



Alternatives For Girls

POWERFUL ALTERNATIVES

FALL 2023



Photo: The 2023 Rise N' Shine day camp participants enjoy a fun-filled summer!

The Good Word *From the desk of Amanda (Amy) L. Good, CEO*



I am so grateful to all our friends and partners who have helped us provide deep and life-changing support to the most vulnerable in our community. We could not have served over 3,000 at-risk and homeless girls and young women over the last year without these critical collaborations, our volunteer network, and, of course, our donors.

Please follow us on social media to watch our progress. The *Dr. Maya Angelou Village* – a 45-unit affordable, supportive housing development – will open late next spring! We look forward to providing on-site support to young families in that new complex. Our Workforce Development initiative continues to connect with prospective employers, setting the stage for mutually-beneficial partnerships that provide those we serve with work experience and a path to independence, and provides business owners access to employees who are prepared and supported.

We will continue to share news and report on our impact over the coming months.

Sincerely,


You can Change Her Story

We rely on support from our community to help us bring quality, life-changing programs to the girls and young women who need them the most. We are committed to empowering those we serve throughout the community by providing programs and resources that value each individual. We make sure they know their trauma does not define them, and yes, they can achieve dreams and goals beyond what their current situation is. Thanks to supporters like you, we can do just that.

Donate

Make a one-time gift today or give monthly and join our AFG Ambassador Club.

 **ONLINE**
www.alternativesforgirls.org

 **MAIL**
Mail a donation in the enclosed envelope.

Estate & Legacy Giving

Make AFG part of your giving plans. We will help you and your financial advisor with any questions you may have. Contact **Cecile Aitchison** at caitchison@alternativesforgirls.org for more information.

Volunteer

AFG offers many volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups. For more information, visit our website. For questions, contact **Christina Ramsey** at cramsey@alternativesforgirls.org.

Corporate Partnerships

At AFG, we value the shared commitment to our mission and all those with whom we partner. A corporate partnership brings engagement and awareness to company staff, all while making a difference in the lives we serve. Corporate partnerships include, and not limited to volunteering, sponsorship of our largest fundraising event – Role Model Celebration, hosting a lunch and learn at your office and workplace giving. For more information, visit www.alternativesforgirls.org.

*For more ways to GIVE,
scan here:*



Going Beyond, with Violet Gintsis



Beyond Juicery + Eatery Franchisee

AFG's Workforce Development provides the young women we serve with employment readiness, job coaching and opportunities, all with the goal of moving them out of poverty.

We partner with businesses throughout Metro Detroit to connect our participants with employment opportunities that go beyond a paycheck; jobs are also a pathway for independence, learning and recognizing self-worth. Since this program began back in 2021, AFG and our participants have been extremely fortunate to have met Violet Gintsis, Beyond Juicery + Eatery Franchisee.

"I grew up extremely poor in Greece. I know what it is like to go without the basic needs, including electricity and water. However, I also had an incredibly supportive family, and we made sure no matter what, we were there for each other. Now, fast forward six decades, five being in the United States, I have worked nonstop including going to school full time and working full time to earn advanced degrees. I worked in an industry for decades that was challenging and at times, I was the only female in the room. That was until a few years ago when I decided to own my own business; that's how I became a franchisee for Beyond Juicery + Eatery. As a business owner, I have been looking to engage the community. With my personal background, I wanted to try and give others opportunities so when I opened my stores, I called over 40 nonprofits to try and engage with underserved communities. I am thrilled that Alternatives For Girls answered the phone and wanted to engage as well.

Since 2021, I have hired women in AFG's programs. Over the years, I realized how much I had to sacrifice personally, and as an employer, I am conscious to not let others do the same. I know childcare and housing are issues for many working women, and most definitely for those at AFG. I think it is important to give anyone an opportunity to succeed and understand their struggles for success. At times, my employees may not own a phone, but I try to work with them to communicate their schedules and anything else that's work related. They may not have transportation - we try to help them find or get transportation just to get their footing in place. What some of our employees endure is unimaginable to some people; when I have an opportunity to discuss this, I let people know our employees that have challenging circumstances with basic needs did not chose that lifestyle. They deserve a chance to overcome it, and we as an employer can give them that chance.

I was fortunate to have family to help guide me through life challenges including being a survivor of domestic violence. I encourage other business owners to consider hiring from AFG and give people an opportunity to succeed. Many of these women who have experienced trauma from homelessness, domestic violence and/or exploitation and do not have family to turn to. They just need someone to give them a real opportunity. I encourage employers to Call AFG, meet with their staff and discuss their needs and expectations. Everyone deserves a chance at economic independence."

*For more information or to become a Workforce Development partner, contact
Dea Mason at dmason@alternativesforgirls.org.*

The 2022 Impact Report is Here!

Many thanks to all our donors, volunteers and community partners who are empowering the girls and young women we serve. Scan the QR code to learn more about how we are making an impact together.

Scan with your phone!





Alternatives For Girls

903 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48208-2365



Save the Date!

International Women's Day

ROLE MODEL Celebration

Date

March 7, 2024

Location

The Henry Ford
Dearborn, Michigan

Time

6-9pm

In recognition of International Women's Day, join us to celebrate the accomplishments of extraordinary women in our community, the accomplishments of the girls and young women we serve, and the impact AFG has in our community.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please visit our website at www.alternativesforgirls.org or contact **Amenia Army** at army@alternativesforgirls.org.

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