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From Girls Incorporated to Womanhood Testimonials

The Inclusive Nature

From the ages of 7 to 10, Tonja Couch attended Girls Incorporated in Seymour, Indiana, where she enjoyed cooking club and arts and crafts. What Tonja remembers the most, however, is Dance Club and her first recital. Tonja felt comfortable at Girls Inc. due to the inclusive nature of the other girls, despite their many differences. She felt supported by her friends at Girls Inc. who “challenged me to love who I am and let others see who I am.” Tonja said she believes that the most important issue facing girls today is choosing to be themselves. She said, “It’s hard to be a young girl and trying to be liked... but it is most important to like yourself, both inside and out.” Tonja has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Tonja said she feels that Girls Inc. helped inspire her to be the person she needed to be when she was young. She currently helps at-risk youth as a Family Support Specialist for Quinco.

Righty-tighty, Lefty-loosy

Monica Smith attended Girls Incorporated of Indianapolis Operation SMARTSM outreach programs at Harcourt Elementary. She said she enjoyed the all-girl environment because there were no boys to criticize the girls and remembers participating in math puzzles and taking apart household items. When asked about the most important thing she learned while she was a member, she said, “When using tools it is righty-tighty, lefty-loosy, and also that I can do anything I want.” She said she believes that girls today need to develop a sense of independence. Monica received her B.A. in Political Science from Xavier University of Louisiana. She worked for the past two summers at Girls Inc., leading programs for current girl members. Monica now lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is studying law at Southern University.

A Great Impact

Tara Kimbrough attended Girls Inc. of Indianapolis from the age of 6 until she was 14 years old. She believes the most important lesson she learned at Girls Inc. was that girls could do anything as long as they believe in themselves. She said, “I loved going to Girls Incorporated. I cannot really explain the impact that it has had on my life but it’s been a great one. I encourage all girls to attend.” She said she believes that pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases are the most important issues that girls face today. Tara said she remembers many of the activities that she participated in which includes sports, math games, arts and crafts and brainteaser games. Currently, Tara is enrolled at Indiana University where she is majoring in Human Development and Family Studies.