



Girls Inc. of Chattanooga
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Melissa Blevins
CEO

April 22, 2019

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Executive Committee

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
P.O. Box 27622
Richmond, VA 23261

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I am writing on behalf of Girls Inc. of Chattanooga in support of our partner, SunTrust Bank and their proposed merger with BB&T Bank. For almost a decade, SunTrust Bank has been committed to strengthening our organization and improving the lives of girls and young women across our community; we foresee this merger as an opportunity to forge stronger partnerships with even greater impact in our community.

At Girls Inc. of Chattanooga, our mission is to inspire and prepare girls to be strong, smart and bold leaders within their families, their community and society. Since 1961, Girls Inc. has served over 28,000 girls to provide them with tools to improve academically, make smarter choices, build self-confidence, and stay focused on higher education, careers, and paving the way for a successful future. This would not be possible without the continued financial support from countless community partners, including SunTrust Bank allowing Girls Inc. to offer in school, after school and summer camp educational programs.

Our partnership began in 2010 as SunTrust Bank supported our program designed to expose students to the arts and expand their horizons. In 2012, they funded a program to encourage middle school girls to become more physically active and find adventure in the outdoors. SunTrust employees help our girls prepare for economic independence, by volunteering in programming classes designed to teach financial literacy. In all the years between and every year since, SunTrust Bank has been walking alongside our organization, helping us rewrite the future as our girls break barriers and defy expectations.

We are so grateful for the potential that SunTrust Bank sees in our girls. Without their investment, Girls Inc. of Chattanooga would not be able to impact the lives of so many girls across the community. Through our continued partnership with SunTrust Bank, we can provide more opportunities and experiences for girls and young women; because we know that when we strengthen our girls, we strengthen our entire community for years to come.

Sincerely,


Cindy Rix, Chief Development Officer