Imagine a typical Saturday morning for most women and girls. Grocery shopping, nail and hair salons, post office buildings, and box stores like Target are filled with the gusto of women determined to squeeze seven days of work into one. The checklist seems endless as we desperately aim to have Sunday be a day of rest. “I need to place an order for the cake, and I sure hope this place is not crowded because I only have 30 minutes to get my nails done”.

PAUSE.....It is Saturday morning, March 10, 2012, National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. In the midst of all the hustle and bustle of what looks like organized chaos in a woman’s world, there is a unique silence in the atmosphere. But on the horizon of that silence, there is a faint sound of voices. We need to address this issue. We need to talk about it.

The numbers are staggering. It’s still taboo. Over half of the diagnosed HIV cases are found in African American people. It is the third leading cause of death amongst black women in their prime. It’s starting to affect our teen daughters! The CDC has deemed us in crisis as it relates to the disease. The disease has no prejudice; it just desires to duplicate itself within a host. It tries a plethora of methods, such as bodily fluids, sexual contact, inoculation (the use of needles), and the disease will even exploit the pathways of embryonic fluid and breast milk in its quest for a vulnerable host. PAUSE!!! Girl, hurry up. We got to go!! Where are we going? Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP is hosting an event at the DuSable Museum of African American History.

They are asking all women and girls to PAUSE from shopping, cleaning, salon appointments, and watching television to have “Real Talk” about HIV/AIDS. D2F, the Office on Women’s Health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Southside Help Center have come together to sound the alarm because HIV/AIDS is disproportionately an epidemic in our community. The event opens with a spoken word piece entitled PAUSE by D2F college student, Tionna Alderson. The audience guest moderator, and Media expert, Alicia Haywood facilitates an engaging panel of health experts featuring JoAnne Montes, Connie Simpson, Kimberly Foster, Children’s Memorial Hospital, Ya Simpson, Chicago Department of Health, Dr. Patricia Boatright-Rush University Medical Center, and Dr. Virginia Bishop of Northwestern University. Guest panelist, Ya Simpson, an epidemiologist from the Chicago Department of Health “Spills the Beans” on HIV/AIDS by stating the real statistics.
Making a Difference!
Words from Sheridan Morrison, Founder and CEO

In the early part of spring I was a recipient of the Community Treasures Award from the Office of Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County and the African American Employes Committee (AAEC). During my acceptance speech I said “it feels awkward to receive an award for doing what you know you’ve been called to do.” Also, in that same speech I forgot to thank my parents who were seated right in front of my facebeamng with an extreme sense of pride. I was crushed when I got back to my seat and realized “I didn’t thank my parents!” I wanted to run and grab the microphone out of the next recipient’s hands because it seemed so offensive in light of all they have sacrificed for me. So, in an attempt to rectify that moment in time, I would like to utilize this issue’s “Making a Difference” to honor two people who have made a significant difference in my life, Elbert and Frances Morrison. Throughout our program year I am constantly strategizing with program staff to identify ways to continue to keep parents engaged. Some of those events and activities are featured in this newsletter, such as the Parent Breakfast, the PAUSE event, pre-Mother’s Day event at Flourish studios and others. Statistical data continually supports the argument that PARENTS HAVE THE GREATEST INFLUENCE in the life of a child. When teachers, or family members and even some of their friends may have doubted the path I had chosen, my parents always supported each step I took in the right direction and forwarded me when I stepped in the wrong direction. Regardless of my choices, they never lowered their EXPECTATION.

It was always that high bar of standards that lurked over my head waiting for me to reach up and continue reaching until I could grab hold and pull myself up. As an adult, I clearly recognize that their strong commitment to parenting provided a stepping stool that was built on discipline, morals, integrity, values and a belief in God. So thanks Mom and Dad and all of the “village members” who helped along the way. So there is, restitution for that celebratory yet cringeable wrong direction. Regardless of my choices, they never lowered their EXPECTATION. So there it is, restitution for that celebratory yet cringeable wrong direction. Regardless of my choices, they never lowered their EXPECTATION.

D2F WISH LIST

We are applying the saying “you have not because you ask not” to this newly developed section of our newsletter. As a 501-C-3 tax exempt organization, your donations are greatly welcomed and appreciated. Please take a look at the list below and see where you can grant a wish for D2F and the girls and families served. Unable to give right now? Your prayers concerning our wish list are just as valuable!

- 12-15 passenger van
- (1) Xerox color laser printer for office suite 201 (Phaser 6700)- $1,350
- Sponsorship for our South Side Resource Guide for Girls in collaboration with the South Side Coalition for Urban Girls. Contact Sheridan Morrison for sponsorship levels.
- Sponsorship for implementation of our STEM 2 STEM program for 20 students at $80,400 for the full program year (September-August) which includes the three-week intensive summer design bootcamp.
- Donations for land acquisition in Roseland for the Hope Center (estimated $250,000)
- 100 donors to commit to a monthly gift of $100 per month for 2013.

To grant a wish, please contact Sharon Carey, Office Manager, (773) 779-9371, ext. 305

Thanks to our Deners… We make a difference!

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Thanks to our Deners… We make a difference!

We would like to acknowledge an anonymous donation we received early in the year which really touched our hearts. The following message was written in a card with two crisp $1 bills:

“May the Lord bless this organization one hundred fold exponentially and give you what is needed. May every need be met for years to come in the precious name of Jesus… a double portion… Amen, amen, Amen.

We would like the donor to know that we appreciate you for your gift to D2F and thank you for your prayers! We value every contribution and are extremely thankful for those who donate to assist us in fulfilling our mission.

Blacks within the age range of 13-24 account for 83% of diagnosed cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections. In August 2011, there were 20,391 people living with HIV in Chicago and 52% were black people. In 2009, there was a total of 1,092 HIV infection diagnoses, 644 or 59% were black people. Most of the diagnosed cases are amongst women. Dr. Virginia Bishop, a pediatrician and adolescent health specialist from Northwestern University challenges the mothers to have an ongoing conversation with their daughters about Sex and STIs, including HIV/AIDS. Dr. Patricia Boatwright, gynecologist and specialist in reproductive health from Rush University Medical Center adds, “I don’t see adolescents”, but if you are having sex, you need to talk about your or your partner’s health. She further added the importance of conversations within the community and encouraging youth to focus on education and their future. PAUSE… Guest speakers that are HIV positive share openly about their life experiences with HIV/AIDS and how they can prevent the disease. Now HIV/AIDS is beyond stats and with HIV/AIDS and how they can prevent the disease. Now HIV/AIDS is beyond stats and doctors who see adolescents”, but if you are having sex, you need to talk about your or your partner’s health. She further added the importance of conversations within the community and encouraging youth to focus on education and their future. PAUSE… Guest speakers that are HIV positive share openly about their life experiences with HIV/AIDS and how they can prevent the disease.

Legacy of Health in the community at large. After the main PAUSE event, guests enjoy a community dialogue regarding the HIV/AIDS epidemic with one another and program panelist during a short reception. PAUSE… “You got your Legacy of Health Toolkit. Yes, I grabbed four of them. Let’s schedule a PAUSE Party for next weekend. Sure, we can have it at my house. I’m glad I rescheduled my hair appointment. Me too, we’re bringing some people back with us next year.”

The women are candid about how the diagnosis affects them, their families, and their outlook on life after testing positive for HIV.

Sherida Morrison, CEO of the hosting organization, Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFAP, takes the final moments to enlist troops to fight in the war against HIV/AIDS. Each woman and girl present is challenged to make a commitment to healthier lifestyles by signing a contract and to infect the masses by creating a Legacy of Health in the community at large. Many of the women and girls are moved to immediate action by taking advantage of the onsite HIV testing made available by Southside Help Center, an organization committed to reducing HIV infection in Chicago land communities. After the main PAUSE event, guests enjoy a community dialogue regarding the HIV/AIDS epidemic with one another and program panelist during a short reception. PAUSE… “You got your Legacy of Health Toolkit. Yes, I grabbed four of them. Let’s schedule a PAUSE Party for next weekend. Sure, we can have it at my house. I’m glad I rescheduled my hair appointment. Me too, we’re bringing some people back with us next year.”

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Miracle on 154th Street…

Dr. Shaina Rozell

By Tori Tyler

The stage was set on 154th and Vine Street in Harvey, IL to celebrate a trailblazer of this generation. Dr. Shaina Rozell, family, friends, and community leaders gathered from near and far to witness this historic moment as this street was named in her honor for her tremendous accomplishments and a positive contributor to society. As the countdown to the unveiling of Dr. Shaina Rozell Avenue took place, excitement filled the air as people cheered, clapped and cried tears of joy for this uniquely designed woman.

A product of Riverdale, IL, Shaina became a participant of Demoiselle 2 Femme (D2F) at Thornton Township High School (Harvey, IL). She matriculated to Stanford University where she majored in B.S. in Biomedical Engineering. D2F staff witnessed Shaina receiving her Masters Degree in Public Health and a Doctor of Medicine in Internal Medicine from Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. Shaina is currently completing her residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Since the tender age of eight years old, Shaina’s Mother, Patricia Morrow, created an atmosphere of birthing Shaina’s vision in becoming a Doctor. “I am not surprised that we are standing here today,” stated her mother during the ceremony. “I believe that God is real and he hears everything you request of him. All you have to have is faith and believe.” Mayor Eric J. Kelogg, mayor of Harvey, also gave astounding tributes to Shaina and commended her family, friends and community supporters for journeying with her in this process.

On Friday April 20th the art photography of Tiffany Gholar, a former D2F participant, was featured at Flourish Studios in Chicago, IL. Tiffany selected Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP to receive a portion of the proceeds from the art and gift store items sold on the night of the event. The featured art collection is entitled the “Doll Project” and was inspired by a D2F workshop (The Media vs. My Self Respect) which examines negative gender stereotypes and the sexualization of women in the media. In addition to Tiffany Gholars artwork, 15 different artists participated in the “You are Beautiful” national movement, and created one letter in the slogan during the opening on April 20th. An additional highlight of the evening featured current D2F high school participants who shared how they buffer negative messages within the media to embrace the message that “I am Beautiful.” It was a night to remember! A special thanks to Tiffany Gholar and Dr. Julia Rahn, Founder, Flourish Studios.

THE DOLL PROJECT

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Mother’s Only Night at Flourish

The close out event for Tiffany Gholars “Doll Project” art exhibit was a special night for 40 mothers of D2F participants. As a pre-Mother’s Day Celebration, Demoiselle 2 Femme partnered with Flourish Studios to host “Mothers raising confident daughters: All It Takes is Love.” Mothers were provide free transportation, food, gift bags and an opportunity to make their own mother’s day card acknowledging their commitment and milestones in motherhood. It was a memorable night filled with laughter, reflection, creativity and enjoyment. As parents exited from the building to board the bus a mom shared “I needed this time for myself tonight, and I decided that nothing was going to prevent me from coming. Activities like this help us to become better mothers to our daughters and I am grateful for Demoiselle 2 Femme for thinking about us!”
Leadership college honored: heroes in the hood

By Monica Plaid

CONGRATULATIONS to the Spring 2011 Leadership College under the direction of Monica Plaid, on winning the 2nd place heroes in the hood award! April 26th was an exciting evening at the DuSable Museum as the D2F Leadership College represented in a big way at the 19th annual community event “Heroes in the Hood”. The Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Darlene Hill of FOX Chicago news. In addition, on the same stage, Jackie Taylor (Founder/executive director of Black Ensemble Theater), Masequa Myers (Television, film, theater, and radio producer), and Kendall Moore (Host of radio program on WVDN & youth advocate) were honored for being role models for youth. Receiving the 2nd place plaque and being honored on stage for work well done was an inspiring moment for the three girls in attendance to accept the award on behalf of their team of five consisting of Chevon Mims of Thornton, Kristiana Raca of Thornridge, Yasmine Tolbert of Thornton, Sierra Mancha of Bloom, and Brittany Boyd of Thornridge.

In 2011, Leadership College participants were divided into two groups and had the challenge of putting together a 90 minute event that will entertain other girls that they too can do the same. What better way to do this than through food, fun and music, mixed with a little education. The LC participants had the assignment as a team to create and manage this project from beginning to end. The LC girls learned firsthand that putting on a three-hour event takes a lot of work and commitment. They started by decorating gift baskets filled with candy and creating cards to personally invite each Cadette (7th & 8th grade), Senior (9th & 10th), and Ambassador (11th & 12th) Girl Scout to their event.

With much work to be done, the girls were divided into committees to plan the lunch menu & distribution of lunches; organize games, prizes and gifts; talent show coordination. Last but not least, the LC girls were responsible for creating and managing the welcoming environment for invited attendees to learn more about the Leadership College and its history. It was a premiere night of nibbles, great jazz and “friend-raising” for Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP at the Red Kiva of Chicago. The event was sponsored by the board of directors and provided an opportunity for invited attendees to learn more about the successful work of the organization. The musical performance of “Charlie’s Angels” under the direction of jazz aficionado, Mr. Charles Heath wooed the audience with rhythmic sounds and passionate expressions.

The Leadership College does it again! The LC class of 2011/2012 (Nalondria Banks, Brittany Boyd, Antoinette Byrdsong, Victoria Davis, Sierra Mancha, Chevon Mims, Kristiana Raca, Alexis Smith, Jamea Thomas, Yasmine Tolbert) proved that serving others can be an inspiration to all involved. On March 31st, the Bellevue chapter of the Girl Scouts experienced “The Leadership College Takeover” and it is safe to say, they will never be the same.

After much brainstorming among the LC group it was determined that, they had a desire to be an encouragement and support to other girls. What better way to do this than through food, fun and music, mixed with a little education. The LC participants had the assignment as a team to create and manage this project from beginning to end. The LC girls learned firsthand that putting on a three-hour event takes a lot of work and commitment. They started by decorating gift baskets filled with candy and creating cards to personally invite each Cadette (7th & 8th grade), Senior (9th & 10th), and Ambassador (11th & 12th) Girl Scout to their event.

With much work to be done, the girls were divided into committees to plan the lunch menu & distribution of lunches; organize games, prizes and gifts; talent show coordination. Last but not least, the LC girls had the task of creating a workshop for the seventh & eighth graders and a workshop for the high school attendees. After much preparation, it was go time! The LC girls came prepared and enthusiastic, ready to touch the life of another girl, Mission accomplished. A special thank you is extended to Brandie Foster and Jeanne McGraw for volunteering on the day of the event.

The 212° “Turning up the heat” is Demoiselle 2 Femme’s 2012 initiative that was inspired by the powerful book, 212°: the degree that boils. The authors Sam Parker & Mac Anderson, supports the theory that “at 211 Degrees water is hot, At 212 Degrees it boils. And with boiling water comes steam. And steam can power a locomotive.”

Of course D2F went the extra degree and took this premise to another level as Sharon Carey, Dr. Erma F. Collins, Girl Scout Executive invited parents in the “Mind Your Business” workshop and small group activities. The workshop provided practical information and strategies that challenged parents to “turn up the heat” an extra degree in to protect their physical and emotional wellbeing. This message was echoed by Demoiselle 2 Femme CEO, and Founder, Ms. Shenida Morrison who closed out the day with an encouraging words to the parents “Just turn up the heat!”

Left to right: Monica Plaid, Yasmine Tolbert, Darlene Hill, Kristiana Raca and Chevon Mims.
In the midst of a crime ridden corridor on 103rd Street, Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP launched FEMME 2 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math). FEMME 2 STEM [F2S] is a transformative design program at the intersection of science, the arts and public health which introduces girls to non-traditional careers in STEM through multidisciplinary strategies, culminating in temporary to permanent hands on, site specific design installations. Girls serve as social environmentalist who utilize problem solving skills to engage, confront, address and bring awareness to social issues within the community through exhibitions, multi-media and site specific architectural design. The program piloted with a two-week Summer Building Heroes Bootcamp which included daily 8-hour workshops and a design project. During the bootcamp, the girls engaged the community through life-sized “Twitter” boards which they built from plywood and chalkboard paint to identify possible uses of a vacant lot.

Each day responses from the community were captured on the boards as well as statements with residents posed displaying their handwritten answers.

Overwhelmingly, the community thought the space should be utilized for its greatest asset...children. The girls brainstormed by sharing their memories of climbing and jumping and their ability to imagine. Anything, even an inanimate object, can become a world of possibilities when you “imagine!” The girls agreed to fill the vacant space with a unique architectural design that mimicked the Swiss Alps. The Swiss Alps are encapsculated by several conflicting countries (similar to gang factions in the community) but the vast mountainous scheme is considered neutral ground, but in this case-a playground. As they design, measure, and begin to build the community is drawn in and intrigued by the tools, wood, drills, cutting saws, and nails that are in the hands of this inimitable group of teen girls.

The outcome is the “Climb, Jump, Leap, Imagine” Playground, which features a rope-coursed mountainous design, built in chalk boards and mulched mountains all nestled between two store front churches. After the summer pilot, F2S is currently implementing a 10-week fall program in collaboration with the Chicago Architectural Foundation. The spring program includes a public health focus in partnership with Northwestern University.

A big thanks to all of our Summer Boot Camp partners: Prayer of Faith Church (meeting space/access to lot), the Preventive Medicine Department at Northwestern University, Mix Master Studios, Chicago Public Schools-Far South Community Action Council, and a special "grati-shout" to Latent Design, and Alex Gilliam of Public Workshop, Philadelphia, P.A. for facilitating the design workshops.

Be on the lookout for this group of “Building Heroes” as they design, build, and impact Chicago’s south side in unexpected places. The Femme 2 STEM program was featured in both the Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Tribune as well as ABC7 News. To read the articles, visit our website at: http://www.demoiselle2femme.org/press. A special thanks is also extended to all those whose hearts were inspired to financially support the completion of the project as a result of the newspaper articles including Pastor James Meeks and the Salem Baptist Church of Chicago for their generous support!
Join with us in our vision to build the H.O.P.E. Center for Girls in the Roseland community! The purpose of the H.O.P.E. (Honor Opportunity Purpose Endurance) Center for Girls is to inspire adolescent females to achieve success through cognitive and social development programs. The principles of H.O.P.E. are integrated into programmatic activities and development sessions which fortify the bonds of personal achievement and social responsibility. The building will utilize green technology and will include a library, study rooms, technology center, science lab, dining hall, gymnasium, exercise facility, state of the art kitchen, theater, art studio, dance studios, offices, classrooms, multiple rehearsal rooms, and a walking museum which celebrates the accomplishments of professional women who grew up in urban communities. Upon completion of enrollment, girls will be assigned to a 13-week cognitive track and given an opportunity to select a 13-week social track. The cognitive track provides students with personal and academic development (math, reading, STEM, social sciences, English, foreign language) classes which challenge participants to fully embrace the principles of Honor, Opportunity, Purpose and Endurance. Students will also gain knowledge in urban agriculture, humanities, social justice, cultural, civic engagement, and finance. The social track allows participants to select from music (voice, instrumental, producing), art (painting, sculpture, graphic design, photography), dance (ballet, modern, tap, jazz), culinary arts, media (traditional, print, new media) and theater (acting, set and costume design). With the collaborative efforts of more than 50 community partners, the H.O.P.E. Center will become a catalyst for change within the urban environment.

The H.O.P.E. Center will provide a vast array of opportunities to positively impact girls outside of the target community through community based research initiatives with local and national institutions. The Institute for Research on Urban Girls (IRUG) will be a center for research and public policy information which focuses on the healthy development of girls. The goal of the IRUG will be to provide research data that helps to improve the lives of girls who reside in urban communities. Through innovative research projects and published outcomes the institute will support the development of program and services at the H.O.P.E. Center as well as provide information to educational institutions, parents and girls themselves.

Fall 2012 UPDATE: We are currently in PHASE 1-site selection. Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP has contracted IFF to manage the project as we approach land acquisition. We are extremely grateful for a grant to underwrite 70% of IFF’s contractual services which was received from the Polk Brothers Foundation. A kick-off meeting was facilitated by IFF to identify amenities for the site, street boundaries, review the initial space design and site requirements. For more information on how you can help, contact Sherida Morrison, CEO at (773) 779-9371, ext. 301.
Welcome our Public Health Research Assistant!

We would like to officially welcome Lauren Walton to our Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP family. Lauren obtained her Bachelor’s degree in community health science from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and is a first year graduate student at the prestigious UIC School of Public Health. Lauren’s ultimate career goal is to become the U.S. Surgeon General and we believe that she will reach her goal and so much more! Her work at Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP will include organizing current evaluation data, creating research fact sheets, preparing manuscripts and abstracts for publications and presentations, providing updates to staff on current research and best practices relative to teen girls, and coordinate strategic planning which supports the development of the Institute for Research on Urban Girls which will be housed in D2F’s Hope Center for Girls. Also, stay tuned for “Lauren’s Public Health Perspective” which will be featured on our blog (www.d2fcatalyst.com) as well as our Facebook page!

Welcome New Volunteers!

“You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement.”

- Woodrow Wilson

On behalf of the board, staff and families served by Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP, we would like to officially welcome new volunteers who have joined us for the 2012-2013 program year.

A special thanks to the Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) at Northwestern University and the research capacity building services provided to D2F as a PERCH II grantee. The education, resources and professional relationships obtained through PERCH II assisted D2F in the development of a research agenda, priorities, rules of engagement and staffing needs to support our research goals. Thanks also to Dr. Karriem Watson at the UIC Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences for providing technical assistance in the development of the position description and posting at UIC.

PROJECT 38

“Instead of 38 weeks of Pregnancy I Choose…”

Project 38 is a community awareness activity sponsored by the South Side Coalition on Urban Girls SSCUG which recognizes the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP and SSCUG partners encouraged students to complete the slogan “Instead of 38 weeks of Pregnancy I Choose…” While teen pregnancy has declined; today, nearly 3 in 10 girls get pregnant by age 20. This suggests that we ALL need to continue helping teens postpone their families until they are older, through school, and in stable, committed relationships. Project 38 encourages students to commit to their education and personal success by choosing 38 weeks of school (a full school year) over 38 weeks of pregnancy (full term pregnancy).

Demoiselle 2 Femme hosted “Project 38” activities at Simeon, Julian, Fenger, South Shore, Gwendolyn Brooks, Thornton, Thornridge and Bloom Township High Schools.

More than 2,000 information postcards were distributed to male and female students encouraging the delay of teen sexual activity. Percy L. Julian High School partnered with Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP to host a rally which allowed male and female students to display their personal slogan signs at exactly 3:38 p.m. for 38 minutes!

Drivers in passing cars blew their horns in support of their messages and even Prinicipal Careda Taylor as well as other teachers, administrators and coaches took time to join us in the campaign! A special thanks to Julian staff and student body who participated in “Project 38.”

“The Bodyguard”

By Sharon Carey

Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP is sensitive to the fact that many girls do not have fathers who are actively involved in their lives. However, there are girls who have grandfathers, uncles, older brothers and other extended male family members who assume the role as father-figure. We proudly salute the father figures along with the actual dads who play a major role in the lives of their daughters. These gentlemen earned the distinguished title of “Body Guard” which was bestowed upon them by the D2F Parent School of Success on Saturday, June 30, 2012.

The Body Guards showed up strong for a hot breakfast with their Demoiselles at the D2F office. Afterwards the young ladies and the men participated in separate breakout sessions. While the girls discussed the important role that their respective Body Guards play in grooming them for womanhood, the Body Guards were engaged in the workshop “Daddy Teach Me to Drive” facilitated by Sherida Moranison, Founder and CEO of Demoiselle 2 Femme. The midday workshops ended with the young ladies presenting letters of appreciation to their Body Guards, and let’s say that there were a few eyes filled with tears of joy. It gets better...The day ended with a fierce bowling outing where the Body Guards and the girls bonded as high fives were given for both strikes and gutter balls.

The Body Guard is a D.A.D.S. sponsored activity. The purpose of D.A.D.S. is to develop and strengthen father/father-figure-daughter relationships through the implementation of workshops, support group sessions, seminars, and events that aim to teach effective communication, resolve conflict and restore estranged relationships.

Grant award received from Chicago Foundation for Women!

Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP was awarded a grant in the amount of $5,000 from the Chicago Foundation for Women’s African American Leadership Council. The funding is to support the D2F PHIT (Pursuing Health through Intense Training) Club which provides health, nutrition and fitness training to mothers/caregivers and daughters. Chicago Foundation for Women improves the lives of women and girls through grants, advocacy, leadership development and grantee education. We are grateful for their support and the capacity building opportunities which are provided to grantee organizations.

Welcome New Volunteer Coordinator, Camille Wright for her hard work and dedication in coordinating our volunteer trainings and activities.

Percy L. Julian High School Principal, Careda Taylor

Body Guards, enjoy moments with their daughters after the workshop and during bowling.
**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

The next stop in our travels was Atlanta, GA, where we feasted at the famous “Gladys Knight & Marvin Winans Chicken and Waffles” restaurant and visited the campuses of Spelman and Clark Atlanta University. While in Atlanta, D2F co-hosted a symposium with a fellow office on Women’s Health grantee, G.E.M.S. (Girls Empowered to Motivate and Succeed) which is a girls group similar to our G-WAVE (Girls With A Voice Empowered). The girls were given the opportunity to ask questions and talk about anything they wanted. The night was filled with great conversation, laughter, and food. The perfect girl’s night out... D2F style!

A major highlight was our visit to the Jane Fonda Center at Emory University, whose mission is to advance scientific knowledge about adolescence with an emphasis on adolescent reproductive health. The Center seeks to disseminate information and strategies for risk reduction and healthy transitions to adulthood. Dr. Melissa Kottke, the Director shared with the girls, alarming health statistics and stories of cases she has encountered with girls their age. The information provided by Dr. Kottke, had a major impact on the girls as well as the staff! Next, it was time for the girls to have a little fun so we took them to experiment the World of Coca Cola. Here we not only had fun, but had the chance to taste different sodas from around the world, learn some history about the journey Coca Cola and its’ impact on the world. Upon our departure, we were given a miniature bottle of Coca Cola as a souvenir for our visit. It was truly a blast!

Before leaving this great city, we visited the Martin Luther King Center where we viewed the memorial grounds and learned about Dr. Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King, and the many things they endured for African Americans. What a remarkable couple! Visiting the Center (a first for many) provided the girls with a glimpse into history and many facts about the King family. We all felt honored to have a family so dedicated to a movement of social justice for African Americans. What a remarkable couple! Visiting the Center on our first day, we visited the Boone Hall Plantation. We learned about slave life and see slave cabins which remain today with actual finger and hand prints which are impressed into the clay bricks of the small homes. We saw the Gullah tradition of basket making from a descendant who learned it from her mother and grandmother. Just hearing all the challenges slaves had to endure gave us all a new level of appreciation of the simple things we normally take for granted like our freedom, education, and just the power of choice! This visit was a very humbling experience for not only the girls but for everyone. Our research also included a Gullah Tour by Mr. Alfonzo Brown, a descendant, who took us through the city of Charleston where the Gullah culture and history is greatly displayed.

**CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

The girls found the last leg of our tour to be the most touching because we had the opportunity to get in touch with our roots and experience cultural history in Charleston, South Carolina. The girls were given a social research assignment to explore the Gullah culture, and on our first day, we visited the Boone Hall Plantation. We learned about slave life and see slave cabins which remain today with actual finger and hand prints which are impressed into the clay bricks of the small homes. We saw the Gullah tradition of basket making from a descendant who learned it from her mother and grandmother. Just hearing all the challenges slaves had to endure gave us all a new level of appreciation of the simple things we normally take for granted like our freedom, education, and just the power of choice! This visit was a very humbling experience for not only the girls but for everyone. Our research also included a Gullah Tour by Mr. Alfonzo Brown, a descendant, who took us through the city of Charleston where the Gullah culture and history is greatly displayed.

We even stopped by the home and workshop of the late Philip Simons, a National Folk Treasure (by the Smithsonian) and internationally known blacksmith/ornamental gate maker who has over 200 documented gates, balconies, and ornamental iron works that can be seen at homes and in museums all over America.

That evening we all dressed up for a five star dining experience at Poogan’s Porch restaurant with our CEO, Sheridan Morrison, and the executive staff. During dinner, the girls gave presentations on how they were impacted by the week-long tour. After hearing everything the girls had to say, I realized that while they each had their individual experience, they all walked away being grateful for the opportunities that were presented and commitment to stop taking many things for granted. I can say they all have a new level of humility after this cultural and educational experience. Before heading back home to Chicago, the girls participated in their final group experience by giving back to those in the Charleston community. In partnership with the Low Country Food Bank, we prepared care packages that would be given to families in need. The girls were all on board and worked so hard that in a matter of hours they completed a job that would have taken a whole day for Food Bank’s crew. Needless to say, they were very grateful for our service and the girls enjoyed giving back and helping others.

With this being my very first Leadership Tour, I have to say that this has inspired me to encourage more girls to be a part of this wonderful experience. I would like to encourage parents to teach their children to explore and take advantage of opportunities like this to gain exposure to something outside their surroundings. I have personally seen growth among many of our girls from the beginning of the program year to the transformations I see now, and I strongly believe that our work as an organization is not in vain. These beautiful young ladies are truly on a great journey toward becoming successful women!
Celebration of Purpose

The Celebration of Purpose took place place Saturday, July 23rd at the Bellevue Ministry Center. Program participants of the Demoiselle 2 Femme signature program and G-WAVE (Girls With A Voice Empowered) received special awards in the following categories: Academic Achievement, P.R.I.D.E. Award (Power, Respect, Intelligence, Desirable, Endurance), G-WAVE award, Highest points for program participation, Senior Academic Award, and Community Service Award. Students and parents were also recognized for their continued participation throughout the program year and two families received the Orchid and Fuchsia Ticket which granted them an overnight stay at the Kalahari Resort (Wisconsin Dells).

Participants of the Leadership College, Parent Advisory Board, and D2F PHIT (Pursuing Health Through Intense Training) were also recognized for their accomplishments. Veronica Thomas received Parent of the Year award. Mother-daughter powerhouse, Gwen and Tanisha Pinkney received the Volunteer of the Year award. Demoiselle Sierra Mancha, a graduating Senior from Bloom Township High School, received the Demoiselle of the Year award along with a $250 book scholarship. The College Connection awarded $3,250 in college scholarships to graduating seniors which included a newly established scholarship by Shavonisha Thompson, a D2F alumni and recent college graduate of Jackson State University. $250 Book Scholarship Maxine Miller - Christian Fenger Academy, Marquita Mitchell Miller-Christian Fenger Academy, Britney Trice - Percy L. Julian High School, Sierra Mancha-Bloom Township High School, Dr. Krystal Little Lewis Scholarship ($2,000), Britney Trice - Percy L. Julian High School, Founders Scholarship (Sherida Morrison and Brittney Trice - Percy L. Julian High School). Alexandra Smith, Simeon High School.

The staff and Femme mentors were surprised with a special presentation from D2F Alumni, Jenny Andrews which celebrated the women as “Transformers.” Jenny presented each staff member and mentor with a Transformer toy figure symbolizing the contributions each had made in helping to transform the girls’ lives. It was a celebratory day and the weather was simply beautiful. The Family Picnic held on Saturday, August 11th and the weather was simply beautiful. The Parent Advisory Board planned and afternoon of serious fun that included the infamous tug-of-war between moms and the girls and Dad’s and guys. It is safe to say that the Moms are still the reigning champions and the Dads...well, better luck next time! As usual, there is some old school stuff going on as Ms. Sherida and her crew brought the house down, not missing a beat, lyric and rhyme to Hip Hop songs of yester-year.

And what would a picnic be without great food? It was said that some folks were eating chicken wings and ice cream at the same time (their names are being withheld to protect them from the food police). The children also had a blast and were entertained by Darnit D. Clown who painted faces after a fantastic magic show. There was something for everyone at this great family gathering attended by almost 200 people. As I reflect on the 2012 D2F Family Picnic, I see a family portrait painted on the ground. The limbo contest is always hilarious! We saw many bite the dust trying to see how low they could go, as they pulled their bumpers off the ground.

However, several daring participants prevailed and received great prizes for conquering the stick. Meanwhile line dance school was officially opened as Tori Tyler, the D2F Program Director shouted out the moves to the hottest slides in town. I can still hear someone saying, “No, kick with the other right!”

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We thank God for allowing us to have so many hands to help us assist our girls to a successful transition into womanhood. We salute our Donors, Grantors, Executive Board, Femme Advisory Board, Staff Volunteers, Parent Advisory Board, D2F Parents, South Side Coalition on Urban Girls, Partnership for a Better Roseland and the above “helping hands”:

A Work of Art Florist
Alex Gilliam, Public Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
Alfred Windom, Windom Productions
Alica Haywood, Waterfront Media Group, Inc.
Andrea “Dre” Nichols-Everett, Dre’s Diesel Dome
Andrea Reed, Roseland Chamber of Commerce
Charles Heath, Heath School of Music
Chef Doris Meredith, Alter EatGo
Chef Eric Paul, Alter EatGo
Cheryl Gordon, Vashti’s
Chris Brown, The Bootcamp Guy
City Colleges of Chicago, Nursing Dept.
Creola Hampton, Greater Works, Inc.
David Max, Master Mix Academy
Dr. Deborah Terrell
Dr. Julia Rhan, Flourish Studios
Dr. Karen Watson, University of IL at Chicago
Dr. Krystal Little Lewis
Dr. Melissa Kotke, Jane Fonda Center, Emory University
Dr. Patricia Boatwright, Rush University Medical Center
Gloria Williams, Celebrations and Things
Harry Piotrowski, ITMES
Improving Diabetes on the South Side of Chicago
Ja’Net DeFell, IFF
Jenny Andrews
Katherine Darnstadt (and Ava), Latent Design
Kimberly Foster, Children’s Memorial Hospital
Lauren Dillon
Lower Eastside Girls Club, New York, NY
Miah Novels, ILAACP
Messages of Empowerment, (G.E.M.S program), Atlanta, GA
Lamont Williams, Los Angeles, CA
Reginald Rooks
Rocio, Urban Photographer
Pastor James Meeks, Salem Baptist Church of Chicago
Phil Middlebrooks
Shavomeishia Thompson
Tanya Lyda, Lydiaographics
Tiffany Gholar
University of Illinois at Chicago Neighborhood Initiative
Vanessa Smith, South Side Help Center
Yaa Simpson, Chicago Dept. of Public Health

All Grant Funders and Donors will be fully acknowledged in the 2012 Annual Report.

Mere words cannot express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the staff of Demoiselle 2 Femme. Your commitment to the girls and communities we serve is demonstrated in the passion, creativity, and heartfelt concern you express on a daily basis. We are a family of women who share laughter, tears and sometimes disappointments in our work to provide girls with opportunities that will afford them a better future. We look forward to the completion of many milestones over the next year as our path leads to the HOPE CENTER FOR GIRLS! We salute your work and acts of service as AGENTS OF CHANGE in our community. What an amazing group of women!
You Can Become a D2F Mentor… e-Mentor!

Would you like to mentor a teen girl but have limited time? Then the D2F e-Mentorship program may be a fit for you! In February 2013, this program will be launched to provide mentorship and support to 40 girls via our newly developed group network. Volunteers must be women ages 23 and up who are willing to engage their mentee through weekly online communication and a group activity once per month. A mandatory training will be held in mid-January for all mentors and mentees. All mentors must pass a full background check. Interested? Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Camille Wright at 773.779.9371, ext. 13. You can make a difference in the life of a girl!

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