

65 Years Strong, Smart, and Bold: Girls Inc. of Chattanooga Celebrates Its Official Birthday on February 15, 2026

Chattanooga, TN, Girls Inc. of Chattanooga proudly announces a yearlong celebration marking its 65th anniversary, honoring decades of service, leadership, and learning for girls across Hamilton and Marion counties.

Since opening its doors in 1961, Girls Inc. of Chattanooga has reached more than 40,000 girls, equipping them with the skills, confidence, and support to grow up healthy, educated, and independent. The organization will commemorate this remarkable milestone with a series of community events throughout Fiscal Year 2026 (August 2025–July 2026), culminating in an official birthday celebration on February 15, 2026.

“For 65 years, Girls Inc. of Chattanooga has helped girls discover their strengths, believe in their abilities, and see new possibilities for their lives,” said Toccora Petersen, CEO of Girls Inc. of Chattanooga. “This celebration is about honoring our past while looking toward a future filled with new opportunities for the next generation of girls.”

Founded in 1961, Girls Inc. of Chattanooga is part of the national Girls Inc. network, inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold through mentorship, hands-on learning, and supportive relationships. From leadership and literacy to health and college readiness, Girls Inc. programs give girls the tools they need to navigate life with confidence and purpose.

“Our 65th year is a reminder of what’s possible when a community invests in its girls,” said Petersen, CEO. “We’re celebrating those who helped build this organization and inviting others to join us as we open new doors of opportunity for the next 65 years.”

Yearlong Anniversary Events

- HerStory Marketplace (December 7, Noon to 6 PM): A curated showcase highlighting women-owned businesses, artists, and entrepreneurs.
- Official Birthday Celebration (February 15, 2026): The official anniversary honoring 65 years of Girls Inc. of Chattanooga’s service to local girls and families.
- Sapphire Sneaker Gala (May 16, 2026): The third annual signature fundraising event honoring women who exemplify leadership and integrity, continuing the legacy of those who inspire others to lead with purpose.
- Community Block Party& BTS Bash (July 2026): A free, family-friendly celebration closing out the anniversary year.

The community is invited to celebrate this milestone year by attending events, volunteering, and donating to help sustain its mission for another 65 years.

For sponsorships, event details, or ways to get involved, visit <https://girlsincofchatt.org/65years> or contact Jocelyn Loza, Chief Development Officer at jloza@girlsincofchatt.org

About Girls Inc. of Chattanooga

Girls Inc. of Chattanooga inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold through transformational after-school, seasonal, and partner-based programming. Girls Inc. provides every girl with the tools to be her whole self today and tomorrow.

For more information, visit <https://www.girlsincofchatt.org/> and follow us on social media,
<https://www.facebook.com/girlsincofchatt/>
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