

# GIRL'S BEST FRIEND FOUNDATION

1994-2008

Sometimes I have this  
idea about myself of  
doing things that people  
don't think I can do

I'M  
FED  
UP



# Mission

The mission of Girl's Best Friend Foundation is to promote and protect the human rights of girls in metropolitan Chicago by advancing and sustaining policies and programs that ensure girls' self-determination, power, and well-being.



Cyndie McLachlan created Girl's Best Friend Foundation with her then young adult children as a way to use money to make change for girls.

It worked, didn't it?

As Cyndie would have said—cool!

# Goals

- Directly support girls' development as critical thinkers and activists, as the most straightforward way to back strong girl leaders passionate about feminist social change
- Strengthen a set of organizations—essential partners in GBF's mission—that have the potential for long term creative and powerful work with girls, young women, and youth
- Support the social change, values-based development of youth workers and adult allies, as lifelong intergenerational partners and advocates with girls and young women
- Cultivate and champion the field of girls' social change activism



Girls from Arab American Family Services

We could not have achieved these goals without a cadre of amazing and committed individuals. Let's all take a bow!

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# I CAN DO!

Thanks from GBF!  
To the girls, young women, youth, and adult allies: it has been an honor to work with you over the past 13 years. We will always remember the pleasure of being your partners in justice and change. You have reflected and raised the power of girls and youth in our community. We look forward to more from your extraordinary selves!

# Resources

- Grants for programs, projects, general operations, capacity building, professional development, youth-led research, and unanticipated crises and opportunities
- Sisters Empowering Sisters (girl grant making and social change)
- Direct training in participatory evaluation research
- Sponsored training, learning circles, and other professional development opportunities for grantee staff, youth, and boards
- Convening grantee staff
- Effective staff charged with connecting grantees to resources, promoting proven good practices, and bringing ideas and suggestions to GBF for consideration and action
- Engaged, knowledgeable board, fiercely committed to girls' self-determination, power, and well-being, and to high engagement philanthropy
- Dynamic, visionary founder, Cynthia K. McLachlan



Sisters Empowering Sisters group  
GBF program 1995-2006.

## Sisters Empowering Sisters Members

- |                   |                    |                        |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Samantha Affram   | Bianca Girven      | Aris Montgomery        |
| Happiness Akpan   | Karel Hammonds     | Thanh Nguyen           |
| Jenny Arteaga     | Alex Hardin        | Valentina Pacheco      |
| Sabuwra Baty      | Samantha Helgerson | Andrea Pierce          |
| Wisdom Baty       | Ariel Herman       | Jenna Pierce           |
| Deanne Bauer      | Sadie Horan        | Nicole Pettis          |
| Mokerah Bradley   | Tia Johnson        | Alejandra Piers-Torres |
| Sonja Bugvilionis | Shureice Komegay   | Paola Piers-Torres     |
| Diana Burnett     | Arin Lawrence      | Kristina Reis          |
| Maria Cuenca      | Amy Lien Cross     | Alexandra Reyes        |
| Jamie Daniels     | Evelyn Lopez       | Cristina Sainati       |
| Jori Daniels      | Kristin Loos       | Agnes Stachurska       |
| Taylor Davis      | Alexandra Lozoya   | Ashten Stewart         |
| Carina Dominguez  | Elacsha Madison    | Nina Taylor            |
| Tiffany Dunlap    | Maria Manriquez    | Yovana Walder          |
| Ayomide Fawole    | Alice Mathias      |                        |
| Eleanor Fort      | Jenni Mayer        |                        |
| Kayla Friedman    | Sonja Mixon        |                        |

# Legacy

- Confident and skilled young women leaders working to make change in their lives and communities—and the world
- A wealth of stronger groups staffed by committed individuals and led by activist girls and women
- Greater girls' involvement in decision-making at all levels of organizations, including on boards
- More robust youth social change activism
- More safe space for all youth
- Sisters Empowering Sisters (girl-led philanthropy for social change)
- Girl-focused research (Speak for Yourself: Girls Say What Girls Need)
- Anchor funding for dynamic new resources of use to young women, youth, and youth workers, including:
  - Chicago Freedom School
  - Chicago Girls' Coalition
- Girl Grantmakers' Network
  - Youth Fund for Social Change at the Crossroads Fund



The Empowered Fe Fe

## Grantees through June 2007

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| About Face Theatre<br>Abraham Lincoln Centre<br>Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago<br>Adapt<br>ADV & SAS<br>Advocates for Youth<br>All Hall Project<br>Alternatives in Education for the Hearing Impaired<br>Alternatives, Inc.<br>Among Friends<br>Arab American Action Network<br>Arab American Family Services<br>Artistic Pursuits<br>Bethany Brethren Community Center<br>Bethel Green<br>Family Worship Center<br>BeyondMedia Education<br>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermillion County<br>Black Ensemble Theater<br>Blissful Sacrament Youth Center<br>Blocks Together<br>Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield<br>Brighton Park Neighborhood Council<br>Brotherhood/Sisters<br>Cambodian Association of Illinois<br>Casa Central<br>Center for Impact Research<br>Center on Halsted<br>Centro Comunitario Juan Diego<br>Centro Romero<br>Centro Sin Fronteras<br>Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy<br>Chicago Area Project<br>Chicago Children's Museum<br>Chicago Coalition for the Homeless<br>Chicago Council on Urban Affairs<br>Chicago Freedom Movement<br>Chicago Freedom School<br>Chicago Girls' Coalition<br>Chicago Health Connection<br>Chicago Metropolitan Sanctuary Alliance<br>Chicago State University<br>Chicago Women in Philanthropy<br>Chicago Women in Trades<br>Chicago Women's Health Center<br>Chicago Youth United<br>CHDServ<br>Chinese Mutual Aid Association<br>Christopher House<br>Coalition for Education on Sexual Orientation<br>Coalition for Positive Sexuality<br>College of DuPage, Public Policy Institute<br>Community Architects Association<br>Community Extension Project, Inc.<br>Community TV Network<br>Creating Safe Schools for Illinois<br>Crossroads Fund<br>Developing Communities Project<br>Donors Forum of Chicago<br>El Valor<br>Family Matters<br>Family Planning Service of Western Illinois, Inc.<br>Family Rescue<br>Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing<br>Gear Up Girls Club | Gender Equity Fund<br>Gender PAC<br>Genesis House<br>Girl Power<br>Girl Scouts of DuPage County<br>Girl Scouts of Whispering Oaks Council<br>Girl Talk<br>Girl Zone<br>Girls Grantmaking Network<br>Girls in the Game<br>Girls International Forum<br>Global Girls, Inc.<br>GLEN of Chicago<br>Grassroots Funding Institute<br>Guatemala Radio Project<br>Guild Complex<br>Head 2 Toe<br>Health & Medicine Policy Research Group<br>Healthy Teen Network<br>Home II<br>HRED Urban Systems of Care<br>Illinois Campaign for Responsible Sex Education<br>Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health<br>Illinois Center for the Prevention of Violence<br>Illinois Center for Violence Prevention<br>Illinois Gender Equity Commission<br>Illinois Safe Schools Alliance<br>INTE<br>Insight Arts<br>Institute of Positive Education<br>Kartemquin Educational Films<br>Korean American Resource & Cultural Center<br>Latin School<br>Latina Girls Club<br>LeClair Hearst Community Center<br>Literature for All of Us<br>Live for Something or Die for Nothing<br>Michigan Women's Foundation<br>Mikva Challenge<br>Mile Square Health Center<br>Ms. Foundation for Women<br>Mujeres Latinas en Accion<br>Multicultural Youth Project<br>Music Theatre Workshop<br>National Center for Family Philanthropy<br>National Council for Research on Women<br>National Network of Grantmakers<br>Near North Development Corporation<br>Near North Health Service Corporation<br>Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club<br>New Moon Magazine<br>North Suburban Area Project<br>Our Bodies, Ourselves<br>Philip Behr Jewish Community Center<br>Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area<br>Proactive Community Services<br>Project Exploration<br>Project Hope<br>Project Vida<br>Questioning Youth Center<br>Radio Area WRITE<br>Redmoon Theater<br>RIC Women with Disabilities Center<br>Rogers Park Youth Network<br>Saladin Family Foundation | Sarah's Inn<br>School Street Movement<br>SHAFTI for Children<br>Sisters in Action for Power<br>SistersSong Women of Color Health Collective<br>South Side Help Center<br>Southwest Youth Collaborative<br>Sparkle Foundation<br>Street-Level Youth Media<br>Third Wave Foundation<br>This Is Me, Inc.<br>Tikoj<br>Trinity Hospital<br>Umoja Student Development Corp.<br>Universal Family Connection, Inc.<br>University of Illinois-Chicago<br>College of Education<br>University of Illinois-Chicago<br>Gender and Women's Studies Department<br>University of Illinois-Chicago<br>Office of Women's Affairs<br>University YWCA<br>Untapped Talent, Inc.<br>Uptown Center Hull House<br>Urban Art Retreat<br>Urban Solutions<br>V-DAY Chicago 2004<br>Video Machee<br>Vietnamese Association of Illinois<br>Washington Irving School<br>Wellington Ave Church<br>WYN Foundation<br>Women & Children First<br>Women's Association of Illinois<br>Women & Gender Research Initiative<br>Women & Girls Collective Action Network<br>Women & Girls Foundation of Pennsylvania<br>Women & Philanthropy<br>Women Employed Institute<br>Women in the Directors Chair<br>Women's Business Development Center<br>Women's Health Education Project<br>Women's Issues Network Foundation<br>Women's Foundation of California<br>Young Women's Leadership Charter School<br>Youth Outreach Services<br>Youth Service Project, Inc.<br>YWCA Evanston/North Shore<br>YWCA Lake County<br>YWCA of Allon<br>YWCA of Aurora<br>YWCA Lake and McHenry County<br>YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago-Harris Center<br>YWCA University of Illinois<br>Zuna Institute |
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Care and Special Opportunity Grantees  
2007/2008 and Legacy Grantees appear in bold.  
Total projected grant dollars  
1994-2008 = \$6.2 million.