

**UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY
OWENSBORO-DAVISS COUNTY
PARTNER AGENCY: GIRLS INCORPORATED OF OWENSBORO**

Katie, one of the members being tracked for United Way outcome purposes has been a Girls Inc. member for over three years. She lives with her recovering drug addicted mother, recovering drug addicted stepdad, and two sisters. In mom's days, when she was a single mother with an addiction problem, she was essentially homeless, living off the "kindness" of others who took her and her girls in, all the while not knowing her children were being put in danger. During one extended stay with a "kind stranger," seven year old Katie was molested (on multiple occasions). She did tell her mother, to mom's credit as soon as a new place became available, mom packed their sparse belongings, grabbed the younger sister, living with them at the time and they headed out. However, nothing was mentioned about it again. No police report was made; until one day at Girls Inc. Programs at Girls Inc. like Kidability (which gives girls information and skills to understand their personal space and their rights to feel safe, to report sexual abuse and who to turn to for help) along with Action For Safety (which focuses on using your voice and self-defense skills if they are in danger or unsafe situations), give girls the tools they need to get the help they need. Katie did just that. Katie did disclose to the girls and staff at Girls Inc. that she had been touched inappropriately. Staff at Girls Inc. were able to get Katie the resources she needed and to make her feel strong and powerful again, not like a scared victim. She felt smart for telling. She knew she was being bold because of the dangers associated with telling, but she was so happy to be able to turn "him in" and make sure it didn't happen to other girls. Katie had not experienced full support outside of Girls Inc. for speaking up. She endured difficult times trying to keep her head up when being challenged by memories. Girls Inc. has been there continually to give her opportunities to display her strengths, especially her speaking abilities. Katie references her experience in her public speaking to help herself as well as to stand up for others. Today Katie is a Girls Inc. ambassador speaking at major events and being an advocate for other girls.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?

With your investment of \$100 **Girls Incorporated** can:

-
- Provide six girls, like Katie, full payment for their way during the entire afterschool program year
- Provide three girls the opportunity to attend a weekend residential camp to do archery, swim, boat, fish, and eat three meals a day
- Provide supplies for 10 girls enrolled in Operation SMART (Science, Math, and Relevant Technology) programming, to gain experiences as a scientist, engineer, or do robotics
- Provide pencils, erasers, notepads and paper in the homework room for a year
- Provide a girl living in the Spouse Abuse shelter full payment for year round programming at Girls Inc. as well as attending some fun and educational fieldtrips

