



Backgrounder Girls Incorporated® of Indianapolis

The Early Years

Locally, three mothers from the Fountain Square neighborhood founded our affiliate in **1969**, seeking an alternative gathering place for their daughters other than the nearby pool hall.

1970s

In the formative years in the late **60s** and **70s**, the first Girls Club of Indianapolis opened its doors in the old IPS School #20 building where volunteers served as the staff. Lilly Endowment and the Indianapolis Foundation's matching grants provided operating expenses for the first three years. In **1975**, the Model Cities Girls Clubs and the Girls Club of Indianapolis merged and became a United Way agency that was renamed the Girls Clubs of Marion County. The two club locations were then referred to as Fountain Square and Mapleton-Fall Creek.

1980s

The **80s** brought a long range strategic plan funded by the Lilly Endowment and the Fleischman Foundation. This support made it possible for the Girls Incorporated National Resource Center to open its doors in Indianapolis in **1981**. In **1989**, Operation SMART (Science, Math, and Relevant Technology) was piloted as an outreach program in five local schools and local club facilities.

1990s

At the beginning of **1990**, when the national organization changed its name, our local chapter became Girls Incorporated of Indianapolis. At the turn of the century, we celebrated the 35th anniversary of Girls Inc. of Indianapolis and since then we have continued to build and grow as an organization: our volunteer services engaged over 160 volunteers in its first year; over 80 alumnae have reconnected; our outreach programs expanded to serve over 60 sites across Marion County; the local website was launched; the Latina Initiative launched to serve the needs of Hispanic girls in Marion County.

2000s

In **2005**, we served girls at both Girls Incorporated centers and at over 20 outreach partnership locations. The board of directors approved a new three-year strategic plan to expand Girls Inc. programming into additional counties (Hamilton, Hendricks, Boone, and Madison); to expand outreach programming.



The most significant strategic shift in **2006** was to begin serving girls in Hamilton County. Additionally, programming in the Fountain Square neighborhood was transitioned from facility-based to outreach, which allowed us to reach hundreds of more girls. Volunteers continued to be a strong force; 194 volunteers logged 2040 volunteer hours!

In **2007**, Patricia A. Wachtel became the new CEO, kicking off a new strategic direction for the organization by implementing an entirely outreach service model. In **2008**, multi-partner outreach collaborations are beginning to be established with schools, community centers, and other youth agencies within twelve key neighborhoods. The selected neighborhoods are known as “hubs,” and the fully functioning partnerships make it possible for girls to participate in multiple programs right inside their own neighborhood.