**HHI-BAC Annual Report Template**

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| **Name of Committee:**  | ***Gr8 Girls Dream*** (of the Hardeeville Elementary School Mentoring Program) |

**Name of Members:**

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| Patricia Felton-Montgomery | Gwendolyn Holland-Johnson |
| Diane Neal | Constance Pouncy |
| Marion Shumake |  |
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**Committee Highlights:**

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| * The participating sorors mentored 16 Grade 5 female students of the Hardeeville Elementary School.
* The program began October 2018 and continued through May 2019, with the mentors meeting weekly with the students, except during school holidays.
* Activities addressed principles for a positive, promising, and productive life based on the book by Soror Rhonda G. Mincey, *A Girl’s Guide to Becoming Great.*
* Topics included, but were not limited to the following:

*There’s More in You, You are Full of Potential and Power**- You are Uniquely You**- Make Smart Decisions**-Dream It. Do It!** *Each mentee made a Dream Board of their future personal, educational, and career goals having researched the requirements of their chosen fields of endeavor.*
* *Parents/Guardians were invited to a holiday party at the end of the first semester and a luncheon at the close of the program. The mentees shared their program learnings/experiences with parents at both events.*
* *The mentor sorors were honored at a school district volunteer appreciation luncheon for their commitment to the program and the students.*
* *The program will**continue next year with a new group of 5th grade students****.***
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**List of Successes:**

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| * The program originally began with only five students, but gained 11 more students after the school’s vice principal assisted in making adjustments to the scheduled time of the program, moving it into the school day rather than at the end of the school day.
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| * The students grew in maturity and self-esteem.
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| * The parents and school personnel saw the program as providing a strong foundation for success in the students 6th grade year and beyond.
* The program will serve as a feeder program to the chapter’s Academy and GEMS programs.
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**List of Challenges:**

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| * The biggest challenge was having consistent support and expectations from the school’s administrators and with the mentors.
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| * The space for the mentoring program was changed several times during the year so that the program did not have a dedicated room for the program as originally promised, thereby too often causing late starts to some week’s programs and thus shortening the time with the mentees.
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| * Since this was a new program for the mentors, mentees, school, and chapter changes in the length of the program for the next school year and content of the sessions will be made based on the learnings from this first year.
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**Would you like to continue to be the chair? Yes** [ ]  **No** [ ]

All of the mentors shared equally in leading the sessions and planning them collaboratively. Soror Montgomery most often communicated with the school on behalf of the mentors so that there was one consistent contact for the vice principal.

**Activities and Meeting Dates for 2019-2020:**

The group met weekly; some example meetings are listed below.

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| **DATES:** | **ACTIVITIES:** |
| December 2019 | Holiday Celebration |
| January 2019 | Connecting with Self – Would You Follow You?  |
| February 2019 | Connecting with Others – Valentine’s Cards for Others and Yourself |
| March 2019 | The girls researched their career interests so that they would know the educational and experience requirements of possible employment fields, as well as median salaries, the employment outlook through 2026 and might include such information on their Dream Boards. The date of 2026 is particularly important since by that time the students will be 17- or 18-years old, ready to graduate from high school and preparing for college, vocational training, or work. The US Dept. Of Labor’s *Occupational Outlook Handbook* was particularly useful in gathering this information. Soror Montgomery provided each student with a copy of the Outlook pages for their career choice. Career interests ranged from wanting to be a beautician to aspiring to be a teacher, a forensic pathologist, and an attorney, to wanting to be an oncologist. |
| May 8, 2019 | End of the program luncheon. All but one of the sixteen mentees participated and four out of the five mentors. Eight out of fifteen of the mentees’ families attended the luncheon. The girls with family representatives, introduced their mothers and sisters to their *Gr8* peers and to the mentors. Each mentee also shared their Dream Boards with us all, explaining their dreams and how each element of their Dream Boards confirmed their hopes for their future lives. The girls also showed off their personally-designed ***Gr8 Girls Dream*** t-shirts. Each mentee was given a Certificate, signed by each mentor, verifying their participation in the program. |
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