



Destiney Davis of Girls Incorporated speaks at the Building on Hope media conference at Girls Inc. in Manchester on Thursday.

Unnamed donor makes dreams come true for Girls Inc.

MANCHESTER — Girls Incorporated of New Hampshire has been always been a place where dreams come true for girls of all ages.

Now the agency will see a dream of its own become reality when the former church it calls home will be completely renovated courtesy of a dedicated band of community volunteers and donors called Building on Hope.

"The girls are so excited. They feel like this is home for them," Girls Inc. of New Hampshire chief executive officer Cathy Duffy Cullity said of the \$250,000 renovation project that will be complete on Mother's Day.

"It will be like one great present we will be unwrapping on Mother's Day," Cullity said of the Building on Hope's selection of the 340 Varney St. center to refurbish.

A Manchester-based community organization, Building on Hope operates along the principles of an old-fashioned barn raising. It gathers volunteers in the building trades, architects, designers and companies and organizations to donate supplies and labor toward renovating a building that serves a non-profit organization.

In 2010, Building on Hope rallied hundreds of people to do a \$250,000 renovation of the Krol House, a 70-year-old Easter Seals NH intensive residential treatment facility for young boys.

Girls Inc. will be its second project. Construction will begin April 27 and will include a new roof, windows, facade, playground and expanded kitchen. It will reopen May 13.

Girls

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"From the bottom of my heart and the hundreds and hundreds of girls this project will touch, thank you very much," Destiney Davis, 18, told Building on Hope members.

Davis, who was 5 years old and living in an abusive family when she first stepped inside Girls Inc., said the program "essentially saved my life."

"It was because of them that I believe to this day that I can do whatever I set my mind to," said Davis, who is now studying business administration at Southern New Hampshire University.

Gov. John Lynch said the building project is "much more than a renovation."

"This is really about making a difference in the lives of girls.



Destiney Davis of Girls Incorporated gets a hug from CEO Cathy Duffy Cullity after Davis spoke at the Building on Hope media conference at Girls Inc. in Manchester on Thursday.

It's about opportunities," the governor said.

Cullity said the program's mission is to "empower girls to be strong, smart and bold."

"There are so many amazing things that happen in this building," she added of its enrichment and personal development programs and hot suppers it offers the ap-

proximately 100 girls who pass through its doors each day.

Building on Hope invites anyone with building trades skills, architects, designers and local companies to either donate their time and labor or supplies to the project.

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See BuildingOnHope.com for information.