



A Note of Gratitude from Grace

Dear Natalie,

Welcome to our summer quarterly update! As we cross into the warmer months, the energy inside our classroom and across our community is nothing short of inspiring. Your steadfast dedication continues to be the foundation for every breakthrough our students achieve.

In this edition, we are thrilled to share a story of perseverance from a student who is proving that it is never too late to achieve your dreams. We are also standing on the threshold of an exciting new chapter for Women in Charge as we officially join the Community Impact Network; a partnership that is already helping us amplify our vision and strengthen our reach.

Looking ahead, the wheels are already turning for our biggest event of the autumn: our Fall Fundraiser on October 2nd. Inside this issue, you'll find out how you can save the date, join our planning efforts, or become a vital event sponsor.

Thank you for your continued passion and generosity. You don't just help keep our doors open, you fuel the unshakeable confidence of the women we are so privileged to serve.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace Souza".

Grace Souza

Executive Director

Student Spotlight: Proof That It's Never Too Late



HiSET Program Director Mary King (left) alongside our newest near-graduate as she approaches the finish line.

At Women in Charge, we often talk about resilience, but a few weeks ago, a new student walked through our doors who truly embodies the word.

For over ten years, she has held onto a single dream: earning her HiSET. Life, as it so often does, threw hurdles in her path. There were seasons of waiting, shifting priorities, and moments where the finish line felt out of reach. But she never let go of the goal.

Now, she is officially at the starting line of her final lap. She has just one single subtest left before she holds that hard-earned credential in her hands.

While many of our students come to us a bit earlier in their journeys, she is a beautiful reminder that determination doesn't have an expiration date. Growth, education, and rewriting your story are possible at any age. She isn't just finishing a test; she is proving to herself that it is never, ever too late to achieve your dreams.

We are so incredibly proud to walk these final steps alongside her. When you support Women in Charge, you aren't just funding a program, you are investing in the fierce, unshakeable spirit of women who refuse to give up.

Support Future Graduates: Donate Today

Growing Our Roots with the Community Impact Network

We are thrilled to announce that Women in Charge has officially joined the Community Impact Network (CIN)!

If you aren't familiar with their work, the Community Impact Network is a fantastic foundation dedicated to building equity and expanding opportunities within North St. Louis County. Specifically, they focus heavily on supporting the 24:1 community—a vibrant region of 22 municipalities united under the shared boundaries of the Normandy Schools Collaborative footprint. CIN works behind

the scenes to provide funding, strategic resources, and training to help local nonprofits collaborate and maximize their impact.



This new relationship is a true dual partnership, allowing both of our organizations to do more good together:

- **How CIN is helping us:** They are stepping in as a powerful strategic partner to elevate our presence across the St. Louis area. Through their incredible team, we are receiving specialized branding, marketing, and promotional support. This "behind-the-scenes" boost will help us tell our students' stories louder, build stronger community awareness, and ultimately reach and serve more women who need our programs.
- **How we are helping the 24:1 community:** In return, Women in Charge is bringing our proven history of education, holistic support, and HiSET preparation directly into the Network's ecosystem. By embedding our services into their collaborative web, we are making it easier for women and families living within the 24:1 municipalities to access the precise tools, childcare, and classroom support they need to thrive.

We always say that it takes a village to uplift our students, and we couldn't be prouder to add the Community Impact Network to ours. Stay tuned over the coming months as we roll out some exciting, refreshed promotional materials and celebrate the new doors this collaboration will open!

Save the Date & Invest in Our Mission



Mark your calendars! Our biggest event of the season is officially on the books, and we want you there.

- **When:** Friday, October 2nd, 2026 - 6:00pm
- **Where:** TechArtista UCity ([725 Kingsland Ave](#))
- **Why:** To celebrate our community and raise vital funds that keep our classrooms, childcare, and holistic support services completely free for the women we serve.

As we prepare for this incredible night, we are looking for partners, creators, and helping hands to make it a success. Here is how you can jump in today:

1. Become an Event Sponsor (Deadline: July 15th)

Sponsoring our Fall Fundraiser is one of the most impactful ways local businesses, families, and individual donors can invest in our mission. We offer a variety of sponsorship packages that come with event tickets, prominent brand visibility, and the knowledge that you are directly fueling a student's future. Because our planning timeline is moving fast, our official sponsorship deadline is **Wednesday, July 15th**.

[Secure Your Sponsorship Here](#)

2. Donate a Silent Auction Item

Our silent auction is always a highlight of the evening, and we need your help filling it with exciting packages! We are currently seeking donations of high-quality items and unique opportunities, including:

- **Experiences & Outings:** Weekend getaways, spa packages, or wine tastings.
- **Sports, Arts, & Culture:** Tickets to Cardinals, Blues, or City SC games, Muny or Fox Theatre shows, or museum memberships.
- **Unique Treasures:** Local artwork, valuable antiques, or curated gift baskets.

3. Share Your Time: Volunteer With Us!

An extraordinary event requires an extraordinary team. If you want to lend your skills, we would love to have you! We are currently looking for volunteers to help us:

- Reach out to local businesses to secure silent auction items.
- Join our event planning committee to help map out the evening.
- Provide day-of-event support (setup, registration, greeting guests, etc.).

Ready to donate an item or volunteer? Please reach out to us directly at hello@womenincharge.org and let us know how you'd like to help. We can't wait to co-create this amazing night with you!

Summer Wish List: Small Gifts, Big Impact

Not everyone can step into a major event sponsorship or join a planning committee, but there are countless small ways to make an immediate difference in the daily lives of our students.

As we head into our summer session, our classroom is buzzing with activity. To keep things running smoothly and ensure our students have everything they need to focus on their studies, we have compiled a quick **Summer Wishlist**.

If you are looking for a tangible, direct way to support a woman on her educational journey this month, consider helping us stock up on:

- **Student Transportation Support:** Public transit is a lifeline for many of our women. Donations of **St. Louis Metro Transit bus passes** ensure that transportation is never a barrier to a student attending class or sitting for a HiSET subtest.
- **Classroom Essentials:** New HiSET prep workbooks, graphing calculators, and fresh school supplies.
- **Childcare Room Supplies:** Simple, everyday necessities to keep our on-site childcare room safe, fun, and clean for the little ones while their moms are learning.

Learn More & Support Our Classrooms

We've made helping out incredibly easy. Simply click the button below to visit our website, where you can read about the four separate wish lists we've created for our specific program needs and choose the list you'd like to shop from. Any items you purchase will still ship directly to our doors!

[Explore Our Summer Wish Lists](#)

If you happen to already have physical bus passes or supplies you would like to drop off at our office, please send us a quick note at hello@womenincharge.org to coordinate. Thank you for your everyday generosity!

Thank you for staying connected with us. To read more inspiring student success stories and to stay updated on our upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and more, please follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/wicuc) and **Instagram** (instagram.com/womeninchargestl). We are so grateful for your continued support as we work together to empower women in our community.



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