



S.T.E.P.S., Inc.

Striving Toward Empowered Personal Success

Annual Report 2018 - Confidence, Continuity, Growth

Building Confidence, Building Relationships

Two key focus areas for girls in the S.T.E.P.S. program are increasing self-confidence and building healthy and supportive relationships. In 2018, young women participating in the S.T.E.P.S. Fifth Annual Variety Show, INSPIRE, were able to do both. In front of a large audience of family, friends, educators, and other community members, the girls performed talents and showed off fashion during two runway walks, one of which featured the career aspirations of the girls.

INSPIRE was Sierra Jennings's fifth and final variety show. Sierra has been in the show since she first joined S.T.E.P.S. as an eighth grader. "I like being able to showcase my talents. I enjoy being up there with the girls on stage," Sierra said when asked why she continues to participate. This year, she chose to recite the Maya Angelou poem, "Phenomenal Woman".



Onerys Rodriguez has been a member of S.T.E.P.S. for two years. She decided to perform this year because, "...it's a chance to work together with the girls from the other programs and schools. It's a chance to meet new friends."

A centerpiece of this year's show was honoring those individuals who inspire the girls. Each participant was given the chance to invite a special person to the show in appreciation for the way they inspire her. Girls invited best friends, former teachers, parents, and more. Sierra chose to honor her late father, Wayne. "He always pushed me to do my best and have the ability to bounce back. I carry that resiliency with me today. I know that I would make him proud."



Once a S.T.E.P.S. Girl, Always a S.T.E.P.S. Girl

Spotlight on Shareah Dye, Assistant Facilitator and S.T.E.P.S. Alumna



"They became my safe place away from home. I trusted them. STEPS gave me valuable lessons and advice through the years."

Shareah first joined S.T.E.P.S. as a teen. She was invited to attend by a teacher and figured it was something new to try. She tells us that once she got comfortable with her facilitators, she couldn't stop coming to the S.T.E.P.S. program. Shareah carries with her today the lessons she learned as a teen in the program. "Making excuses wasn't going to get me anywhere. If I wanted to be successful, I had to make it happen for myself. If I didn't believe in myself, nobody else would. I am important enough, beautiful enough and smart enough to make my own future."

Celebrations!

10th Anniversary & GASP Good Neighbor Award

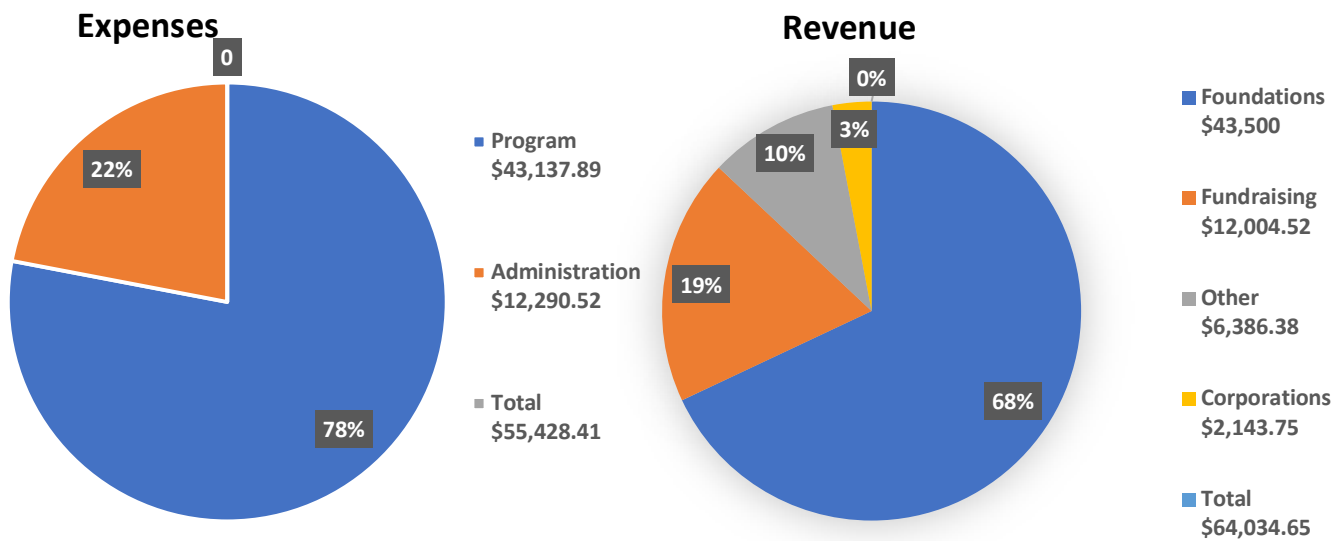
In 2018, S.T.E.P.S. marked the 10th anniversary of its founding. Over the last ten years, we've helped over 650 girls be stronger and more confident leaders in their community. To celebrate our success, we held a reception at the Hygienic Art Park in New London. We welcomed our community partners, families, and friends. The keynote address was delivered by Maryam Elahi, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

Another highlight of the evening was receiving the Groton Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (GASP) Good Neighbor Award. The award recognizes Groton community leaders who promote improved health and substance abuse prevention for adolescents. S.T.E.P.S. is honored to be a recipient. We are proud that our work, helping adolescent girls be stronger and more confident, complements and supports the goals of GASP and the overall health of our community.



Bea Jennette,
STEPS President with
Mayor Hedrick and Mayor Passero

2018 Financial Highlights



*Administration expense includes liability and directors and officers insurance and accounting services.

Thank You For Making A Difference!



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| Community Foundation of Eastern CT | Dime Bank Foundation |
| Frank Loomis Palmer Fund | Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation |
| Charter Oak Credit Union | Rotary Club of Mystic |
| Pfizer | Chelsea Groton Foundation & Bank |
| City of New London | New London Kiwanis |
| Dominion Foundation | Rotary Club of Norwich |
| Groton Education Foundation | Walmart (Waterford) |
| Henry E. Niles Foundation | Waterford Group Charitable Foundation |
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