

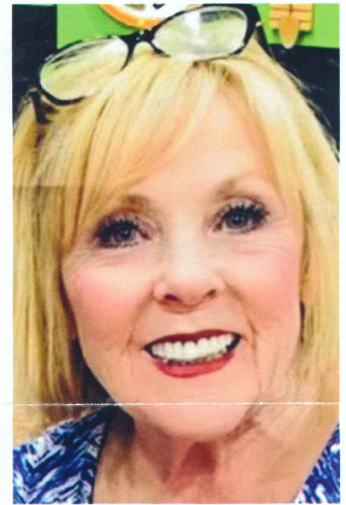
# Golden Girl Spring Summer Gazette Herald

This is a year of celebrations! On September 23rd we will be celebrating Golden Girl 40th Anniversary with our Golden Girl Family Reunion. In May, our founder (and my Mama) Judy Gilkerson, celebrated her 80th birthday. As a gift for this milestone, I asked those who knew her to write her a letter expressing their feelings that I could include in a photo album to give to her. Many letters were sent by past girls. When I read this one, I knew it needed to be shared. --Renee Harrison, Executive Director



**Lisa  
Wynn  
(Yeater)**

Dearest Judy,  
What can I say?  
Thanks to you-I finished high school.  
My journey towards healing could begin.  
My emotional trauma was addressed and validated.  
I discovered my self-worth.  
I had a home. I had a place.  
I was cared for.  
I was safe.  
So many variables.  
So many things could have happened to me to derail my life from  
where I am today. Your love and compassion to serve and help young girls  
saved my life.



**Judy  
Gilkerson**

And for that, I am forever grateful.  
What can I do to repay the awesome home you create for foster girls such as myself?  
I can help other girls and other young women now  
because you helped me.  
I can help my own daughters.  
Today-  
I am a mother.  
I am a grandmother.

And I serve children in the same local community from the same streets I ran when I  
was heading to the arms of the devil, unbeknownst to me. I thought I was just  
getting away from the pain.

So, do they.

I have an undergraduate degree in Women and Gender Studies a minor in Anthropology.  
with an emphasis in Appalachia. I am a member of my church and  
director of women's ministry. I am running a free after school Art Program  
for the least advantaged in our county and working towards a graduate program in Art Therapy.

Judy,

I hope this year is filled with  
love, laughter and joy.

You are a wonderful human being.

And thank you for your service, loyalty, your devotion and passion to help girls like myself.

I am sending you a hug and a big token of love to say

I am passing it on.

Thank you.

With all my heart,

Lisa Wynn (Yeater)

# Congratulations Graduates!



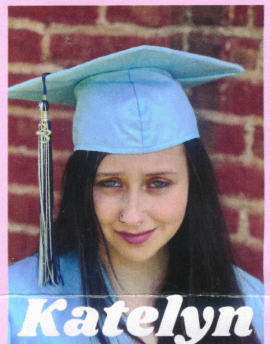
We are thrilled to be able to celebrate our graduates! Due to trauma and neglect, most girls who first come to live at Golden Girl are at least two years behind in school. GG is blessed to have an amazing “family” who rally around each girl to give her the support she needs to exceed in school and beyond. More importantly each girl worked hard and stayed the course to graduation. They believed they could do it and they did! Katelyn has been a part of the Golden Girl Family for over a year. She is a beautiful girl with a beautiful heart. Katelyn wants to take some time to decide what path she will take for her future career. Renee has been a part of the Golden Girl Family for over five years. Renee loves and cares about people. She aspires to pursue her dreams of being a nurse. Jewel has been with Golden Girl for over a year and is getting settled into her new Golden Heart Apartment. Jewel is entering into the GG Independent Living program and wants to pursue a career in cosmetology. Selina has been a part of the Golden Girl Family for almost two years. Selina lives at the Golden Heart Apartment Complex and is pursuing her dream of becoming a Sports Medicine Physician. If you would like to help sponsor one of our girls on her journey to successful independence please contact Nikki Thomas (304) 939-5726.



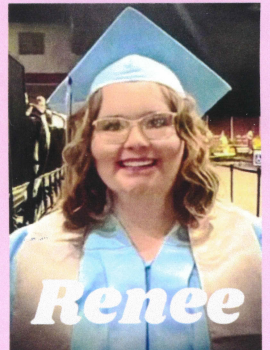
*Jewel*



*Selina*



*Katelyn*



*Renee*

## RESERVE NOW!

Would you love to support Golden Girl **and** get an amazing tax incentive? Call or email Nikki Thomas today to reserve your **Neighborhood Investment Program** tax credit. (304) 939-5726, or [nthomas@gggh.org](mailto:nthomas@gggh.org)

In order to receive the latest, up to date news about your Golden Girl Group Home Family please provide or update your contact information by emailing [rharrison@gggh.org](mailto:rharrison@gggh.org) or text (304) 544-7401 or [nthomas@gggh.org](mailto:nthomas@gggh.org), (304) 939-5726

*Celebrating*

400

*Years!*



**Drum roll please! This year's Derby Brunch was a sold out success! Colorful hats, stylish dresses and plenty of laughter were on the menu this year. The first time silent auction raised over \$7,000 for the girls. Auction items included art, furniture, trips and much more. If you would like to participate in next year's auction please contact Kim Keffer at (606) 694-5567.**

**To reserve your tickets, table or sponsorship for the April 27, 2024 Derby Brunch please call or text**

**Nikki Thomas (304) 939-5726**



# Summer Fun Sponsor Opportunities

## "Campfire Girl"

- ◆ Camping Chair
- ◆ Marshmallow
- ◆ Roasting Sticks
- ◆ S'mores Supplies
- ◆ Bug Spray

\$55

## "Fishin' Girl"

- ◆ Camping Chair
- ◆ Fishing Pole
- ◆ Tackle Box
- ◆ Bait
- ◆ First Aid Kit
- ◆ Sunscreen

\$75

## "Water Girl"

- ◆ Swimsuit
- ◆ Beach Towel
- ◆ Sunglasses
- ◆ Flip Flops
- ◆ Sunscreen

\$65

## "Sleepy Girl"

- ◆ Sleeping Bag
- ◆ Air Mattress
- ◆ Lantern
- ◆ Bug Spray

\$85

Join us in making this Summer unforgettable for our girls! Go to [gggh.org](http://gggh.org) and click on "Summer Fun" or pay by mailing a check to Golden Girl Group Home P.O. Box 876 Ceredo, WV 25507.

For More info call Nikki Thomas (304) 939-5726

*Golden Girl*  
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