

marketing materials), which can be used to educate parents, teachers, and community members of the mission, vision, and benefits of participating in Guardian Gals, Inc. programming. Both, a weekly Tuesday 7:15am morning radio talk show and 8:30-9:30am Coffee Pause For A Cause have been used in the past to promote the mission and vision of Guardian Gals, Inc. and the radio show will need to begin again in July 2013.

Fundraising:

Additionally, fundraising will be a more prevalent focus of Guardian Gals, Inc., as 501(c)(3) status has been achieved. Planet Green Recycling/Tetra-Cycle Upcycling, and The 4th Annual Guardian Gals, Inc. Making Change Event, held October 5, 2013 (1/2 Marathon, 10k, 5k, and 1mile Run/Walk) are two opportunities created to enhance the session experience for the girls, to build a lasting program in the community, and to provide potential outreach to other communities.

The Long-Term Goals of Guardian Gals, Inc.:

The long-term vision of Guardian Gals, Inc. is to become a prevalent program in the Gaylord community for girls in grades 6th -12th. Looking ahead, Guardian Gals, Inc. will continue to have and improve upon the newly acquired gathering space where sessions for the girls will be held. This gathering space will work to combine all elements of Guardian Gals, Inc. mission including education and understanding of philanthropy, civic responsibilities, volunteerism, local economy, environmental exploration, sustainable practices for growth, and physical and emotional self-awareness, into one identifiable location. Additionally, as the success of Guardian Gals, Inc. grows, it is our goal to extend outreach of the Guardian Gals, Inc. concept into other communities.

- Currently, there are 13 Youngers (6th - 8th grade girls) 13 Elders (9th -12th grade girls), 1 Executive Director, 13 members on the Board of Directors, and +50 Making Change Event Coordinators/Point People actively committed to carrying out the mission of Guardian Gals, Inc. Additionally, there are +300 community members who actively supported the Guardian Gals, Inc. mission through 100 weeks of consecutive *Coffee Pauses For Causes* outreach.
- Each Guardian Gal pays a nominal fee per meeting she attends. All meeting fees collected are used to purchase refreshments, session materials, cover transportation costs, and make an immediate philanthropic contribution to society. No participant is declined for lack of ability to pay.
- An experienced and credentialed session leader and at least one Guardian Gal Elder lead each meeting.
- Additional supervised volunteer activities are made available to Guardian Gals throughout each month and volunteer hours are recorded and submitted to the Presidential Volunteer Award organization.
- Additional information is provided on a monthly basis to inform Guardian Gals of local community events they may be interested in attending with their family and friends.

Past, Present, and Planned Activities for Guardian Gals, Inc.

As Guardian Gals is a new organization designed to address the unique challenges of empowering young girls to explore volunteerism, philanthropy, and their own civic duties within their community, the first years of operation have been spent recruiting members and educating the community on the organization’s mission. Recruitment entails attracting membership for Guardian Gals, Inc. 6th - 8th grade Guardian Gals “Youngers”, 9th -12th grade Guardian Gals “Elders”, Guardian Gals, Inc. Board leadership, Making Change Event Coordinators/Point People and Coffee Pauses For Causes community supporters.

The current activities of Guardian Gals will remain the same for 2013. For the summer of 2013, Guardian Gals will embark on a large-scale recruitment process and work to engage additional session support staff and Guardian Gal Elders.

Guardian Gals, Inc. Goals For 2013:

- Create Making Change Challenge Map
- Offer Farmer’s Market Marketing and Atmosphere Support
- Assist in Otsego County Recycling and Guardian Gals, Inc. Upcycling Efforts
- Promote/Support Other 5k, 10k, Triathlon Events in Otsego County
- Create Fun Spring 2014 “TRYathlon!” Event
- Create Additional Guardian Gals, Inc. Paid Programming Director Position, Apart From Executive Director Position

Membership Retention and Growth:

For 2013, Guardian Gals, Inc. plans to retain its **current 26 members**. Additionally, Guardian Gals, Inc. is actively recruiting new members, with the goal of **attracting +14 new 6th grade members**, through marketing materials, easy pay schedules for Summer 2013, direct-mail letters to all 6th-8th grader girls in Otsego County, “Guardian Gals Wanted” posters, Gaylord Cinema screen advertisement, “Ask Me About” buttons, and radio/newspaper/Facebook promotions.

Marketing:

To support the goals of increasing membership, Guardian Gals, Inc. is working to create additional organizational literature, (brochures, posters, website updating and Facebook

- Executive Directors of nonprofits, such as the Otsego County Community Foundation, United Way, etc. are routinely invited to share their knowledge, about philanthropy, the civil society, and importance of investing time, talent, and treasure to community.
- Guardian Gals, Inc. Youngers and Elders, Board Members, Making Change Event Coordinators and Point People, and various other volunteers collaborate year round to offer one primary fundraising, community enhancing Making Change Event, which offers a ½ Marathon, 10k, 5k, and 1 Mile Run and Walk. This year, the Guardian Gals will be creating a “Making Change Challenge” map, of sorts, to encourage positive personal and societal change to continue following the actual Making Change Event.
- Guardian Gal Elders assisted Executive Director in hosting 100 consecutive Coffee Pauses For Causes, a unique weekly lineup of Coffee Pauses held in downtown gourmet cooking store, that both, introduces and supports a different 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization each week of the calendar year.
- Session leaders empower philanthropic behaviors through the arrangement and orchestration of positive experiences along the Guardian Gals giving path.

Guardian Gals, Inc. Facts

- Guardian Gals, Inc. members are girls in grades 6th -12th grade in Otsego County.
- Guardian Gals, Inc. is considering the possibility of including incoming 5th graders, beginning June 2014.
- A “Grown Up Guardian Gals” membership is also being created, beginning January 2014.
- Inspired originally by poet, Diane Ackerman: Guardian Gals serve as (1) Guardians of Nature; (2) Messengers of Wonder; (3) Architects of Peace; and (4) Healers of Anguish.
- Guardian Gals meet on a regular basis, throughout the calendar year to participate in a wide variety of activities, all intended to promote an understanding of the personal skills, behaviors, and knowledge necessary for making a positive difference in the community and beyond.
 - 3-5:30pm First Tuesday and Thursday Of Each Month During School Year
 - 8am-4pm Thursdays Throughout Summer Vacation
- Guardian Gals Actively Contribute/Participate In Daily Gatherings:
 - By Reporting Good News and Gratitudes
 - Elders and Session Leader Presents Inspiration
 - Donating Items To Collections (Recycling Items, Books, Pop Cans, Flower Vases, Educational Items, Payment, etc.)
 - Community Volunteer Opportunities and General Needs Awareness
 - Fitness/Nutrition/Health Empowerment
 - Community/Global Mentoring Presentations
 - Public Facility Tours
 - Journal and Greeting Card Writing and Poster Creation
 - Picnic Lunches at Various City Parks
 - Walking and Riding Bikes from Destination-to-Destination
 - Philanthropically Giving To Community (Time, Talent, Treasure)
 - Financially Supporting Local Commerce/Economy
- Since June 2004, more than 175 girls have been engaged in monthly or weekly Guardian Gals, Inc. sessions.

Making Change Events), littered debris collections in celebration of Earth Day, books and resources being shared that inspire green living. “Upcycling Fundraising Initiative” is also in place, which encourages Gals to collect +50 household items for submission to Planet Green Recycle and Tetra Cycle, companies who manufacture trendy new products from used inkjet cartridges, cell phones, small electronics, wrappers, and containers.

- Guardian Gals have served as Guardians of Nature as they’ve assisted Edelweiss Gardening Club with maintenance of Energy Outlet garden plot at Otsego County’s Sportsplex and assisted OWLS with weeding 2nd Gaylord exit lily garden. Guardian Gals are also notorious for “ghost weeding” random garden plots within Gaylord City limits.
 - Each gathering includes spending time at a locally owned and operated businesses, enabling Guardian Gals to receive the history of how local businesses/business people got their start, so that community connections/networks between gals and community members are established.
 - Guardian gals actively invest time, talents, treasures to 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations, such as Reese Animal Shelter, Otsego County Friendship Shelter (thousands of books have been donated to date), Food Pantry, RSVP, Volunteer Center, Otsego County Community Foundation, Senior Citizen Centers, School PTO’s, environmental organizations (OWLS, Trout Unlimited, Headwater’s Land Conservancy, Otsego County Soil and Conservation District, Turkey Unlimited, etc.), and develop partnerships with organizations such as Zonta, American Association of University Women, and Girl Scouts, all having missions to empower women.
 - Guardian Gals serve as a sounding board for women who have dreams that need supporting or a crew to celebrate a small or large victory/hurdle that’s been overcome.
 - Elders assist session leaders in facilitating the message or theme of the session at hand and guide Guardian Gals in creating notes of correspondence that respond to positive deeds/accomplishments, joy, and anguish.
 - Guardian Gals learn the importance of nurturing body with healthy food through weekly visits to the local farmers’ market, which sells locally grown fresh produce. Guardian Gals, Inc. will be focusing additional energy in upcoming year on assisting the Gaylord Farmer’s Market to enhance the Farmer’s Market atmosphere and encourage community members to visit the Wednesday and Friday Farmer’s Market in this upcoming season.
 - Guardian Gals get first-hand experience preparing food, while sharing favorite recipes at gourmet kitchen, Isabella’s Copper Pot.
- **Exposing** Guardian Gals and Guardian Gal Elders to the art of philanthropy, purposefully designed to encourage each Guardian Gal and Elder to become an involved, motivated, and active citizen in community projects and activities.
 - *Whereas:*
 - Educational lessons are provided to teach Guardian Gals about giving, serving, and private citizen action intended for the common good. Session leaders develop philanthropic skills through hands-on experiences of giving at each and every Guardian Gals session.



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Guardian Gals, Inc.

The Guardian Gals, Inc. Mission Defined

The mission of Guardian Gals, Inc. is to actively engage, educate, and offer opportunities for young girls and women to learn skills, behaviors, and knowledge necessary for serving as catalysts for creation of positive societal change. Through mentoring by local leaders, Guardian Gals, Inc. members are educated and empowered to take voluntary philanthropic and civic action for the common good of family, friends, and local/global communities.

The Guardian Gals, Inc. Mission is Accomplished by:

- **Engaging** girls 6th-12th grade in educational sessions led by Guardian Gals, Inc. support staff and Guardian Gals’ *Elders*, defined as 9th-12th graders who have experienced at least two years of Guardian Gals, Inc. programming. These sessions, currently held twice per month throughout the academic year and twice per week throughout summer vacation, are designed to inspire and educate the Guardian Gals on their ability to work within the community to enact positive societal change.
- **Providing** mentoring and tutoring opportunities for girls age 6th grade to 8th grade, focused on philanthropy, physical activity, sustainability, local commerce, environmental exploration and personal achievement. Simultaneously, engaging the Guardian Gal Elders in experiences that promote a sense of belonging, self-awareness, and over all enrichment.
 - *Whereas...*
 - Hour-long philanthropy lessons are included as part of each summer gathering.
 - Gym teachers, yogis, coaches, winter sports’ instructors, naturalists, marathon runners, Iron Man tri-athletes, Olympic athletes, etc. speak to Guardian Gals about benefits of exercise, then lead gals in diverse activities, ranging from hula hoping, jump roping, walking, bike riding, skiing, snow boarding, hiking, swimming, running, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, steep hill climbing, etc.
 - Gals (Guardians of Nature) are actively inspired during “Healthy Roots Teachable Moments.” Local sanitation workers and community organizers weave reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, and rejoicing, etc. into every day practical living examples. Such inspired action takes place during the following: volunteer stints at Otsego County’s recycling centers, creating art pieces out of reused items, planting trees/flowers and removing weeds/invasives, celebrations of Arbor Day, mentor modeling of environmentally wise decisions/ sacrifices/investments (such as using coffee mugs manufactured with corn plastic at events such as