

## Cool Girls

**Mission of Cool Girls, Inc.** We inspire girls to break the cycles of poverty, low self-esteem, and teen pregnancy by making better choices. Cool Girls partners with mentors and volunteer networks to support girls in many different ways and aspects of their development. Life skill programs develop girls into confident women and many girls are 1<sup>st</sup> in their family to go to college and seek higher education. Founded in 1989, Cool Girls began as a small girl's club in the East Lake Meadows housing development and now has 9 sites and 600 girls participating.

**Mission of SPSP Cool Girls** We are dedicated to the self-empowerment of girls.

### We grow Disciples of Jesus Christ through . . .

- For 30 years at SPSP, Cool Girls has been a popular and very active community outreach program for men and women of all ages. The fun activities and friendly fellowship that occurs throughout the day has achieved the goal of our church's mission statement as we are growing disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Over the years, this activity has developed into a committee of about 20 women who help shop, plan, prepare, sort, and work hard towards giving Cool Girls a day of fun, fellowship, and festivities that get them ready for the upcoming school year.
- On the Shopping Day, the Cool Girls enjoy a delicious Chick-fil-A lunch, play bingo, shop for a variety of school items along with dozens of other items, receive a new backpack filled with goodies, dance to hip-hop music, enjoy a fun craft activity and get their face painted.
- When these girls arrive at SPSP, they are nervous and anxious - when they leave at days end, the Cool Girls are smiling from ear to ear and leave with items that will decorate their room, locker, or themselves.
  - Cool Girls supports annually 150 inner city girls from ages 8 to 14 to a day of great fun, spiritual joy and friendly fellowship. Since most of the Cool Girls are raised in single parent homes or in low areas, their exposure to people who are positive and supportive is very much needed and adds value to their lives. This community outreach event is a perfect opportunity to open our Church doors and give back to the community with loving hearts to young people who need a kind smile and a positive experience.
  - During the Cool Girls "Back to School" Shopping day we begin in the sanctuary with uplifting prayers, spiritual songs, and an introduction to our place of worship – a visible and spiritual demonstration of Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ through service.
  - During Shopping Day, Cool Girls eat a healthy meal, shop for new items for school/home, and select a new backpack filled with brand new school supplies, a Bible, and toiletries for proper hygiene. Each girl begins the day nervous and shy, but leaves with a huge smile and bags of items to start the school year on a high note.
  - Each year approximately 75 SPSP volunteers participate in these activities.

### Value of this Ministry in one's walk with Christ

- For participants – provides a setting and guidance to further understand and receive the application of the loving and living Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- For SPSP Volunteers – "We get to watch first-hand the joy and happiness that occurs throughout the Cool Girls "Back to School" Shopping Day and sometimes, feel more spiritual on the Shopping Day than sitting in church on Sundays because I see God's work in action as our parishioners young and old come together and help young girls not only get ready for the upcoming school year but we give them hope, strength, and the power to help them gain self-confidence and empowerment for their own well-being."

### SPSP Volunteer Time Commitment

- The time commitment for Cool Girls allows the women of our committee to get involved with other activities within our church. We have 1 meeting a month in which we plan, prepare, and shop for the Back to School Shopping Day. Our first meeting is in March and the wrap-up meeting is in August before the school year begins. During each meeting which lasts about an hour and a half, we work on a project for the big event as well as talk about any news or updates that pertain to the shopping event.
- On Shopping Day, the 75+ volunteers arrive around 8:30 AM and help with an activity that suits them until 3:00 PM.