Dreams

#GenerationUnstoppable
GIRLS should have the opportunity to discover their strengths.

Hatchell & Associates is a proud supporter of Girls In The Game.

Congratulations to Girls in the Game on 28 years of helping girls become leaders!

Christina Y. Fisher.
Board Member of Girls in the Game
Porter Pipe & Supply

Are proud sponsors of the 28th Field of Dreams Gala

#GenerationUnstoppable

ASI | All Seasons Insulation

Congratulations Girls in the Game on 28 years of showing girls how powerful they really are.

Columbia Pipe & Supply Co.

We congratulate Girls in the Game on their 28th anniversary on their Field of Dreams Gala.

#GenerationUnstoppable

Depaul University

We are proud to Sponsor Girls in the Game’s #GenerationUnstoppable Field of Dreams Gala
Congratulations on 28 years of creating the next Generation Unstoppable.

Sterling Bay is proud to support Girls in the Game at Lincoln Yards

We are proud to be a sponsor of Girls in the Game’s 28th Anniversary Field of Dreams Gala
Congratulations on many years of girls who ‘Change the Game’

ADTALEM GLOBAL EDUCATION IS PROUD TO SUPPORT GIRLS IN THE GAME AND ITS WELLNESS AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS.

Adtalem Global Education is a national leader in post-secondary education and leading provider of professional talent to the healthcare industry. As the #1 grantor of BSN degrees to under-represented minority students in the U.S., Adtalem’s institutions are helping pave a path toward health equity.*

*BSN degrees by Chamberlain University, analysis is based on FY2021 IPEDS data downloaded on 09/15/2022. Under-represented minority includes students who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.
All IS WELL; 28 Years is a Big Effing-Deal

The warmth and spirit of Field of Dreams 2023 is what personal well-being feels like.

This year’s theme, Generation Unstoppable! says it all. One way to be unstoppable is to grow up strong, calm at the core, confident in your ability to prosper. That’s what self-care skills do for girls. Breathing. Mindful movement. Positive self-talk. Yoga. Journaling. The power of play. Our coaches help girls experience fun ways to feel safe and peaceful inside so the girls can better cope with the extreme uncertainty and anxiety in their outside lives.

So please! Be curious about Girls in the Game’s ongoing and wildly innovative Self Care Project

www.girlsinthegame.org/alliswell

Smart decisions today. Lasting value tomorrow.™
crowe.com

Are proud sponsors of the 28th Field of Dreams Gala

#GenerationUnstoppable
We applaud Girls in the Game for 28 years of success.

#GenerationUnstoppable

Proudly supports Girls in the Game

#GenerationUnstoppable

It takes balance.

We're proud to support Girls in the Game and the important role your organization plays in our community.

We'll get you there.

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