



2024 Girl Power Contest Winners

Summer Zhong (Elementary School, First Place)

The You Go Girl Business Fair

If I can have a business that would impact girls and women in this county, I will create a business fair specifically tailored for girls and young women. This platform will motivate girls to pursue their business dreams and earn money like real entrepreneurs.

Last year, I participated in the Acton Children's Business Fair of Washington, DC. My sister and I set up a booth by the name Yummy Asian Bistro, in which I sold lemonade and deep-fried dumplings. We also offered free origami lucky draw to bring in customers. I had lots of fun attracting clients and selling food. First, I handed out self-made coupons and flyers to my classmates, friends, and passersby at the fair.

Secondly, I offered people to try some samples of our food. Whenever someone walked by our booth, I asked them if they wanted a cup of fresh icy lemonade, when they showed any interest and came over, I tried to persuade them to buy some dumplings along. Most importantly, smiling and waving to any potential customers passing by always worked. Even though it was my first business experience, at the end the day, I earned 36 dollars. I loved this fair so much because it helped me realize that I have a passion for business. I enjoy chatting with different people and selling items. I decide to become a businesswoman when I grow up. I want to encourage other girls to involve in this area as well. The You Go Girl business fair, as I plan to organize and name it, will be open to all types of ideas.

Any girl who gets a creative and original idea is welcome to give it a try. To make this event popular and unique, I will hold it at a prime location with a high volume of people. That way, all female entrepreneurs will be able to profit more. Besides, I will lower application fees to support the participants, encouraging more girls to join. Lastly, I will invite some local female business leaders as the judges. They will pick out the winners based on revenue, creativity and originality.

The You Go Girl fair might benefit girls and young women in our community by allowing them to do what they want. There will be no restrictions on what they wish to sell or how to advertise their business. In addition, it will plant a seed in their hearts if they are going to start their own business later. Like me, they can develop useful skills such as financial planning and communication from this hands-on experience. Maybe years later, when a successful female business leader is asked by a young girl, "What inspired you to be a businesswoman in the first place?", her answer will be, "The You Go Girl Business Fair in Montgomery County."

Alexandra Eum (Elementary School, Honorable Mention)

Work Care (WC)

By: Alexandra Eum, Age 8

I want to open my own Business called Work Care or WC. Child care can be expensive and hard to find. So moms stop working to take care of their babies to save money. WC will be a place where moms can work quietly while their kids play and have fun under childcare workers. There is a cafe next to the child care play area where moms can buy coffee and snacks for kids.

Work Care (WC)

Moms can come to WC when ever need to get work done. So moms do not need to worry about watching kids and keep their jobs. Drawing of WC is attached. Thank you!



Uma-Hawa Barrie (Middle School, First Place)

I walk into the store in need of pads,
I feel the stares I get as I walk by with them in hand,
I walked out feeling judged.
I walked into the underwear and bra isle in need of new ones,
I feel the glares I get as I pick my size,
I walked past them feeling judged.
I walked into the beauty supply in need of products,
I feel the looks I get as I get my necessities,
I walked to the cashier feeling judged.
I walked into the clothes and shoes isle in need of new items,
I feel the glances as I get my measurements,
I walked in and out feeling judged.
I walked into the store to buy my wife some makeup that she is in need of,
I feel peeps as I get the products,
I walked away feeling judged.
Judged,
Said,
Seen as,
Concluded.

Need,

Requirement,
Necessity,
Demand.

They all mean the same,
As they are all seen the same.

If there were a store for needs,
If there were no judgments about me,
I would be so happy,
All I need is Judged for Needs.

Charlotte Danzis (Middle School, Honorable Mention)

Montgomery County should have a girls' doggie retreat. This business would have a space for girls to hang out, a space for a yoga class, and a space for doing art activities. The catch would be that there would be puppies running around.

According to Harvard Medical School, "dog owners are less prone to bouts of loneliness, anxiety, and depression. Simply petting your dog can make you less stressed." A lot of girls struggle with mental health and emotional problems, and many are not able to have a dog to help them. Spending time with a puppy also has immense physical benefits. "Dog owners have lower blood pressure and healthier cholesterol levels and a lower risk of heart disease, than non-owners." Everyone should have a chance to spend time with furry friends, even if they do not have them at home.

The dogs would be accompanying girls in meaningful conversation that can also relieve any bad emotions they are feeling. There would also be yoga and art classes available because both of these things have been proven to help with anxiety and self-esteem, and having dogs there can only help!

The business would work by people signing up for classes either beforehand or by a membership, and they would be greeted by a pup at the door. There would be enough dogs in each class so that each girl could have their own furry friend. There can also be weekly or monthly programs with a discount so that girls are encouraged to come more!

Having a dog is beneficial to a person's health and many girls and women are not able to have a dog at home. Having a place like this can give women a safe space to come, have fun, and relieve their stress. Montgomery County should open a business like this!!

Victoria Martine Nicholas (High School, First Place)

Women Empowerment project:

Name of business: In A Girls world

Slogan: Strong Women, Strong World

If I were to create a business for girls and women in our community, I would establish a center to teach teens and pre teens how to transition into adulthood. This center would provide a safe and supportive space for girls to come together, learn how to be more mature, access resources and support each other in their own personal growth.

Here are some ways that this Girls empowerment center would impact the girls in our community:

-Skill Development: The Center will offer girls with classes on different subjects. Some of the subjects offered will be on female development, relationship skills/communication, and Money/time management.

Female development class: If girls participate in a class about female development at the Women's empowerment center they could learn skills like Self-Awareness and building confidence, Health and Wellness, Goal setting, etc. They will also learn about what to expect when you become an adult and have to live in the real world. By gaining these skills girls will be able to enhance their confidence and ability to thrive in various aspects of their lives.

Relationship skills class: At the Women's empowerment center girls will learn about the importance of healthy relationships. They will learn about communication techniques like being listeners and also being about to express their feelings. They will learn the importance of setting boundaries in a respectful manner and learning how to say "NO". They will learn about building healthy relationships and being able to maintain a positive connection with others. They will also learn the right and wrong ways to resolve conflict and to find the common ground and seek mutual solutions in a relationship.

Money and time management class: In a money and time management class girls will learn about budgeting. They will learn the basics of budgeting and about saving, spending and investing their money. This class will also focus on setting their priorities, creating an organized schedule, and balancing their academics and personal life.

HOW WILL I FUND IT?

- Scholarships to individuals who are interested in supporting my center
- Find companies with similar values and goals who are willing to support and sponsor my center.
- Organize fundraising events like auctions, charities, etc.
- Apply for government and state grants
- How will I advertise it?
- Utilize social media and promote my business online
- Increase community support
- Hosting Events

Fees

Monthly fee of 100 dollars

Who will teach them?

Unpaid volunteers who have experience coaching individuals and girls on teen and youth life coaching, life skills and financial literacy coaching

Impact: This will impact girls who live in a single parent home (Single father) or households with parents who are not very active in the child's life and don't have the time to teach their child about these topics.

Rochelle Bremmer (High School, Honorable Mention)

Do yall know what Black Joy is?

Do you? Do you?

Well I'ma tell you all about it

Black joy is the overjoyed emotions that fill our souls

Black joy shows our strength through our weaknesses

Black joy makes us want to bust a move every time we think about it

Black joy is the feeling you get when you see your sistas and brothers

Black joy is loving our people no matter what they look like

Black joy is wearing the crowns on our heads loud and proud

Black joy is the feeling that we belong

Black joy is ours, aint it?

Black joy is ours forever

(say it with me now)

Black joy is ours forever

Aman Shergill (Adult, First Place)

I would love to open a Tea Shop and name it “SoulSisters Tea House” where girls and women can stop by for a cup of tea and a snack in a non-judgmental space safe. The space would be a supportive and empowering one in the heart of our County, where they would be able to exchange stories, speak about experiences, play board games and chit chat. There would also be a reading corner, stocked with self-care books, magazines etc. The space would be cozy with comfortable seating, a warm atmosphere and relaxing cultural music. The business would also provide a wellness tea menu and monthly self-care workshops by inviting wellness professionals to lead the sessions. There would also be a take what you need board, with motivational quotes as well as a “pay it forward” board with receipts hanging ready for those who may not be able to purchase their own treat on that day.

As a business owner I would arrange for storytelling sessions that highlight their talents and experiences, a safe and supportive environment for them to just switch off from the outside world and reconnect with themselves without the internet, social media and truly experience some quiet time to unwind and reflect within.

There would also be a retail corner for customers to purchase selfcare products, such as essential oils, candles, energy bracelets, wellness recipe books and more. If space allows, there would also be a few rooms with hydromassage chairs/beds for them to use by signing in for 10 minute time slots.

The overall idea or dream would be to create a space for soul sisters to have a safe destination to relax and connect with like-minded souls and for us to support each other as we navigate through our life journey, because it's not always easy being in our shoes. We manage our families, work, community commitments, some of us have lost our children and just need a safe space to chat with a soul sister over a cup of tea.

Natasha Shangold (Adult, Honorable Mention)

Community Concerns of Crossing the Street

As a child, you are taught to look both ways before crossing the street,
But what happens when you fear that every time you might become dead meat
You may live in a beautiful house and have a delightful neighborhood
Yet there is so much more that needs to be done for good
You may live near luscious parks and educating places,
But how can you get there without safer, walkable spaces
To create a stronger, connective community, we first need to feel out of harm's way
Thus, I implore Montgomery County to not let this be a downplay
Montgomery County needs to find a business consultant to complete this task
To pursue this difficult and much needed ask
For when we incorporate more ways towards pedestrian safety
Then, our current and future children can live the best they can be