



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**Darla Otey**

**[dotey@girlsinc-pinellas.org](mailto:dotey@girlsinc-pinellas.org) or 727-544-6230 x117**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**GIRLS, INC. OF PINELLAS TO RECEIVE  
\$20,000 IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FROM UNITED WAY SUNCOAST**

**Pinellas County**, Fla. (April 16, 2020) – Girls, Inc. of Pinellas is committed to ensuring that working parents and guardians in Pinellas County have access to childcare. Girls, Inc. of Pinellas is pleased to announce that United Way Suncoast, is providing the nonprofit \$20,000 in emergency. The funds are part of a more than \$1 million of COVID-19 emergency assistance from the United Way Suncoast’s COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund being distributed to human services agencies across the Suncoast to support housing/shelter, food, childcare, financial stability and mental health services.

“We sincerely appreciate the COVID-19 Rapid Response support from United Way Suncoast. This will help Girls, Inc. of Pinellas continue to serve the girls and families that need us most as we navigate this new normal together,” stated Girls, Inc. of Pinellas Executive Director, Darla Otey. “We knew that many of our families that typically had two working parents were now down to one or no incomes at all. With this in mind, we moved forward and waived all fees knowing that our partners could be counted on to provide the support we would need to continue our services of providing school work completion support and all day programming to school aged girls in Pinellas county. United Way Suncoast proved us right – we are Tampa Bay strong!”

Girls, Inc. of Pinellas will use the funds to offer the many working parents and guardians that need a safe place for their children during school and early evening hours. They will be able to support students in completing their class assignments that they are still being required to complete for school, while creating a safe and productive environment.

“It is our job to raise funds, awareness of need, and mobilize volunteers for the critical services needed during this crisis. United Way Suncoast is proud to partner with Girls, Inc. of Pinellas. This funding is immediately being put to work to support working parents and guardians that need a safe place for their children in our community” says Jessica Muroff, CEO United Way Suncoast.

*Girls Inc. of Pinellas’s programming - in partnership with local schools and organizations - focuses on the development of the whole girl. A combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl environment, and research-based programming equips girls to lead fulfilling and productive lives, break the cycle of poverty, and become role models in their community.*

**###**