

KitchenTable

Global Girls, Inc. Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME 23 FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024 ISSUE



Women and Girls Inspiring Change

It's an honor to honor these shining stars.

It all began with a suggestion from one of our girls. Katrina Rice, the oldest of the Rice girls and Christina Rice's big sister. During a session, she said, "There are lots of women doing good work in our neighborhoods. They're role models for us and other girls. We should do something to say thanks."

That was over 15 years ago and this year, we're making the 12th **Women and Girls Inspiring Change** event.

Our focus is, "*Treat yourself like the queen you are - self care, madame.*"

Mark your calendar, get your tickets and prepare for an afternoon of melodious music by Mike Ross and his quartet as Global Girls celebrates **Women's History Month** by honoring 11 outstanding women in our community.

Tickets are on sale at Eventbrite. If you want to skip the fee, stop by the office and pick up your tickets. Better still, call 773.902.2359 and pay in advance with a credit card, and we will hold your ticket at the door.

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE ARE SO MUCH BETTER THAN WE WERE.

Women and Girls Inspiring Change

Honoring unsung "sheros" among us.

Aayla-Marie Adams | Lashawn Brown
Lisa-Jasmin Ford | Stephanie Henderson
Andrea Clark-Horton | Stephanie Jackson
Fara Taylor | Dorothy Thompson
Tonya Trice | Tiffany Wartman
Margaret Murphy Webb & South Side Jazz Coalition

LUNCHEON AND AWARDS

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 | 1PM
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 8247 S JEFFREY AVE. CHGO.
DONATION \$20

Global Girls Alumni retreat in Kalamazoo. *Written by Nailah Harris*

The first annual Global Girls Alumni retreat was one for the books! A weekend filled with love, laughter and reminiscing on old memories while creating plenty of new ones.

10 girls - who live all over the country road tripped from Chicago to Kalamazoo. We spent time with Global Girl's founder Ms. Penn, explored beautiful "KZoo", laughed until we cried, and some of us just simply cried out of release. The alumni committee took a lot of time and care planning the retreat and executed beautifully.

The weekend was full of highlights, but there are definitely some that stick out for me. The Creme de la creme matching t-shirts was definitely one of my favorite parts. I also loved dancing to



Sister in the middle of a bar at 10 o'clock at night when absolutely no one asked us to. We also spent an evening writing messages to each other about what we admire and love about the others and I still go back and look at the notes at least once a week and shed a tear.

As I write this I start to get emotional about just how much this experience

meant to me. The weekend gave us all an opportunity to feel 13 again. It was like we were back in Ms. Penn's basement like we had never left. Not only did it give us a chance to reconnect with ourselves and each other, it also gave us an opportunity to build new and strong relationships with women we may not have crossed paths with when we were originally in the program.

Sisterhood is a crucial part of a black woman's life and the women you encounter in Global Girls are truly one of a kind. Although we are all so different it is beautiful to see how alike we really are. The first annual alumni retreat was a huge success and I look forward to the next one!

Meet Aviva Jaye Mitchell, our newest team member



I believe the words, "Ask and it is given." I asked for a talented, mature, vibrant, responsible team member, and I was led to Aviva Jaye. This is her story.

Tell us about your experience, "growing up girl".

I imagine all experiences of growing up girl are nuanced. I loved growing up with lots of fulfilling endeavors from the arts to library trips and becoming a bookworm to school.

I LOVED school and my friendships. I had involved parents and a brother who felt like a "friend-sibling". I am also grateful to elders who supported and encouraged me.

I've moved beyond some of the hindrances girls endure due to limited gendered and biased thinking about youth.

I grew up girl in my own way and as an adult I'm a reflection of strength.

When and how did you realize you were a performing artist?

For as long as I can remember I've been delighted by singing and dancing. I loved watching old movie-musicals on TV, the singing at worship services, and I loved being a part of it. I sang and danced for fun and took to my early structured training like a fish to water.

Around age 12 or 13, I started writing in my journals about performing and being an artist for the rest of my life whether or not it was my job. I always believed.

The way I thought and wrote about it as a young teen was interesting. We call it manifesting and visualization. I'd consider challenges and picture overcoming them. It's wild remembering it. I am so humbled by the reality of it of it all.

What accomplishments bring you the most satisfaction?

I am so glad I took up the folk harp around age 18. It felt so improbable - I knew no one who played it, I didn't have one, but with the help of my mom, eBay and determination, it happened.

Even after years playing other instruments, I knew this harp would be a special part of my life. It was a challenge,

but I stuck it out. I had a cheap harp in disrepair and couldn't even afford to replace missing strings. I didn't mind because it wasn't my main instrument. Sometimes I thought it would fade to a neglected hobby.

I didn't give up. It's so healing to play, and to be a Black woman who plays harp is to be a part of a special community scattered across the globe in true Black Girl Magic form.

How will you use your talents working with Global Girls?

I hope to support the artistry, wonder, talents, disciplines of Global Girls as artists, performers, change makers and emanators in their own lives. I will support systems to help things run smoothly as well as foster ideas the girls have that allow them to continue to take pride in who they are and how they are in the world, celebrating the positive impact performing arts has on the holistic well being of a person.

Self-determination is beautiful and I want to uplift and celebrate that in all of us as we work, build, grow, and BE.

Alumni Update by Ryonnn Gloster

In early January, the alumni spent a weekend retreat in Kalamazoo. It was the perfect way to start the New Year. Being around my Globes made me realize that Global Girls love never vanishes because we can literally go months without hearing from each other and then come back and nothing's changed.

We still laugh at all the same jokes, we still cry in front of each other, we're vulnerable with each other without judgment. We acknowledge each other with appreciation and respect and that shows through our understanding of sisterhood, it runs deep. There is something that happens inside each of us individually that vibrates in our own lives when we go back to our communi-

ties just from being around each other. They keep me going.

My biggest highlight is when we went to a little lounge and we're at the table and randomly decided to "check in." We all poured out to each other, the tears were running and we embraced it. It was a release that I think we all needed. Afterwards, we danced to Molly Johnson's version of Miss Celie's Blues and had such a good time. We were smiling and laughing the whole time. A moment I will never forget.

As of now, the alumni is still meeting on zoom at least once a month to stay in the



loop and are even trying to find better ways to support and celebrate one another.

We interact a lot on the alumni's Instagram page

and look forward to our next retreat which will be held in Chicago.

We are planning to get matching tattoos of our favorite line from the global girl law. We hope to have way more participants because more people will be home from school and look forward to connecting more with the generation of globes that came after us Millennials. I truly can't wait.

Global Girls in Kalamazoo!

"Stories on Stage" for kindergarten and first grade students began 3/11/24 at Northeastern school and 3/13/24 at the Douglass Center. In collaboration with the Girls and Boys Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo, we're providing performing arts training for nine weeks and a culminating show in the 10th week. Interns (dancers and social work students) from Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College are being trained as teaching artist to facilitate the sessions.

Some of those Kalamazoo youth might even travel to Chicago Saturday, April 27, 2024 for our second annual Global Girls Summit. They'll join our girls in Chicago and other "Globes" from Cairo, Carbondale, East St. Louis and Springfield.

Global Girls' "All Stories Matter" podcast series at Public Media Network will run for 10 weeks starting Tuesday March 19. Guests will share their stories related to a theme of the week. Everyone has a story. We see ourselves reflected in stories and understand ourselves better. No matter your race, gender, religion, or physical ability seeing yourself onscreen is a powerful experience. When we listen without judging, ask clarifying questions, and respond with empathy, we understand, connect, and create harmony.

Christina's rise from participant to Board Chair.

Christiana Rice started the Global Girls Saturday program when she was only four years old.

In fact, she had just turned four when her grandmother enrolled her and her three sisters a mere three months after the first-ever session in 2000. Christina did everything the older girls did. She danced as hard as they danced. She learned to act and take on challenging roles memorizing long passages. Eventually, she was old enough to join the performance company and travel throughout Illinois in a show advocating for comprehensive, medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education programs in Illinois schools.

When she was 14, Christina worked with youth in Mombasa and Nairobi, Kenya on Global Girls "Arts as Bridges" program teaching girls to use their voices and tell their stories on stage. In 2012, she traveled again to Chennai, India. You can see her in a documentary on Global Girls' YouTube page.

Christina's scholarship and artistic training led her journey through the Chicago High School for the Arts and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. During her time in college, Christina continued expressing her artistic and leadership skills cultivated as a Global Girl working full-time and serving in student leadership roles across campus.

Now, Christina serves her city as a tal-



ented development entrepreneur and founder, dedicated to a global vision of abundant life. She cofounded a community development company, The Sanctuary Chicago, currently tasked with implementing the city-backed Quality of Life Plan in South Shore.

Christina was elected chair of the Global Girls Board of Directors in December 2023. Not only does she lead the board with care and diplomacy, but she also volunteers at the Global Studio and works with the girls teaching dance and acting skills. Her vision includes supporting the expansion and impact of Global Girls to meet the evolving needs of girls today.

When asked what has kept her fiery passion going, Christina says it's an old adage she used to hear during those Saturday morning Global Girls sessions, "Noblesse Oblige," or simply put, to "whom much is given, much is expected." Christina acknowledges that throughout her life, she has been given unique life experiences that require her to give generously with her gifts, talent, and focus.

Ms. Rice says, "Global Girls was my foundation and continues as my rock. Because of Global Girls, I am the woman I am today - committed to my community, caring for my friends, and dedicated to being an example for others. I have to give back to the organization that gave me so much."

Hold your next event at the Global Studio

Looking for a spacious, clean and comfortable room to host your next event? Look no further than the Global Studio.

The layout is perfect for a workshop, child's birthday party, anniversary dinner, repast, or reception.

Call Ms. Pat Davis, 773.902.2359, for rental rates and availability.



GLOBAL GIRLS INC.

The Global Studio

8151 S. South Chicago Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60617
773 902.2359 phone & fax
info@globalgirlsinc.org
www.globalgirlsinc.org

Board of Directors

Christina Rice, *Chair*

Frederique Desrosiers, *Vice Chair*

Vacant, *Secretary*

Harry Mays, *Treasurer*

Lafayette Ford, *Sgt. At Arms*

Marcia Thomas, *Committee Chair*

Kayla Hyatt, *member*

Charles Gordon, *Member*

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Aviva Jaye, *Operations Manager*

Nonivia Accoh, *Artistic Director*

Ryonn Gloster *Expansion Director*

Isaiah Gilbert, *Facility Manager*

Teaching Artists

Nonivia Accoh

Kymani Davis-Williams

Amaya Hamilton

Isaiah Gilbert

Junior Facilitators

Kendall Brewton | Morgan Smith

Talia Williams

Mission Statement

Global Girls' mission is to discover, develop, stage, and preserve overlooked and untold personal narratives, the stories behind headlines. We engage youth and adults in theatre training and presentation, thereby providing a platform for learning, developing personal agency, and addressing issues impacting their lives. Participants become their best selves on and off stage using their skills and creativity to inspire sustainable culturally rich, thriving communities.

2024 Theme

Global Girls, the movement to awe.

We are Global Girls with coed programs cause it's the right thing to do.

The following two stories are from men I met on a recent trip to Washington DC. The tales moved me because they included anecdotes of inspirations, disappointments, hopes, legacy - the stuff all humans experience.

“The strength of our ancestors runs through our veins.”

If you haven't already, make a date to visit the National Museum of African American History in DC. I went in February and already have plans to return and spend another day just absorbing the energy, the snapshots in history and the grit of our ancestors.

While there, I met Sterling E. Levine from New Jersey who now lives in North Carolina. He is a CNA but is in school to become an RN.

He's a young black man in his mid 20's who was there with his fiancé. Sterling



caught my attention because he was glued to a display on Black men who fought in the Civil War. He ignored the many teens there also, perhaps on field trips, but who

walked blindly, chatted with friends, scrolled through phones or chased one another, all oblivious to the artifacts and little-known details in our history.

When I asked for an interview, Sterling told me that he has always been interested in history, a passion nurtured by his parents but absent from his classroom.

“I see myself in this display. When I was a kid, I wanted to do a report on Abraham Lincoln. My mother said ‘This is about the fifth report you’ve done on Lincoln. Let’s write about Frederick Douglas.’ She gave me the book and soon I had my ‘aha’ moment.”

He continued, “In order to not go backwards, we have to remember the sacrifices that our ancestors have made for us.

This museum gives us a sense of pride. It shows us the strength that runs

through our veins. That’s why I like coming to this museum.”

Sterling’s mother is a teacher and his father served in the military, in Vietnam. His rich childhood, seeing his parents’ dedication to service, has inspired him to continue their legacy.

Sterling wants to be an example so that children who look like him can say, “If he can do it, I can do it too.”

One should leave college, a changed person.

“I knew from the time they were born that my children will do well in college. It was more important to me that they change while in college.”

When my Uber driver made that statement en route to the Dulles airport in Washington DC, I opened my phone and started recording our conversation.

I never got his name but did learn that his children are “first generation” with him and his wife having migrated here from Nigeria.

“The attitude you bring to your education determines who you become beyond your education. There is so much more to a full college education than a degree. The classroom is only a part of a rich, well-rounded experience. Also, it’s very important to get involved in extra-curricular activities while still in high school so that you’re more attractive to college admissions officers.”

He explained that if a student is self-disciplined enough to keep grades high while also being in theatre, playing sports, in the band, or volunteering in the community, that speaks volumes about her character.

All his children went to college on full scholarships because they were well-rounded. They brought value to the college and honor to the family.

“The problem we have in the diaspora is that many young people start having children before they are prepared to be parents. They have

no knowledge to impart to their children.”

The lessons he gave his four children included:

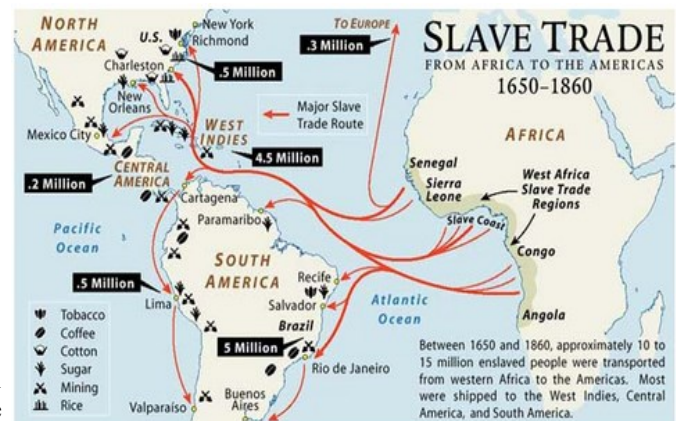
- Parents set the rules and the example in the house.
- There is a set time for daily homework and study.
- No cell phones until age 16 and if you have earned them through self discipline and work.
- You are part of a family with very high expectations of you.
- Learn from your friends what you do and don’t want in your life, right from wrong.

His final piece of advice was to enroll children in high quality preschools rather than taking them to grandma’s. It might be cheaper in the short term, but the children will be better prepared to excel in life in the long term if you start them in a high-quality educational setting, have set rules and high expectations for them, and involve them in extra-curricular activities.

That was an Uber ride and conversation I’ll always remember.

The African Diaspora

The African diaspora refers to the many communities of people of African descent dispersed throughout the world as a result of historic movements. The majority of African dispersal resulted from the Arab and Atlantic slave trades – the largest forced migrations in history. Only 5% of African slaves went to America while the remaining 95% went to Central America, South America and the Caribbean .



Global Girls 24th Anniversary was a hit. Now for the 25th EXTRAVAGANZA!

Oh, the fun we all had with friends, family and supporters, Saturday January 20, 2024 at our 20th Anniversary Celebration and annual board meeting.

Now, we're planning the 25th anniversary an extravaganza to remember.

The alumni team is recruiting helpers and sponsors. Look for details on the Global Girls website starting in June.

Pictures from the event.



Pictures top to bottom and left to right. Christina Rice (Board Chair) and Frederique Desrosiers (Vice Chair); Kayla Hyatt (Board member); , Harry Mays (Board Treasurer); the Youth Company, Charles Gordon and Marcia Thomas (Board members); , Katrina Rice and her daughter, Amora (two generations of participants); Grace; Carol Phillips and Venita Dill (Dancing Dolls); Tiffany Fulsom (former Global Girls teaching artist); Beth Watson (monthly donor/friend) and , Gwen Gibson (former Board chair); Ms. Yvonne Bennett (friend/supporter) and Ms. Shuron Cameron (parent).



“My Vagina. My Voice” is coming back!

Yes, that's the title of our adult show. We say “vagina” loudly and proudly. The female body part has been ignored and dismissed for far too long. The show celebrates women, their right to open dialogue, pleasure and all the facts, the unalterable facts about our cisgendered bodies.

If you liked the show in 2019, you're gonna love the new and improved edition! New scenes, new casts, new musical numbers, but same intensity, resonance and honesty.

Join Global Girls mailing list for audition and performance details.

It is a MUST SEE. You won't regret it. BRAVO to each performer.

It is Outstanding!. If you don't believe me, go see it. GO SEE IT.

It makes you reflect on your own experiences!

It reminded me of being a black woman. I saw my grandmother, my mom, myself, and my daughters in it.

I loved your play and wanted you to know that.

“My Vagina My Voice.” Powerful performance by all!

...it was a powerful message by strong

and beautiful women .

Great show and impressive performances ladies!!!

If you don't know, go see it! Very creative, I especially like that it's multigenerational.



UPCOMING EVENTS

AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
3pm until 6pm
The Global Studio
8151 S. South Chicago Ave.

SATURDAY SESSIONS

Intensive training & Company rehearsals
11am until 3pm
The Global Studio
8151 S. South Chicago Ave.

12TH ANNUAL WOMEN & GIRLS INSPIRING CHANGE

Luncheon and awards program
with music by Mike Ross Quintet.
Saturday, March 23, 2024
1pm until 3:30pm
Calvary Baptist Church
8427 S. Jeffrey Blvd
call 773.902.2359 for tickets

2ND ANNUAL GIRLS SUMMIT

Saturday, April 27, 2024
Calvary Baptist Church
8427 S. Jeffrey Blvd
call 773.902.2359 for more info

YOUTH PERFORMANCE CAMP

Monday thru Friday | 9am until 3pm
*Breakfast & Lunch | Dance | Acting |
Singing | Trips | Performances*
GIRLS AGES 4 TO 14
June 17 thru August 2, 2024
773.902.2359
info@globalgirlsinc.org

YOUTH PERFORMANCE CAMP ANNUAL SHOWCASE

Friday, July 26, 2024 | 6pm until 8:30pm
The Reva and David Logan Center
915 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL
773.902.2359
info@globalgirlsinc.org

YOUTH PERFORMANCE CAMP ANNUAL POWER LUNCH

Wednesday, July 31, 2024 | 11pm
Calvary Baptist Church
8427 S. Jeffrey Blvd
773.902.2359
info@globalgirlsinc.org

ALL STORIES MATTER HEALING CONVERSATIONS

Saturdays starting in June at various
locations as part of the Healing Illinois
Initiative.
773.902.2359
info@globalgirlsinc.org

Aayla-Marie, earning gold on the field and in life !

Only a child when she first came to Global Girls, Aayla-Marie Adams soon blossomed as a dancer and actress. She became one of our most responsible junior teaching artists in the Youth Performance Camp and is now one of our 2024 **Women and Girls Inspiring Change** honorees. Please enjoy Aayla's story.

Growing up in Chicago was kind of tough especially because of all the violence in my community. I lived on 71st and Ellis most of my life, so I knew the people to avoid, and I learned quickly how to remove myself from situations before they turned into big problems. Things weren't all bad. I grew up in a house with my mom, grandma, and my brother. I was always an outgoing person and making friends never seemed that hard for me.

I am the oldest, so I always felt the need to protect my brother from falling into the stereotypes of Chicago men. My mom made sure to constantly remind my brother and me how important it was to have an education and to be independent even when times get hard, and I felt unmotivated. Despite all the challenges that come with being an African American female in Chicago, I cherished the moments I spent with my family and friends.

When I joined global girls in 3rd grade, I was just happy that I had a place to perform and to be myself. I began to realize that I met a community of people who made me feel secure, could relate to everything I would go through, and who weren't afraid to talk about the hard topics. Global Girls quickly became my home away from home and the girls became my sisters. I remember one summer we went on this cabin trip where we spent a couple of days with each other doing lots of activities, showcasing our talents, and really connecting with everyone. I don't remember every activity we did but I do remember how united and vulnerable I felt with my sisters.

I first joined the track team in my sophomore year of high school. I tried other



sports, but I didn't really like them too much. Initially I joined the team to get to know people in person because we had been out of school for about a year due to the pandemic. I was very athletic so the running part came easily to me but what made me fall in love with track was learning about the field event triple jump. The complexity of the jump really caught my attention and since then I have excelled in that event. I broke my high school record twice and I received a full ride athletic scholarship.

My personal goals are to keep doing what makes me happy, finish school, and set an example for my younger siblings. My professional goals are to pursue a career in the business field. I'm currently an accounting major and while I don't have everything figured out right now, I'm happy that I created a path for myself that will offer ample opportunities.

I want all young people who look like me to know that it doesn't matter where you grew up, all that matters is that you take advantage of every single opportunity offered. There is an entire world outside of your neighborhood so don't be afraid to get out and make connections because you never know where certain people can lead you in life. We are human therefore we are going to make mistakes and that's ok just don't allow those mistakes to define you.



The Girls' Pages

Global Girls of the Month - January & February

The Global Studio



Seven year old Kynedi C. is our Global Girl of the Month for February.

Kynedi started as a participant in the summer program two years ago and has graduated to a youth Company member. Along with her sister Kinley, she attends the weekly sessions, makes every special activity and comes on Saturdays. She greets everyone with the same big smile she's displaying in her picture.

The Global Studio



December T., eight years old, was chosen as Global Girl of the Month for January because of consistent action she takes initiative in the sessions and always leads by example. December demonstrates the Global Girls Law, "My attitude is my Life."

Mason Clark Middle School



Jasmine H. 7th grade is the January Global Girl Of the Month

"Being a Global Girl means I get to have fun doing the things I love and communicating with other Global Girls. It has helped me get over my stage fright and helped me to like dancing more. The thing I like most about Global Girls is the possibility of traveling and seeing all the other Global Girls

from all around the world."

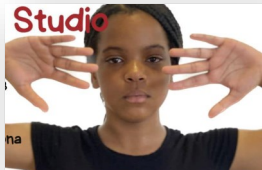
Mason Clark Middle School



Alecia V., 7th grade, is February Global Girl of the month

"Global girls means I get to be myself and get to talk about how I feel. Global Girls has helped me control my feelings and not show my anger. I get to dance out my feelings and get over my fear of dancing. I really like that I get to communicate with the members of Global Girls, and I get to talk about my feelings."

Avalon Performance Arts School



Araiah B. is Global Girl of the Month for February at Avalon. She has shown a deep commitment to the program and has grown as a role model for other girls including her sister.

Feitshans Elementary School



Raniyah J. Gr.5, is Global Girl of the month - SUL 21st Century Global Girls at Feitshans - Springfield Branch.

She is committed, focused, engaged and determined to succeed. Raniyah is greatly appreciated by her peers for her kindness and compassionate nature. Her love for dance propels her to diligently work at her craft during practice and at home.

What Is Love

We asked the youth to write a response to that question. Here's a bit of what Robert A. Black wanted to share.

"Love is something everyone needs. We are mostly alive when we feel loved. Some may think that love is just a feeling inside, but love is not a "what", it's your "why". Love to me is a connection with another person. Love can hurt, but also be strong. We accept the love we think we deserve. Love is a way we show each other how we feel."

"I think love is when you have a big bond with someone you truly like. Everyone loves love, but love is nothing to me. I guess I love my mom and sometimes my father."

"Love means nothing to me cause once you get older you realize everyone leaves at some point. So, you gotta make the best of the bad and good moments while they last. I hate getting attached to people cause when they leave, my heart drops."

Springfield Girls Comment

- I'm learning good dance techniques (Malaysia)
- I learned to make new friends and new dances, and I got to travel to Chicago. (Savannah)
- I made friends and learned how to be a young lady. It has been an overall good experience (Gracie)
- I am learning how to dance (Nataly)
- I made new friends. I love dancing and overcame stage fright. (Raniyah)
- We get to move our body and have fun together. We dance in front of people and travel. (Symphony)

February 14, "Love is Kindness Day"

On Valentine's Day, our girls gave other students in their schools kindness buttons, bracelets and pens.

One girl from Mason Clark talked about a girl's reaction when she gave her a gift, "I felt so good that I almost cried. She was happy to get the button. I gave her a hug, and she said you are so caring and you bring positive energy into this class, and I love it."

The Girls' Pages

Kids Who Care at the Global Studio

"It was one of the best afternoons at the studio in a long time," commented eight year old Seven. She stood at the door, arms raised high and at the top of her voice shouted, "Welcome, welcome, welcome to the Global Studio as youth streamed in for what seemed like 15 minutes.

41 performers ages 12 through 16 and 30 parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends all the way from Fort Worth, Texas crowded into the Global Studio Tuesday, March 12 for a thrilling Kids Who Care original performance. [https://](https://kwcperform.org/)

kwcperform.org/

It all began with a Facebook message from the program director. "We would really like to connect with you guys if there is an opportunity. We were last there in 2015, hung out, and did a performance and had a great time and would love to come back."

Not only did the youth come to hang out with us, but many of their family members did as well. "I can't believe so many people came all the way from

Texas just to see their children perform! That's amazing," one of our girls said at the end of the event.

Our girls opened the show with "Overture" and ended the event teaching a dance to our guests. It was a tight squeeze, but we made it work.

Perhaps, one day soon, our girls will travel to perform in Fort Worth. Perhaps, we can also get a team of parents, friends and supporters to travel with us.

If not Texas, let's start planning our return to Tanzania in November. Anybody with me?



Branch Smiles



Above, East St. Louis, Mason Clark in our new "The Movement" shirts. Below, girls being girls at the Global Studio.



The 2024 Women and Girls Inspiring Change



Asyla-Marie Adams



LaShawn Brown



Lisa-Jasmine Ford



Andrea Clark-Horton



Stephanie Brathwaite-



Stephanie Jackson



Fara Taylor



Tonya Trice



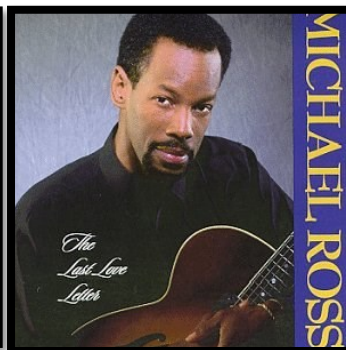
Tiffany Wartman



Dorothy Thompson



Von Freeman Tribute



MICHAEL ROSS



Future honorees

The Girls' Pages

We celebrate the now and anticipate a more joyous tomorrow.

Last year, 40+ girls from our Illinois branches gathered at Harris Park for Global Girls first annual Glow Up Summit. They learned dance, acting, crocheting, community-building, made new friends, stepped outside their comfort zones, and had fun just being girls.

They'll do it again Saturday, April 27, 2024. Give that special girl in your life an experience to remember, a day when she can simply be a girl. If you're in Chicago, she can continue the experience growing as an actress, dancer, singer and person at Global Girls' Youth Performance Camp, June 17 through August 2, 2024.

Wait, there's still another option, she can start having fun, making new friends and learning new skills in our after school program at the Global Studio Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 3pm until 6pm.



For girls ages 8 to 14
Saturday, April 27, 2024
9AM until 4PM

Calvary Church, 8247 S. Jeffrey Blvd. | Chicago, IL 60617

FREE ADMISSION

- ⇒ Breakfast & Lunch provided
- ⇒ Workshops
- ⇒ Dance Classes
- ⇒ Raffles & Goodie Bags
- ⇒ FUN

For registration and information, call Ms. Pat @ 773.902.2359



YOUTH PERFORMANCE CAMP

Monday thru Friday | 9am until 3pm **The Global Studio** | 8151 S. South Chicago Ave.
Breakfast & Lunch | Dance | Acting | Singing | Weekly Trips | Performances

GIRLS AGES 4 TO 14

Monday, June 17, 2024 thru Friday, August 9, 2024

Registration \$150 per participant

REGISTER today 773.902.2359 or info@globalgirlsinc.org

www.globalgirlsinc.org



chicago
foundation
for women



POLK BROS
FOUNDATION

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS
3PM UNTIL 6PM

FOR GIRLS AGES 4-14

SATURDAY SESSIONS

INTENSIVE TRAINING & COMPANY REHEARSALS
11AM UNTIL 3PM

The Global Studio
8151 S. South Chicago Ave.

Visit www.globalgirlsinc.org for more information

Spotlight on Erica Austin and Feitshans' Global Girl branch.



Erica is a powerhouse! Not only does she teach dance in the Springfield branch, but she gets the girls costumes, books performances, helps

secure funding and so much more. I'm thrilled to share Erica's story.

Tell us about your experience, "growing up girl".

I'll start with a poem.

Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete?

Proving Nature's laws wrong, it learned to walk without having feet.

Funny it seems but by keeping its dreams

It learned to breathe fresh air

Long live the rose that grew from concrete

When no one else cared!

The rose can be viewed as an extended metaphor for a person who has grown up in poverty but managed to break free of the constraints placed upon her by society

I am a 37-year-old black female who grew up in a single parent household. According to statistics and the color of my skin, I should have approximately 3 -4 kids, be uneducated, and living on welfare.

My Father was absent from the time; I was seven because of a drug addiction. My mother worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant and was raising the three of us on her own.

My older brother, who is ten years older than me, could not handle the fact that my father left and so he began to act out and eventually dropped out of high school in the eleventh grade.

My mother determined that would not happen to my younger brother and me. She enrolled us in a host of activities. One was the Springfield Urban League's **Adolescent Responsibility Program (ARP)** program, a game changer in my life.

This program helped me understand that my present situation did not determine my future success. It helped me see beyond the environment I was living in and to think and dream bigger.

ARP exposed me to the college experience; it taught me about my heritage, helped to build my self-esteem, instilled in me my love for dance, and helped

me appreciate life. The director of the program, provided nothing but tough love and did not allow us to make excuses based on our backgrounds. Instead, she challenged us to put our best forward.

I am a prime example of what these programs can do when done correctly. The program provided me with the tools I needed not only to graduate high school but to matriculate and receive three more degrees. It also pulled out leadership qualities in me at a young age that I didn't even know I had.

For instance, there was a national program called *NULITES* which stood for *National Urban League's Incentive to Excel and Succeed* and each local Urban League was charged with having a chapter and electing officers.

I was set on being the Secretary, but every time I asked, the director would shake her head, "no". One day, she looked at me and said sternly said, "YOU WILL BE THE PRESIDENT!"

I was without a doubt shaken because being President was a task that I didn't want. That would mean I would have to lead a group of my peers and ultimately be the spokesperson. But no one told Ms. Chambers, "no". Thus, reluctantly I did it.

Looking back, I can honestly say that was the BEST decision I could have ever made! I traveled to the University of California's campus, opened up the entire convention, and put our city on the map.

The Springfield Urban League program was the best thing that could have ever happened to me because it took what society had labeled us as "alternatives" and made us "assets"!

I am the rose that grew from the crack of the concrete.

When and how did you realize you were an artist?

I realized I was an artist in high school. My dance teacher was relocating, and I was disheartened. The director of the program told me she wanted to keep it going and wanted me to teach the other dancers. I hesitant at first because I was only 15 years and didn't think the other girls would listen to me. She gave me a song to learn and within a day I had choreographed a whole routine to it. I will never forget that to this day the

song was "Awesome Wonder" by Kurt Karr.

What are accomplishments that bring you the most satisfaction?

- Fighting Breast Cancer (2023) and walking in New York Fashion Week as a model.
- Completing coursework for my doctoral program
- Being elected to the School Board and being elected and nominated as Vice President.

How are you using your talents and skills to help your girls grow into womanhood whole and healthy?

"Dance is an art, paint your dreams and follow it!"-Steven Thompson I am using my talents to teach the girls how to express themselves through dance. Dancing is an art form that has been used for centuries to express feelings, emotions, and stories. My talents and skills allow me to help the teach the girls to create their own identity and tap into a powerful source of energy that helps them heal, grown and connect with others. I also teach them alternative ways to deal with conflict through their dance and spoken expressions. Once you fully immerse yourself into the world of dance **YOU LIVE FOR THE MOMENT TO LEAVE IT ALL ON THE FLOOR!**



What are some of your fondest memories of your work in the program so far?

Seeing them blossom and come out of their shell is huge. A lot of them were very timid and shy at first, but now they carry themselves with confidence and are able to speak out and be bold with it.

What lessons do you think the girls are learning.

- Teamwork and Accountability
- Self responsibility
- Creative expression
- Determination, commitment, confidence, patience, respect (and one another) and flexibility
- Importance of SISTERHOOD



Global Girls 2022 Youth Performance Camp. Check our website regularly for updates.

We'd love to partner with your company or organization. Call, 773.902.2359 for details.



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Send all comments, questions and inquiries to
info@globalgirlsinc.org.

Marvinetta Penn, editor

Feel free to contact or visit us:

The Global Studio
8151 S. South Chicago Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60617
www.globalgirlsinc.org
info@globalgirlsinc.org
773.902.2359

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☐ Global Girls Expanding Branches

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☐ Other



The Global Studio
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8151 S. South Chicago Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60617

**Courageous, talented girls with
gratitude and awe.**

THANK
you
SO
MUCH