

Class 2025

GIRLS HUB

YOUNG WOMEN OF TOLEDO

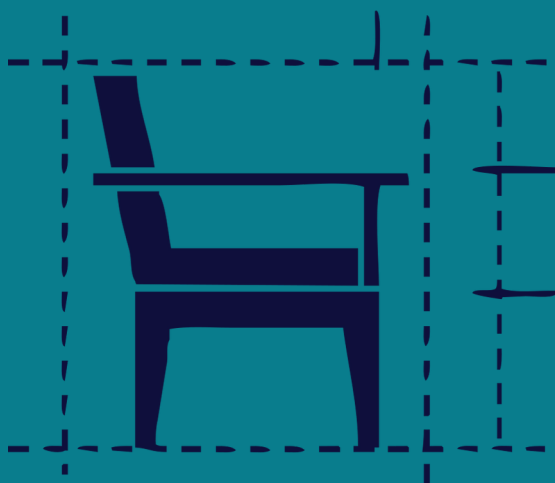
**If they don't give you a
seat at the table, bring a
folding chair.**

-Shirley Chisholm

Women of Toledo says



Build Your Own!



Your seat is your identity and what you care about.
The table is where decisions are made.



Overview: Young Women of Toledo

Our Young Women initiative offers an opportunity for our young women ages 12 to 26 to share, discuss, and debate constructively to help build skills, mentorship, and empowerment.

Under the Young Women of Toledo initiative, we introduce Girls Hub, a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) program/activity for girls and young women ages 12 to 17 that provides a dedicated workspace in design and construction, through classes in carpentry, architecture, and civic art. With support from our STEAM mentors, our Girls Hub Builders use their creative voices and power tools to build their chairs and toolboxes, which represent their uniqueness, while examining the value of identity, voice, and lived experience in civic spaces.

We aim to support and equip a community of fearless builders. Integrating Mentor's technical skills, we believe our programs equip youth with the personal power and literal power tools to build the world they want to see.



More info: www.womenoftoledo.org/girlshub



Main Library

5:30 pm Reception & Appetizer (lobby area)

McMaster Hall

Welcome, Presentation & Storytelling

6:00 to 6:45 pm EMCEE – **Mary Brucker**, Past WOT Board Member

- Class 2025 Presenting Partner: **Terry Crosby**, Taylor Automotive Family
- Welcome by WOT Board President, **Nichole Beltran**
- Overview & Partners Recognition by Executive Director, **Nina Corder**

Keynote Speaker: **Candice Harrison**, SSOE Group

6:45 to 7:00 pm Class 2025 with Program Coordinator, **Julia LaBay**

- Girls Hub Builder Chair Presentations
- Alumni Toolbox Presentations
- Bench for Charity

7:00 to 7:25 pm Fearless Builder Recognition and Certificate by **Cerssandra McPherson**, City of Toledo Councilwoman

7:25 pm Final Girls Hub Closing Circle with Young Women Board, **Manhattan Cook**

A SEAT AT THE TABLE PROJECT

MEET TOLEDO'S FEARLESS BUILDERS



Class of
2025



Audrey Soltes

Age 14

The theme I went with was family connections, symbolizing different pieces for different people in my family. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub was making my mosaic art because it was very calming to place the pieces in their place, which helped me find my place here. Completing this project has made me feel relieved and excited because it was hard to do. This has allowed me to build my confidence because I had to talk to new people and make new connections. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to get a place where I'm being recognized for who I am and what I do. My advice to a future builder would

be that the first day is always the worst but it gets better and you're going to stretch outside your comfort zone.

Augystana (Stana) Ross

Age 12

My theme was Fall because when I was six my uncle took me and my sister camping for the first time and it's a time that I remember in the Fall. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub was spending time with my friend and sister. Something new that I learned to do and build is my chair and staining wood. Completing my project has made me feel excited, relieved, and irritated that my time is done. This has helped me continue my growth in confidence and leadership because I already had confidence in doing the work and being able to lead. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means that men have run things too long and I think it's about women building their voice. My advice to a future builder is to wear something over your clothes so you don't get wood stains on your clothes.





Brooklyn Whitney

Age 13

As a first-time fearless builder, my theme was music because I love it and I always listen to all kinds of music that represents determination and confidence. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was building my chair because it was easy. I learned how to sand a chair and use a drill. Completing my project has made me feel successful. This has helped me build my confidence in thinking I can do things that I don't know how to do by using instructions. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to speak up for yourself. My advice to a future builder would be to not dress in nice clothes so that you don't mess them up.

Delilah Washington

Age 12

As a first-time fearless builder, my project theme was to magnify music and express how it makes me and others feel because having mutual feelings with songs from singers, makes them relatable. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was making friends and learning about new tools. Something new that I learned to do is build connections with new friends, which made me learn that there is a lot of stuff that you think you can't do but that you really can if you try. Completing my project made me feel very accomplished and proud to do something that I didn't think I could do.



Eris Katner

Age 14

The theme I went with for my project includes my likes such as pop art, animals, and building something close to my heart. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub was using power tools to create my chair. I learned to use the jigsaw. I saw it as intimidating but once used I felt fearless.

Completing my project makes me genuinely feel accomplished within myself because being able to finish all drawings in time was a fear. This has helped me grow confidence by showing me my own abilities to complete things and be around peers to build with, which made me feel seen. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to put yourself out there even when seen as someone without value and holding yourself high enough to step up in situations where women are seen as less than. My advice to a future builder

is that if you're nervous, don't be. Seeing the tools may be intimidating but they're not. And be yourself through it all.



Gabriella "Gabby" Muntz

Age 12

I chose a monarch butterfly because I had a vision of doing a random and cool idea that represents nature and outdoors, as my family and I enjoy all that it has to offer. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub was the experience of building something with a community of girls because at my house I'm the only girl. I used my voice to say "forget it" as nothing can stop me from being social and helping others through difficult times. I learned how to understand new people even though it may not be what I'm used to and was struggling with but learning to be reflective and sympathetic even though I've been told I can't and build better confidence in

myself to make adjustments as needed. Completing my project made me feel glad and proud of my hard effort because with help I built something that I never had before, for the first-time. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership by not allowing people to run over me and was able to cut back on pleasing people while being strong, respectful, and sympathetic. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means that I can build something to be a part of the bigger picture and building a seat allows me to build my piece of work at the table. My advice to a future builder is don't be afraid to be you, stand up for yourself and ideas, learn to express them but learn from others as well, don't feel pressured or compare yourself to others, and try your best.



Gynessei Ross

Age 13

As a first-time fearless builder, the theme I chose was flowers because when my grandma had cancer she used to wear them and now she is cancer-free. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was using power tools because I get to learn new skills as I have not done so before. Something new that I learned to do is knowing how to use the jigsaw. Completing my project made me feel proud and empowered because I was able to build my own chair for personal use. This has helped me grow in confidence by using power tools and in leadership to teach others. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means when other people don't want you, give them a reason to want you. My advice to a future builder is that the people are nice, not to be nervous, and don't be afraid to ask for help.

Hannah Depp

Age 12

As a first-time fearless builder, the theme I went with was Spongebob and Patrick as I represent Spongebob and my best friend represents Patrick because it represents what it is to be best friends since Kindergarten. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was painting because I could add all the colors I want that represent me, my best friend, and my chair. Something new that I learned is how to use tools, real life tools instead of fake ones that we learn as kids. Completing my project has made me feel fantastic because I put my whole strength and hard work into it. This has helped me build my confidence with speaking up and talking to new people because I'm shy and lead my own path. Leadership has taught me to take responsibility, and know it's okay to make mistakes. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to bring your own thoughts and everything you have to the table to express your ideas and others. My advice to a future builder is to never be a follower, always be a leader, and have confidence in yourself.



Isla Merritt

Age 12

The theme I chose was from the movie Coraline because I love it and I love sewing and fashion. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub is cutting the extra pieces of wood, sanding, using tools, and all the heavy work because I like to distract myself and use my critical thinking skills.

Something new that I learned is that there are a bunch of different tools that can be used for different things, to just have fun, and it doesn't have to be perfect. This has helped me grow in confidence instead of hesitating and stepping away and to take more charge and become comfortable. Completing my project has made me feel happy, excited to show my parents, and proud to brag to my brother. My advice to a future builder is to not be scared because even though it may be normal it can hurt you in more ways than good and it is okay to be comfortable using and doing new things since people are there to help.



Jaya "Jay" Ray

Age 12

As a first-time fearless builder, the theme I chose was baking because I like to bake, especially with my grandma and siblings. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was meeting everybody because they are new girls and we share something different from everyone else. Also, building my chair because I didn't know how much detail would go into building something out of wood. Something new that I learned to do is how to use the jigsaw and nail gun. Completing my project made me feel good and proud of myself because it is something I have never done before nor have I used hardware tools. This has helped me grow in confidence by talking to other people I am not familiar with and leadership by taking the leadership of building my own chair to sit at my table for personal use. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means being with a group of people, making your own seat, and taking matters in your hands to do what you want to

do. My advice to a future builder is that you have to try and learn new things to build your skills.

Josefina



Josefina "Josie" Richards

Age 12

As a first-time fearless builder, my project theme is Summer because I really like and enjoy it as I get to hang out with my friends more, nicer weather, and I'm out of school. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was painting and using the tools to make my own design. Something new that I learned to do is how to use a bunch of power tools, specifically the nail gun. Completing my project made me feel accomplished because I made my own chair and design. This has helped me grow in confidence by making me realize that I can build items and use power tools. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means doing it yourself and not expecting other people to do it because you have the power to do it. My advice to a future builder is to talk to new people because it's nice to have new friends.

Juliana "Ana" Martin

Age 12

As a first-time fearless builder, my theme is based on Christianity (Jesus) because of my connection with God at home with my parents. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week is to enjoy building new things for the first time. Something new that I learned is how to communicate with others because it teaches you to not be shy. Completing my project for the first time in the program has made me feel proud and happy because it's my first time and I completed it by myself. Having steps to follow during the program has allowed my confidence and leadership to grow. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to not feel or be alone. My advice to a future builder is to be yourself and don't be shy or afraid.



Justice Johnson

Age 13

As a first-time fearless builder, my chosen themes were songs that inspire me because I enjoy listening to music. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was building the chair and painting because I have a passion for art. Something new that I learned to do is building my chair and more about my new friends. Completing my project made me feel happy and excited because I like building. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership by building stronger confidence in myself because I'm so proud of myself and learning new things to teach somebody else. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to be surprised. My advice to a future builder is knowing that you got his and you're powerful.



Kaylee Reyes

Age 13

As a first-time fearless builder, my theme is soccer because it's fun and a youtube person because he's funny and I love them both. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was building the chair because I learned something new and I typically help my mom build new things as needed.

Something new that I learned to use are the tools.

Completing my project has made me feel proud and artistic because I did it in a week. My confidence and leadership has grown from cheering everyone on. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to stick up for yourself, be brave, and to be leaders by helping others build their chairs.

My advice to a future builder is to be yourself and not be nervous because you don't have to pretend to be someone you're not.





Kenley Kipplen

Age 12

My project is a drawing chair which allows sketching and stuff to be done and it represents my cat that I love so much. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was meeting new friends and empowering myself to build something for myself because I have never done something like that before and it brought out my creativity. New things that I learned are how to use tools, feel more comfortable with things that I haven't done before, spending time with new girls, and being myself. Completing my project definitely made me feel really proud of myself and the other girls because we all did really well and it was awesome to do. My confidence has grown to be around tools and around more girls my age as I can be myself, and

to lead by building with each other. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to make my own choices in the world that I helped to create, to feel comfortable, and be yourself. My advice to a future builder is to definitely work with others so it gets done faster. Don't be afraid to build what you want. Confidence is key and let your creativity flourish.

Kylee Reyes

Age 13

My project idea consists of making people feel good about themselves by using a crossword of beautiful words because a lot of people don't give themselves enough credit. What I enjoyed most about Girls Hub this week was the closing circle because we got to tell each other that we all did a great job. Something new that I learned to build is relationships with other girls. Completing my project made me feel relieved, happy, and proud because I won't have to think of new ideas that take a while and because I finished it how I wanted to. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means that you don't really care about getting judged and you're no longer worried. My advice to a future builder is to not be nervous and do your best because at first I was nervous but then everyone was nice and we all came here for a reason.



Lea Claire Sokasits

Age 16

My chosen project theme was a Lunar moth because I like how they look and when you see one it means new beginnings. I enjoyed lunch/snack time because you get to engage with other people and there is no outside competition like there is outside of here. As I'm not usually social, something new that I learned to do is engage in conversation with new people and make new connections. Completing my project made me feel confident, happy, and more artistic because I usually don't do these kinds of projects and normally when I start something I don't finish it. This has really helped me grow in confidence and leadership through

the encouragement and help from the alumni girls because once I got it then they let me do it by myself. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means you're adding to the table with your own mindset and creativity. My advice to a future builder is don't go straight to judging people because in reality it's not good for you and it's good to get yourself out there and talk to new people.



Madisen "Maddie" Lee

Age 14

The theme I chose was Erica Badu, who is a singer/songwriter because I enjoy her music, art style, and she's inspiring because her fashion speaks to me as I want to be like her when I get older. If you listen to her words it represents a bigger message. I enjoyed the happiness I saw in others, teamwork, and the way I saw people for their own art style to represent who they are because I like to understand how others see the world, not just how I see it. I learned to communicate with others and express it through art, seeing others socialize because it makes me want to socialize rather than isolate myself, and that tools are not as hard to use if you understand how to use them. Completing my project made me feel like I started a new canvas and finished it and

maybe I can get inspiration to do another canvas. This has helped me grow in confidence because I thought not many people would like my art work or how I see art but when I learned of others it allowed me the confidence through everyone else's art style. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means that you shouldn't leave yourself out of your dreams even if it isn't common. You should still try, not care about others opinion, and not discourage yourself from what you want to do. My advice to a future builder is if you're in the program it will seem like a long process but once you build your confidence and social status then it will go by faster. Also, do what you think is best through your own inspiration rather than others.

Maleah



Maleah Reyes

Age 14

As a first-year fearless builder, my project theme is Jesus because it represents my savior and my relationship with church and praying. What I enjoyed most about Girls Hub this week is learning how to use tools properly because now I can help my family build and put together new things. Completing my project made me feel proud because I didn't mess up and I completed my chair. My advice to a future builder would be to not be afraid to ask for help because people tend to be scared to ask for help due to judging them.

Olivia Marshall

Age 14

My project theme is dance because I have been dancing since I was two years old and I'm big into it. I enjoyed using the power tools because my dad was never able to teach me how and now I can use them to help him. Completing my project made me feel good and proud because I accomplished something new. Girls Hub has helped me grow in confidence because I didn't have to doubt myself when making a mistake because other girls made mistakes too. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means that if you don't fit in then you can fit yourself in. My advice to a future builder is not to be scared of messing up or doing something wrong.



Olivia



Pearl

Pearl Middlebrooks

Age 11

My theme is based on flowers because I like the smell, and they help me control my emotions if I'm not feeling myself. I enjoyed painting as it is a fun activity that I enjoy at home and at school. Completing my project made me feel like, wow, like I actually did this, for real? Also, I'm so proud of myself that I built this chair. This has helped me grow in confidence because at first I was quiet, but then the alumni girls kept giving me confidence, which allowed me to be and build myself. Now I can lead and teach other girls. My advice to a future builder is to have confidence, don't be a bully, respect your peers, and have fun.

RicNyia “Nyia” Davis

Age 11

As a first-time fearless builder, the project theme I chose was the solar system because I enjoy and do great during my science classes. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was learning how to build my chair as I never built anything before and I learned how to use tools for the first-time. Completing my project made me feel okay because it's now finished. This has helped me continue my growth in confidence and leadership.



Sophia Marshall

Age 14

As a first-time fearless builder, the theme I went with for my project are pickles as they make me feel safe and the love of my family stronger. What I most enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was painting to bring my chair to life and learning how to use the jigsaw to create unique shapes. Completing this project has made me feel successful as I made it look like a child-like wonder. Being able to have an open and blank chair to canvas on, allowed my ability to do anything that made me feel like myself. To me, “Build Your Own Seat at the Table” means that now is for making sure there is always a seat for you, whether there is room or not. My advice to a future builder would be that there is no need to be scared because there is fun everywhere!





Sydney White

Age 15

As a first-time fearless builder, the theme of my project is to reflect a woman of color, to make something that looks graceful and beautiful instead of being seen as angry, and was able to do that through bright colors and flowers. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was the connections that were made between myself and other girls. Something new that I learned to do and build is my chair, trusting the process, and going with the flow instead of second guessing myself to restart. Completing my project made me feel so accomplished, proud of myself for doing a bigger picture outside of my canvas painting, and ambitious that I

finished. This has helped me grow in confidence by not over-thinking because I usually overthink a lot and to take leadership of my own mind instead of taking advice from myself through my mental state. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means providing for yourself, that you don't have to have others give something to you all the time, even if they want to, and to have perseverance because if not given to you, then you can build yourself. My advice to a future builder is don't limit yourself to what you want to do, think outside the box and just do it while making it a fun experience instead of being stressed in order to make it a better environment for yourself.

leadHERway



Twenty-first-century education, both in the United States and globally, is faced with the realization that there needs to be a growing emphasis on alignment between how our youth are educated, what and how they learn, and how they are prepared for the world beyond the classroom.

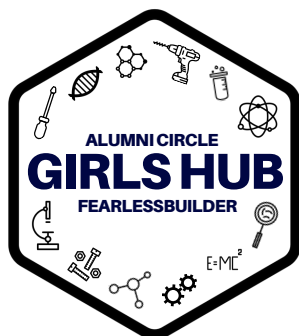
LeadHerWay program is an opportunity for intersectional youth, ages 16 to 24 in our community to explore John Dewey's famous three-part purpose for education - 1. to prepare students to become life-long learners, 2. to develop ethical citizens, and civic engagement, 3. to promote successful participants in the world of work (workforce).

LeadHerWay opportunities includes fellowship/apprenticeship, Newcomer youth Network activities, one-on-one job shadowing or mentoring and volunteerism. Learn more here:



This project was funded (or funded in part) by a grant from The Sisters of St. Francis (Sylvania) Foundation Donor Advised Fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation





Our Builders from classes 2022 to 2024 continue to ask for more, do more, and practice bravery with power tools. In 2023, we introduced Chairs for Charity as an extension. In 2024, we partnered with our mentors from Pilkington NSA in Rossford, Ohio, showcasing the float glass on the builder's chairs, featuring this year's theme—**Women Who Led the Way: The Stories of the Glass City.**

This year, 2025, our Alumni Builders were introduced to two new pieces of equipment— a SawStop Industrial Saw and an OMTech 60W CO2 Laser Engraver. They learned new skills in using more advanced woodworking tools and built an individual toolbox and bench for the charity.

Meet our Alumni Fearless Builder Class 2025!



Ariel "Ari" Thomas-Wilson

Class of 2024

Age 13

The theme I chose was flowers as it represents being calm because last year my theme was tsunami. I wanted to do something different to represent peace and to stop and smell the flowers with it being summer. I really enjoyed the experience because I was hands on, able to do something fun. I learned that instead of trying to rush and do it, I stopped myself to give myself a break and that it doesn't have to be perfect. Also, I was excited to learn how to use the jig saw and how to measure and cut wood differently. Completing my project made me feel very proud because this is my first year building this, wanting to give myself the opportunity to put it in my

mindset to be more grateful and give credit where it's due. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership because it has taught me that I could represent and do my own thing and that I don't have to go step by step, to go at my pace. Now, I can lead my own way by expressing myself through my chair. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to bring your own ideas, not go by everyone's rules because it's expected that if you don't have a seat then you are not invited, and at Girls Hub you bring your own opinions and try your best because not everyone's rules apply to you. My advice to a future builder is it's okay to make mistakes because when you apply it to real life it makes more sense and just because you do something wrong it doesn't mean your work has to be given up as it represents something bigger and allows you to prepare for real life situations.



Eden Hicks

Class of 2023

Age 16

As a third-time fearless builder, my project was one to donate to a local garden. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was using the saw and laser to print on my toolbox. Something new that I learned to do is build a toolbox and a bench to donate to the garden. Completing my project made me feel accomplished. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership as most girls are new and younger builders. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means waiting to invite myself to the table, take the chance, and don't be scared. My advice to a future builder is don't be scared to try new things and follow through for great results, #yoloyourlife.

Gabriella "Gabbie" Paracchini

Class of 2024

Age 14

As a second-time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was meeting new girls that have done it before, getting to build interest and connection, and doing something new than a chair. Something new that I learned to do is use a table saw, including myself even though it was awkward at first, and going out of my comfort zone. Completing my project made me feel accomplished, proud, and confident to build from the bottom and develop new skills. This has helped me grow in confidence by speaking and feeling confident with including myself and being able to share with others. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means that throughout life you have to push into where you are not welcome and make room even though there may not be none because you know it has to be done. My advice to a future builder is to try and include yourself and understand the opportunity is rare and goes by fast.



Hope Hicks

Class of 2024

Age 13

As a second-time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was that I got something new to build because you get to create what you think of. Something new that I learned to do is how to use tools and I was able to build from people. Completing my project made me feel satisfied that it is done. This has helped me grow in confidence by making me feel confident in doing new things. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to empower young girls to build empowerment with other girls. My advice to a future builder is don't give up.



Isabella "Bella" Hall

Class of 2024

Age 13

As a second-time fearless builder, my theme was Lilo and Stitch because it's my moms favorite movie and this is a gift for her. I used the word "Ohana" because it means family and family means no one gets left behind or forgotten. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was painting my tool box because I like painting the lines and flowers as it's not something I normally do at home. Something new that I learned to do is to fix my own mistakes. Completing my project made me feel good because I got it done and it looks nice. This has helped me grow in confidence by talking to new people and

becoming more outgoing and in leadership by volunteering to speak at closing circle. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to invite yourself even if nobody gives you a chance. My advice to a future builder is to work hard because it is a big project to do and it takes longer than you think.





Justyce Savage

Class of 2024

Age 12

As a second-time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was the people that I know because it made me comfortable.

Something new that I learned to build is my toolbox and something new that I learned to use is the laser. Completing my project made me feel proud and happy to have something to keep and hold on to down the years as remembrance. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership by speaking out loud and showing our work at graduation. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to go out of your comfort zone at your own time and build a bond. My advice to a future builder is don't be afraid to ask for help, go out of your comfort zone, and to express how you feel and think.

Kamya Robertson

Class of 2024

Age 15

As a third-time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was getting to try the new table saw and laser because it was new to me, cool, and never done before. Something new that I learned to build was my toolbox and how to measure and cut the wood. Completing my project made me feel relieved and proud of myself because it was a lot of work. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership by building my social skills and realizing that I can do anything. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means that women and young girls no matter where or what it is we should be included. My advice to a future builder is that you can achieve anything you put your mind to.



NETWORK PARTNERS

Thank you to our SWAG Bag partners and in-kind donations to support our Class 2025 Girls Hub program this year!



The Pediatric Center, Inc.



Toledo | Lamberville | Oregon



Thank you to **Sue Hague-Rogers** with SIOGO Consulting/SHR for the Fearless Builder Yard sign.

Kasidy Savage

Class of 2023

Age 15

As a third time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was that I liked how everybody knew each other, more inclusive, and freedom since it's my third year. Something new that I learned to do and build is my toolbox and actually cutting wood with new equipment. Completing my project made me feel accomplished since it was something new and I now know how to build small and big projects and am relieved that it's done. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership by asking for help and then being able to help others. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means that you're not always going to have the opportunity and uniqueness of finding your voice and working hard to have a seat at the table so you can sit with everybody. My advice to a future builder is to just try because you're not going to get it all the first week, not everybody is going to come to you, sometimes you have to go to them as well, and don't go surface level, dig deeper.



Kynneddy Knighten

Class of 2022

Age 16

As a fourth time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was getting to know more about other alumni girls' week from previous years. Something new that I learned to do is use the laser and table saw and to advocate for myself even if uncomfortable or outside my norm. Completing my project made me feel proud of myself for getting this done along with other small projects and a sense of relief. This has helped me grow in confidence with using public speaking as a tool not only for the program but outside life and opening up to become more comfortable with being my authentic self instead of acting to fit in, and seeing how others carry themselves. Also, it helped me

grow my leadership skills and to take the lead role as I used to not volunteer but now I do, even though I don't want to. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means using your voice and advocating for yourself when others won't or are unable to. My advice to a future builder is to talk to other builders and get to know them because they become close bonds to help socialize at future events.



Lienna Rausch

Class of 2022

Age 17

As a fourth-time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub was seeing friends, reconnecting, and catching up to build stronger bonds. Something new that I learned to do is using the table saw and laser. Completing my project made me feel accomplished because it's my last year and I was able to build something beyond a chair. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership by becoming used to and comfortable within my environment and I was able to help others who may not have been able to build connections. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means everyone has a voice and even though small or big, you get to be heard and be a part of the conversation. My advice to a future builder is to be yourself, go at your own pace, and don't let others rush or slow you down.

Lily Ugorowski

Age 18

Class of 2023

The theme I chose to incorporate into my project was the empowerment of grief, showing how beautiful it can be in memory of my grandparents passing. At GirlsHub this week I most enjoyed painting to bring my box to life and show the beauty and how to interact with new peers. Completing my project made me feel accomplished on speed and time management, relief of what I have done and from self grief by painting. This has helped me find my voice, making my self-confidence higher, and gave me that feeling of knowing my voice is heard, to have the ability to speak publicly, and be true to myself. What "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means to me now is to have the opportunity and ability to feel heard and bring my voice to the table. My advice to a future builder is "Any idea, is a good idea," be yourself, listen to Julia and strive for what you want as each idea is worth it, and reminding everyone to be true to yourself.



Lucy Harbick

Class of 2024

Age 12

As a second-time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was learning how to use the power tools. Something new that I learned to do and build was my toolbox. Completing my project made me feel good because I have accomplished something. This has helped me grow in confidence by using power tools and building something that I put together. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means being a part of something even if you're not accepted right away. My advice to a future builder is to make sure that you hold the nail gun straight for safety.



Madison "Maddie" Perales

Class of 2023

Age 16

As a third-time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub was the introduction of new ideas other than chairs, learning bigger tools and being able to know I can use them rather than thinking I can't do it even as an adult. Something new that I learned to build is my toolbox and how helpful the other alumni girls are even though they may not know it. Completing my project made me feel sad that I won't be back even though I want to this summer and happy to have the guidance. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership in areas of public speaking, to be more open-minded than before, and to use my voice and be ME. To me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means more

about helping myself and others to bring our seat and not only myself. My advice to a future builder is to have fun, don't fuss, nothing is perfect, have fun, and be confident in your project and yourself.





Manhattan “Mattie ” Cook

Class of 2022

Age 16

As a fourth-time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was being with all of the girls and seeing them again while bonding but respecting boundaries, and seeing new things in the program. Something new that I learned to do is stain wood which was easier than I had thought. Completing my project made me feel good because I’m giving it to the garden place that I work at in the park and it’s going to last and mean a lot to me over the years. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership by putting myself out there more and not being shy rather

with openness, taking more leadership after gaining years of experience, and being able to speak up for myself and others as needed in order to build connections outside of here. To me, “Build Your Own Seat at the Table” means being your true self and not letting stereotypes or opinions stop you from achieving what you want and going into uncomfortable situations to break generational barriers. Also, I now understand that women are equal and it takes work to build your seat to be respected. My advice to a future builder is to give it a chance even though it is a long day because I look forward to it every year as it helps me build tools, knowledge, friendships, and know that after the work is done then the fun begins.

Serenity Hall

Class of 2024

Age 13

As a second-time fearless builder, the theme of my project was fruit and the beach because I wanted to do something different from last year and I enjoy them both, especially the beach by cedar point. What I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was painting because at school I like to draw and outline then fill in. Something new that I learned to do is how to use the laser machine and build a toolbox. Completing my project made me feel excited because I did it and plan to give it away to my friend’s mom as she uses tools a lot and I enjoy spending time there. This has helped me grow a lot in confidence to know that I can and want to do it. Since I have built this project and those in the past I now can confidently lead and teach others to do



the same. To me, “Build Your Own Seat at the Table” means that you always have a spot at the table to eat and draw whenever you want. My advice to a future builder is to have a lot of fun with artwork and make a bunch of new friends.

T'mya Hall

Class of 2024

Age 13

As a second time fearless builder, what I enjoyed most at Girls Hub this week was getting to know everyone on a deeper level because if I was on my own I wouldn't and it's comforting to find friends to connect with. Something new that I learned to do is use the new tools and the benefits of using them. Completing my project made me feel successful because when I set goals or are given them I like to complete them to my liking. This has helped me grow in confidence and leadership by not trying to meet everyone's expectations by myself and to not be a boss but keep others engaged until the work is done. To

me, "Build Your Own Seat at the Table" means showing that I am worthy and equal with my talents and potential as building my own seat is a goal. My advice to a future builder is to pay attention in order to understand successfully so that you achieve the results you want, take advice tips, and keep your head straight.



GIRLS HUB (ALUMNI) CLASS OF 2025 BENCH FOR CHARITY



Alumni Builders - Manhattan, Kynneddy, and Eden.

We continue to find ways to inspire, educate, and connect our youth through community engagement, promoting civic duties and social responsibilities. We challenge our Alumni Builders to also build and design a product for a local nonprofit organization (or cause) in our community that they are passionate about.

This year, with the support of their instructors and mentors, our builders built a bench for **Urban Wholistics, Tatum Park, Community Greenspace, founded by Sonia Flunder-McNair.**

Urban Wholistics operates a community green space called Tatum Park, located across from our headquarters at 1209 City Park Ave. Toledo, OH. The park covers multiple lots and is open to the public from sunrise to sunset, offering opportunities for visiting, learning, and shopping at the market. On the grounds, you will find a variety of organically grown vegetables, fruits, herbs, and plants. Throughout the year, they host various activities, programs, and projects at Tatum Park for the benefit of the community. Learn more here: www.urbanwholistics.org



Program Organizer

Women of Toledo: Established in 2014, Inclusive for Women Inc. - Women of Toledo (WOT) is a 501c3 not-for-profit formed to create sustainable solutions that elevate the quality of life and improve the economic equity of women and young women through a mission to educate, engage, and empower. The organization offers programs and services that help tackle issues critical to women's economic advancement and interrupt various biases in the workplace, marketplace, community, and family.

Learn more!



Graduation's Presenting Partners

TAYLOR AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY



LOCALLY OWNED. LOCALLY COMMITTED

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PROGRAM PARTNERS



Thank You!

On behalf of our Circle of Friends, Supporters, Board of Directors, Partners, Volunteers, women, and young women at Women of Toledo, we would like to thank all of you for attending this program. Please know that your support truly offers hope to all women and youth that our organization will continue to serve by acknowledging, celebrating, and honoring their presence and value in our community.
www.womenoftoledo.org

YWOT Girls Hub Team: Nina Corder, Julia LaBay, and Annora Harbick.

Support Team: Dr. Benda Holsey, Angie Fitzpatrick, Mona Shousher, and Lisa Halsey

Apprentices/Fellows: Lucy Bogart, Chizzy Umeugo, Amber Lopez, Sally De La Cruz Gonzalez, and Amaree Arington

Graduation Photographer: Ambershaun Byrd with Abyrdseyephoto Productions

Thank you to our mentors & leaders in our city that spend time with our young women throughout the program this year:

Isabel Souza, Erin Curley, Nancy Odenweller, Crystal Anderson, Chris Mowen, David L. Bush, Sonia Flunder-McNair, Mickey Radtkin, Tasha Hussein Black, Mallori Thomas-Wilson, Dr. Stephanie L. Covington, Commissioner Lisa Sobecki and Lori Cannon.