

18th Annual
**Hats, Hearts
& Handbags**

Thursday
May 4, 2023
VALLEY VIEW • ALACHUA

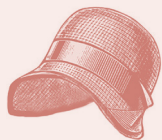
Benefiting

Girls Place, Inc. 
A Place to Go...
...A Place to Grow 501(c)(3)



#GirlsPlace #GP1P @girlsplaceinc

www.girlsplace.net | info@girlsplace.net | 352.373.4475



18th Annual Hats, Hearts & Handbags



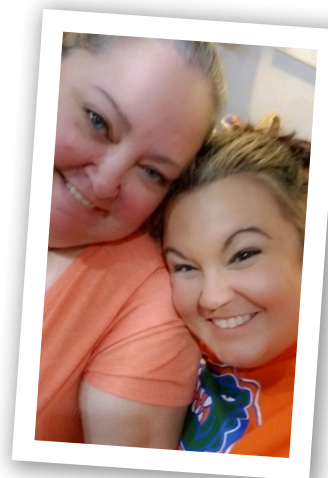
Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 18th annual Hats, Hearts & Handbags benefiting Girls Place Inc. For 40 years Girls Place Inc has been a home away from home for the young girls of our community. As our girls have grown, so has Girls Place. What started as a club for after school and summer camp has now blossomed into a safe place where the girls learn life long lessons such as academics and sports as well as social and emotional learning.

We hope you enjoy Hats, Hearts & Handbags. It's always amazing to see the creativity of our guests. We also hope that you will come visit Girls Place and see where the funds raised from the event are put to good use.

Sincerely,

Michelle Florence & Tiffany Hester
HHH Co-Chairwomen 2023



Thank you to our past event chairs and keynote speakers.

April 23, 2004 – DeeDee Smith, Chair; Speaker: Dr. Donna Shalala, President, University of Miami (President Clinton's U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services)

April 22, 2005 – Sally Lawrence, Chair; Speaker: Martha W. Bennett, Partner, Law firm of Holland & Knight (1st Woman President of American Bar Association)

March 17, 2006 – Dana Nemenyi, Chair; Speaker: Andrea Billups, People magazine reporter (former reporter for The Gainesville Sun)

April 13, 2007 – Grace Lambert, Chair; Speaker: Sadie Darnell, Alachua County Sheriff

April 25, 2008 – Gail Gruver, Chair; Speaker: Mary Wise, UF Women's Volleyball Coach

May 1, 2009 – DeeJay Hellrung, Chair; Speaker: Shelly Frazier Mickell, Local Author

April 23, 2010 – Leslie Florence, Chair; Speaker: Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., Florida State Surgeon General of the Florida Department of Health

April 8, 2011 – Kay Ayers, Chair; Speaker: Paige Beck, Co-Author of WCJB TV 20

March 9, 2012 – Sheila Crapo, Chair; Speaker: Katy Kalivoda, Owner of Casting Company in Boston (former Girls Place member)

April 12, 2013 – Carmen Braun, Chair; Speaker: Kia Painter, vice president of Human Resources for Cox Communications Southeast Region

April 11, 2014 - Michele duBois, Chair; Speaker: Dr. Naima Brown, interim vice president of student affairs at Santa Fe College

May 8, 2015 - Kristen Farrell, Chair; Speaker: Autumn Doughton, local author of young adult and new adult fiction

May 6, 2016 - Sheila Crapo, Chair; Speaker: Becky Burleigh, UF Women's Soccer Coach

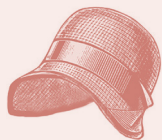
May 5, 2017 - Sheila Jones, Chair; Speaker: Kim Barton, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections

May 11, 2018 - Tara Counts, Chair; Speaker: Pam Soltis, Florida Museum of Natural History Distinguished Professor and Curator

May 10, 2019 - Sheila Crapo and Sheila Jones, Co-Chairs; Speaker: Brittany Lee, VP and Farm Manager of Florida Blue Farms, Inc.

May 19, 2022 - Leslie Florence and Carol Platt, Co-Chairs; Speaker: Jenny Rowland, UF Gymnastics Head Coach





18th Annual Hats, Hearts & Handbags



Who We Are

Celebrating nearly 40 years of serving girls in Alachua County, Girls Place has evolved into a passageway from childhood to womanhood for many girls in the Gainesville community. The young women of today are learning to become tomorrow's future at Girls Place.

Our Values: At Girls Place, we believe that all girls should be inspired, challenged and nurtured to become their very best.

Our Vision: Girls Place girls become independent women who embrace diversity, express their ideas, rise above obstacles, enhance their communities, and lead those around them.

Our Mission: At Girls Place, we empower girls to grow courageous, strong and self sufficient. We inspire our girls to celebrate themselves—their minds, their hearts, and their physical well being.



Luncheon Agenda

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 10:00 a.m. | Social Hour - Mingling and Mimosas, Pandora's Box, and Table Judging |
| 11:00 a.m. | View Table Decorations |
| 11:30 a.m. | Welcome & Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | Closing Remarks |

Keynote Speaker - Linda McGurn

Linda McGurn is an attorney and an inactive CPA. She received her degrees in accounting and law from the University of Florida. She is married to Ken McGurn, also a Gator alum. She served as chair of the University of Florida Foundation. She and Ken also served as co-chairs of the University of Florida Capital Campaign during its Environment Year. During that campaign they committed to funding for the new Exhibition Hall at the Florida Museum of Natural History due to their love of science. They also established a Fellowship Program to Media Integrity and the Fight Against Disinformation at the Colleges of Journalism and Law and The IDEA Initiative Fund at the Warrington College of Business due to their concerns about democracy.

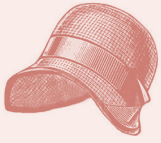


She and her husband Ken were recognized as University of Florida Distinguished Alumni in 2012 and awarded the UF Foundation Lifetime Volunteer Award in 2016. They were awarded the 2007 Alachua Conservation Trust Conservation Stewards of the Year. In 2000 the Gainesville Sun included them in "50 People Who Made a Difference Over the Last Century" and in 1995 the Gainesville Sun Business Persons of the Year. Florida Trend recognized her and her husband Ken, as members of the "500 Most Influential Business Leaders" in 2021 and 2022. In 2021, the Community Foundation awarded them the Legacy Award for Donors.

They have been instrumental in the redevelopment of downtown Gainesville. They have received more than 50 local, state and national awards for their projects, including a Sustainable Florida Initiative Award and a National Certificate of Merit.

Ms. McGurn has served on many volunteer boards including the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce. She was recognized as 2011 Volunteer of the Year along with her co-chair for heading Innovation Gainesville which is dedicated to expanding the high tech industry in Gainesville. She has been involved in Planned Parenthood since attending UF as a student and eventually serving on the board and as chair. Governor Chiles recognized her as one of Florida's Finest for her many efforts to better the community and the state. She is a member of Leadership Florida Class XVII.



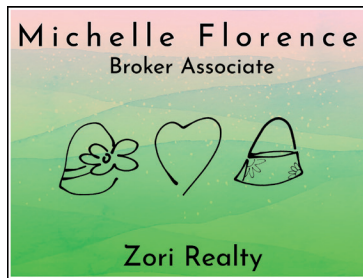


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Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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Table Captains' Words of Wisdom



Beverly Arrington

Never "Lego" of your dreams...
Build them!



Gia Arvin

Never settle! Push for your goals & never
let someone say you can't. Can't doesn't
mean you can't, it means you haven't yet!



Tonya Asher

Don't rely on someone else to make you happy.
Happiness comes from within. Love yourself for
YOU and the HAPPY will fall into place.



Misty Barnett

When problems arise, focus on how
to find a solution to the challenge
vs focusing on what happened-this
will take you far in life!



Leslie Bram

"The more that you read, the more
things you will know. The more that
you learn, the more places you'll go."

~ Dr. Seuss



Sheila Crapo

"A wise girl knows her limits, a
smart girl knows she has none."

~ Marilyn Monroe



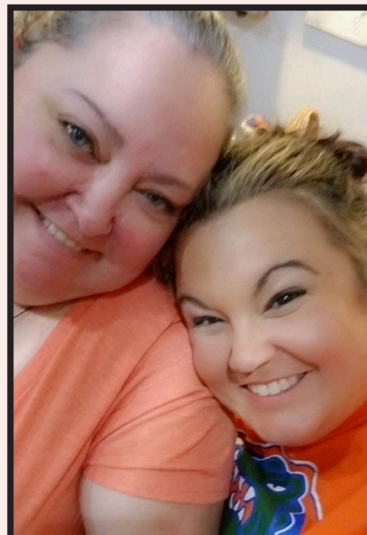
Michele duBois

Always be kind to others but
especially be kind to yourself!



Leslie Florence and Carol Platt

Don't Stop Believing



Michelle Florence and Tiffany Hester

Decide that you want it more than you are afraid of it.



Debbie Frening

Dream Big! Be happy
and kind.

Table Captains' Words of Wisdom



DeeJay Hellrung

When in doubt, don't!



Amy Howard

Be Kind. For everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.



Sheila Jones

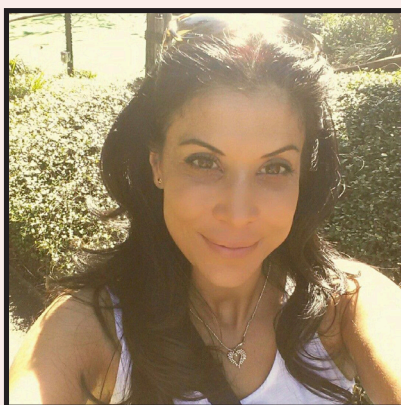
Sometimes it takes an overwhelming breakdown to have an undeniable breakthrough.



Leslie Ladendorf and Brittany Snipes

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

~ Dr. Jane Goodall



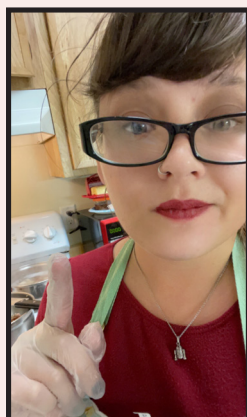
Nicole Rappaport

No one is you and that is your super power.



Sybil Samuel

You have a gift, it's awesome. Find it, be proud of it, nurture it, share it with others.



Kerri Stine

I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be.



Jill Tinney and Kerry Ward

"Know what sparks the light in you. Then use that light to illuminate the world."

~ Oprah Winfrey



Lynda Whitaker and Pat Maisenbacher

Stars are everywhere: in the sky in the sea and at Girls Place

Essay Contest Winners

In the annual Essay Contest sponsored by W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Inc., Girls Place girls were asked to write about a design for a machine that would help Girls Place or share their STEM role model.

Congratulations to this year's winners!

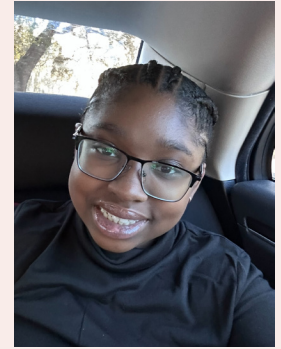
Sponsored by



Landry
First Place
K - Second Grade



Sofia
First Place
Third - Fifth Grade



Kynadi
First Place
Sixth - Eighth Grade

Event Emcee

**Nathan
Whitaker,**
Author &
Super Bowl
Champion



Thank You to Our Planning Committee!

Michelle Florence	Mary Brandenburg	DeeJay Hellrung
Tiffany Hester	Sheila Crapo	Sheila Jones
Jillian Ariet	Michele duBois	Carol Platt
Christi Arrington	Kristen Farrell	Christina Ramos
Misty Barnett	Leslie Florence	Amy Whitaker

Table Judges



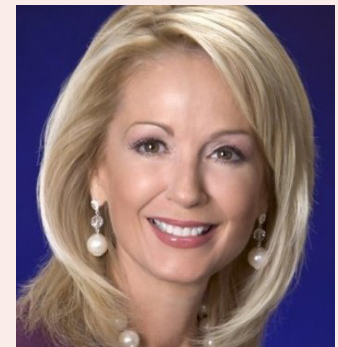
Brittany Forbes
Fashion Blogger



Kristin Privett
Co-Owner, Footstone
Photography



Louise Brown
Art Teacher



Paige Beck
WCJB News Anchor

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Michelle Florence
Broker Associate Zori Realty



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**Special Thank You
to the
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for supporting
the mission of
Girls Place!**



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When you're ready
to make a difference,
we're ready to help

Merrill Lynch is proud to support
Girls Place Inc.



Giving back to your community is important to you - and to us. That's why we're committed to helping you make a difference.



Baker duBois Group

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