

2007-08

Girls' LEAP Annual Report



Girls' LEAP Self-Defense Inc
Keeping Girls Safe and Strong!

Dear Friends,

We are so pleased to present our first formal Annual Report. Girls' LEAP has grown so much in the past 12 years thanks to your support and our dedicated and passionate staff. We've reached over 4,200 girls, worked with dozens of partner organizations and grown our Teen Mentor Program into a year-round leadership opportunity for at-risk girls. We thought it was time to share our progress with you in an Annual Report.

This past year, we served 700 girls with our self-defense and empowerment programs – the most in a single year. However, that number only scratches the surface in telling the story of the work that we have done. Perhaps as you browse, you'll be surprised by what girls face, inspired by their courage or motivated to get in touch with us.

Girls' LEAP is working hard to grow our impact. In these uncertain economic times, the need to focus on girls' well-being is greater than ever. We have our work cut out for us, and we hope you'll join us to keep girls safe and strong.

Warmly,



Deborah Weaver
Executive Director and Founder

Priya Chordia
Board President

Our Mission

Girls' LEAP (Lifetime Empowerment & Awareness Program) promotes the safety and well-being of girls, women and their families in underserved communities through focused education programs. We seek to build decision-making skills, increase personal confidence and raise personal and public awareness to create safer lives.

The Need

_____ and with their ability to thrive in threatening environments. Nationally, one in four women is the victim of sexual assault; in Boston, 10 to 14 year-olds face the highest risk. Most are not stranger attacks; girls face a spectrum of violence and harassment in their neighborhoods, schools and intimate relationships.



In Boston, girls aged 10-14 are at the highest risk of sexual assault.

There is also a new dimension; girls are becoming increasingly aggressive. Schools, the MBTA and the Division of Youth Services are reporting more fights between girls and more disciplinary action and arrests.

Teaching girls to stay safe in these complex situations is more than just physical; that's why Girls' LEAP trains girls to be self-aware, to de-escalate situations and to communicate with peers and adults.

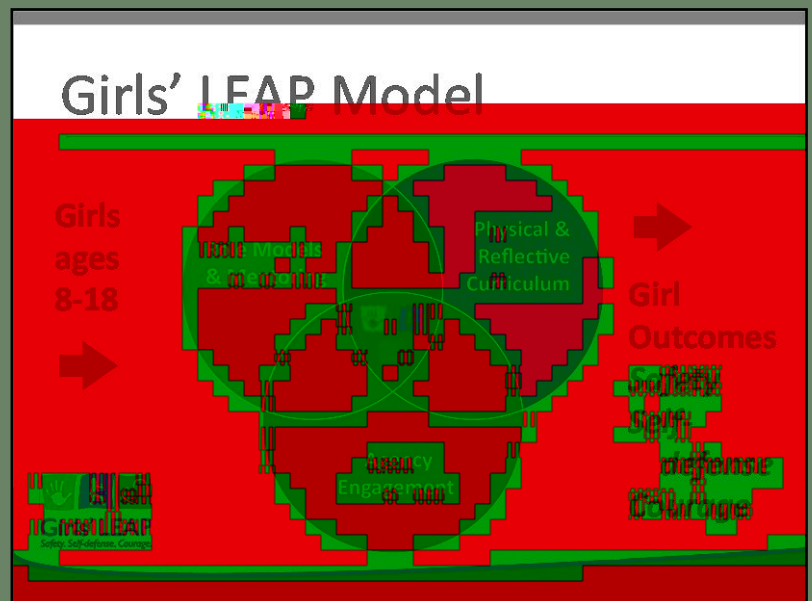
The G

Girls' LEAP empowers girls to stay safe in ways that also promote healthy development. Here's our recipe:

Girls engage their bodies, intellect and emotions through LEAP's original curriculum that combines physical self-defense with reflective activities.

All-female teaching teams consisting of adult facilitators, undergraduate assistants and teens role model an intentional mentoring approach to nurture the courage of each girl.

LEAP engages partner agencies that host each Standard Program and follow up with girls after programs finish.



Who We Serve

Girls' LEAP served **700 girls** in fiscal year 2008. About 330 participated in our Standard Programs. Another 350 participated in shorter modules, and 25 girls joined the Teen Mentor Program.

Programs served 330 girls last year over 90% were girls of color living in Boston

Most participants (over 90%) identify as girls of color living in the City of Boston. Half of the girls in Standard Programs are between 8 and 11 years old; nearly all are under 16. LEAP also serves girls in nearby urban areas, including Cambridge, Somerville, Brookline and Chelsea. Almost all programs serve low-income neighborhoods.

What does “at-risk” mean? For a start, it means family income, educational resources and neighborhood safety. It also encompasses youth exposure to violence. Here’s what LEAP participants report about their neighborhoods and schools:

How often does this happen?	Very Often only	Occasionally or Very Often
Young people getting bullied by peers	34%	86%
Girls getting unwanted touches or comments from boys	39%	83%
Boys getting into physical fights	55%	90%
Girls getting into physical fights	47%	86%
Young people using or selling drugs	29%	58%
Girls in unsafe dating relationships	30%	67%

Responses from Girls' LEAP FY08 Standard Program participants to pre-program survey questions with three response options – “Very Often,” “Occasionally” or “Not At All.”

Our Results

Girls highly value what they learn at LEAP. This past year, three-quarters said that they liked LEAP “a lot.” Girls also give extraordinarily high marks to LEAP staff – an affirmation of our intentional mentoring approach.

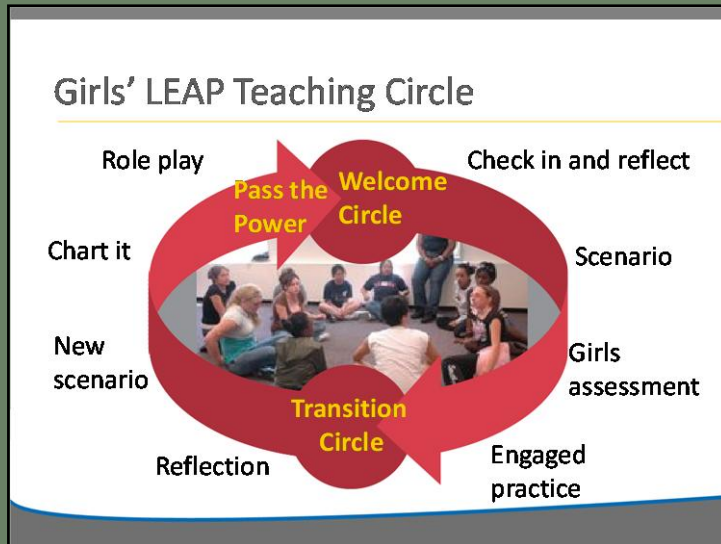
Girls in Standard Programs said LEAP helped them:



- Know how and when to defend themselves (89%),
- Be confident (84%),
- Respect others (80%),
- Trust their feelings in an unsafe situation (84%),
- Talk to a trusted adult about problems (81%).

Programs

Girls' LEAP programs combine physical self-defense skills with activities for individual and group reflection. LEAP thoroughly integrates these two components through physical practice, role-plays, discussions and journaling. These powerful tools help girls to make good decisions in everyday and potentially violent situations.



Girls' LEAP **Standard Programs** last about 20 hours and serve up to 25 girls. Each program is hosted by a partner community organization. LEAP's all-female teaching teams consist of adult facilitators with undergraduate and teenage assistants who support the growth of each girl.

**delivered 26
Standard
Programs
up from 20 the
year before.**

Our **Introductory Modules** last from 2 to 4 hours and introduce girls and partner agencies to our approach. Often, these programs are a first step for girls and partner agencies before taking on a LEAP Standard Program.

Girls' LEAP offers **Partner Agency Staff Trainings** that orient youth workers to our approach to supporting girls. These trainings also give concrete tools for working with girls and proactively addressing violence.

The _____ has become a great success. Since 2000, teens had occasional opportunities to assist with Standard Programs and represent LEAP in the community. Two years ago, we set out to develop the program into a year-round leadership and training program. The result? We served 25 girls total in our school year and intensive summer programs. Teen Mentors assisted on more than half of our Standard Programs. They also practiced writing and public speaking to become advocates for girls' safety in the community. This coming year, we'll expand on this approach.

Spotlight: Teen Mentor Program

What Do the Teen Mentors Do?

Teen Mentors meet weekly for trainings, discussions and skills practice, and they help teach LEAP Standard Programs. The teens also practice writing and public speaking in order to raise awareness about girls' safety with community audiences.

The intensive summer program incorporates a "digital story" project. Teens work 15 hours per week teaching LEAP programs, delivering community presentations and creating their story. Teens receive a stipend for their work.



Why are the Teen Mentors Important?

Teens help us reach other at-risk girls and offer insight into the realities that girls face today. They are one of our faces in the community. We hope some teens will stay with LEAP to become undergraduate assistants, adult facilitators ... maybe even Executive Director! We hope that all of them will use their voice to advocate for girls and women.

Teen Mentors have a unique role. Close in age and background to LEAP participants, they are a crucial part of our teaching teams. They also are eloquent spokeswomen who raise awareness about the violence that girls face.



Teen Mentors share ways for girls to respond to violence.

Who Are the Teen Mentors?

- 25 girls from 19 different schools and 11 neighborhoods this past year.
- Most are girls of color from Boston.
- More than half are first generation Americans and have parents who didn't attend college.
- The vast majority have experienced sexual harassment in school.
- Most say that physical fighting among girls is frequent in their schools and neighborhoods.

Priya Chordia, President
Sarah Sherblom, Vice President
Sheila O'Leary, Clerk
Ruth Coffin-Villaroel, Treasurer

Stephanie Jordan Brown
Rebecca Cazabon
Kelly Fanning
Yndia Lorick-Wilmot
Fiona Lovell-Horning

LEAP Self-Defense, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2008

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash	145,481
Accounts Receivable	12,700
Prepaid Expenses	3,884
Total Current Assets	<u>162,065</u>
Property and Equipment	
Office Equipment	8,393
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,999)
Net Property and Equipment	<u>6,394</u>
Other Assets	
Security Deposit	1,875
Total Other Assets	<u>1,875</u>
Total Assets	<u>170,334</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	<u>6,960</u>
Net Assets	
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	52,867
Unrestricted Net Assets	110,507
Total Net Assets	<u>163,374</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>170,334</u>

These statements reflect the results of an annual financial review, conducted by James A. George, P.C. Girls' LEAP does not meet the gross revenue threshold that would require the organization to undergo a financial audit as mandated by law. A financial review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. No such opinion was expressed as part of this financial review. A complete copy of our financial review is available on request.

LEAP Self-Defense, Inc.
Statement of Activities
July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Public Support and Revenues			
Corporate Support	-	7,200	7,200
Foundation Support	64,100	79,600	143,700
Individual Donations	29,045	7,000	36,045
Service Income	40,440	-	40,440
Special Event Income	25,835	-	25,835
Special Event Sponsorships	5,025	-	5,025
In-Kind Donations	86,964	-	86,964
Interest Income	1,017	-	1,017
Net Assets Released from Operating Restrictions	82,933	(82,933)	-
Total Public Support, Revenues and Reclassifications	335,359	10,867	346,226
Expenses and Losses			
Salaries and Wages	190,348	-	190,348
Payroll Taxes	15,758	-	15,758
Employee Benefits and Bonuses	6,058	-	6,058
Insurance	2,920	-	2,920
Professional Development	124	-	124
Special Event Costs	22,266	-	22,266
Professional Fees	57,887	-	57,887
Postage and Delivery	961	-	961
Printing and Reproduction	5,706	-	5,706
Student Coordinator	6,400	-	6,400
Communication	3,245	-	3,245
Program and Office Supplies	10,657	-	10,657
Bank Service Charges	990	-	990
Miscellaneous	1,068	-	1,068
Rent	20,269	-	20,269
Office Equipment	7,086	-	7,086
Depreciation	565	-	565
Total Expenses and Losses	352,308	-	352,308
Change in Net Assets	(16,949)	10,867	(6,082)
Net Assets as of the Beginning of the Year	127,456	42,000	169,456
Net Assets as of the End of the Year	110,507	52,867	163,374

Gi

Erika Abbas Hanna
Katherine Abbott and Traci Logan
Carol Amick
Lisa Barbin
Peggy Barrett
Caroline Beaulieu
Jill and Drew Becker
Bridget Belgiovine
Pamela Bemis
Marissa Bethoney
Ralph Bevilaqua
Phyllis Brawarsky
Stephanie and Adam Brown
Loochie Brown
Melanie Burrows
Patricia Byrne
Susan Byrne
Elizabeth Caney
Rebecca Cazabon
Sarah Cazabon
Marjorie Charney
Priya Chordia
Annie and Eli Clark
Jennifer Combs
Joanna Cook
Daniela Corte
Theresa Dave
Mary-Catherine Deibel
Bobby Dinsmore and Mike Grover
Sandi and John Donnelly
Andrew Dreyfus
Julie Duncan
Kelly Fanning
Leigh Freudenheim
Martha Furbush
Norma Giliker
Julia and Kevin Goff
Jane Goldman
Bruce and Stacey Gore
Katherine Griswold

Claudia and Peter Grose
Diane Hammer
Susan Hayes
Aimee Hendrigan
Jocelyn Heyman
Sarah Payson Hitchcock
Sheilah Hoalscher
Sandra Horowitz
Deborah Hughes
Richard and Priscilla Hunt
Carolyn and Alexander Jordan
Bonnie Kawchuk and Stephen Luke
Patty Larkin
Sue Lena Thompson
Marty Levy and Joel Feinberg
Regina Lewis
Steve and Deirdre London
Fiona Lovell-Horning
Brian and Linda Mackenzie
Stacy Madison
Cynthia Maltbie
Denise Marika
Jacquelyn Markarian
Kristin and Bill Martin
Patricia Mazza
Linda McMaster
Lucy Meadows and Robert Murray
Pam and Bill Meserve
Jeanne Meserve and Jeffrey Blount
Jim and Annette Miller
Marianne Moore and Nick Rodenhouse
Kristen Mulholland
Judy Murray and Jeff Schafer
Crystal Noble
Susan and Robert O'Brien
Sheila O'Leary
Silvio and Jean Onesti
Joan Parker

upporters:

Betty Poleet
Lia and William Poorvu
Anjali and Gautham Prakash
Kim Price
Amy Rancourt
Julie and Michael Rand
Lawrence and Arlene Rand
Sandra Roberts
Jay Rogers and Ted Clausen
Nancy Ryan
Elizabeth Scharpf
Curt and Nina Scribner
Shruti Sehra
Karen Sheaffer
Sarah Sherblom
Michael Sherlock
Amy and Everett Shorey
Jody Simes and Alexandra Rand Simes
Rachel Solem
Elizabeth Sommers
Marjorie Suisman and Roger Geller
Judy Teitelman
Denise Teti
Sky and Cindy Thaxter
Laurie Thomsen
Marybeth Tobin
David Treff and Audrey Shelto
Danielle Tremblay
Laura Tully
Emily Vitale
Kerri L Walsh
Sayre Weaver
Deborah Weaver and Phil Weinberg
Martha Weinberg
Barbara Grey and Ken Wexler
Charlotte Wilson
Ping Wong
Lynn Zuchowski

Thanks These Organizational Supporters:

A-Street Frames
Anna B. Stearns Foundation
Anna's Taqueria
Beacon Street Girls
Bonny's Landscape Service
Boston Celtics
Boston Centers for Youth and Families
Boston Foundation
Boston Frameworks
Boston Red Sox Foundation
BridgeBuilders Foundation
Cambridge Community Foundation
Cambridge Department of Human Services
Cambridge Trust Company
Charles Hotel
Daniela Corte Fashion
El Mirador Bed & Breakfast
Fire & Ice
Fuller Foundation
George Macomber Family Charitable Gift Fund
H.N. Gorin Trust
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Harvard University
Hearts on Fire
Henrietta's Table
Irving House at Harvard
J&L Sherblom Fund
Jane B. Cook 1983 Charitable Trust
Janey Fund
Jockers Family Foundation
Knight&Hammer Private Jewelers
L'Espalier Restaurant
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Martin Salomon Morton and Gustel Schreiber Morton Foundation
Moses Kimball Trust
OM Restaurant
Orville Forte Charitable Trust
Purple Moon Foundation
Robert W. and Gladys S. Meserve Charitable
Simmons College
Social Innovation Forum
Rialto Restaurant
Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation
Stifler Family Foundation
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimac Valley, *Today's Girls...Tomorrow's Leaders*
UpStairs on the Square
Wellesley College
Westport Rivers Vineyard and Winery
Wilderness Point Foundation

With Special Thanks To:



Girls' LEAP is proud to be supported by the United Way



Girls' LEAP was recognized as a 2008 winner in the Social Innovation Forum