



# *19th Annual* **Hats, Hearts & Handbags**

**Thursday  
April 11, 2024**

VALLEY VIEW • ALACHUA

*Benefiting*

**Girls Place, Inc.**   
A Place to Go...  
...A Place to Grow 501(c)(3)



**#GirlsPlace #GP1P @girlsplaceinc**

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# 19th Annual Hats, Hearts & Handbags



Girls Place, Inc. is proud to present the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Hats, Hearts & Handbags! The event will be held on Thursday April 11, 2024 at Valley View in Alachua, Florida. The program celebrates the mission of Girls Place and generates the financial resources needed to provide girls with critical programming, while bringing the community together for fun and friendship.

Every day, Girls Place makes a difference in the lives of girls. We invite you to join us as we help girls grow courageous, strong and self sufficient so they can thrive in the world around them. Our programs, ACHIEVE, After School, Athletics, BrainPower, Summer Day Camp, provide girls ages 5 - 14 with a safe, nurturing environment where they make lifelong friends, learn about themselves and others, and discover the impact they can make on the world.

Enclosed you will find materials about Girls Place and how you can be a part of Hats, Hearts and Handbags. Please read them carefully and do not hesitate to contact us with questions either by phone: (352) 373-GIRL or email: [hvh@GirlsPlace.net](mailto:hvh@GirlsPlace.net). Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

**Michelle Florence**  
**Event Chair**

## Become Involved!

**Cost of table for 8:  
\$800**

**Be a Table Captain.** Bring 8 friends, family, and associates together to wear a special hat and costume, decorate a table, and raise F-U-N while raising funds for Girls Place. Your table can compete for table awards and the most coveted award: Sugar Mama! You can invite your friends as guests and encourage them to make additional gifts to Girls Place, or share the cost of the table with them. Express your creativity and decorate your table to your heart's desire. You can also bring a simple centerpiece and invite your guests to wear whatever. Or, keep it really simple and ask the committee to provide a simple centerpiece for you. Just show up the day of the event and enjoy the show!

**Sponsor the event.** Your company can reach about 300 movers and shakers on the day of the event. In addition, your company will be featured in various event advertising.

**Challenge your friends** to contribute to your Sugar Mama goal. Each year, the two tables that raise the most CA\$H and the most items from the wish list are awarded the Sugar Mama awards. Invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to support Girls Place and help you make an even bigger impact on girls in Gainesville.

**Volunteer for the planning committee!** Help organize the event and gain a behind-the-scenes look at how one of Gainesville's most popular events comes together. Volunteers are needed to spread the word, secure sponsorships, man (or wo-man!) the registration table, and much more.

**Buy a single ticket** to the event and have all of the fun without the fuss. Wear your favorite hat, bring your favorite handbag and enjoy the fun! Space is limited, so secure your seat early! Individual tickets are \$100 and can be purchased directly on [www.GirlsPlace.net/hvh](http://www.GirlsPlace.net/hvh).





# Important Dates and Event Schedule

## February 16, 2024 - DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TABLE

Table Captains who have purchased their table by February 16, 2024 will receive an invitation for one representative from their table to attend the Table Captains Luncheon at Mark's Prime Steakhouse. Mark's has generously donated this amazing lunch to Girls Place and our supporters every year since our inaugural Hats, Hearts & Handbags in 2004!

## March 11, 2024 - TABLE CAPTAIN INFORMATION DEADLINE

- A candid photo or head shot
- Words of Wisdom
- Table design needs
- Names and emails of your guests
- Number of vegetarian meals and any dietary restrictions of your guests

## March 28, 2024 - SUGAR MAMA DEADLINE

In-kind donations and receipts for Sugar Mama are due.

## April 11, 2024 - HATS, HEARTS, AND HANDBAGS EVENT!

- 2:00-4:00 pm Decorate Tables
- 4:00 pm Table Judging begins
- 4:00-5:00 pm Social Hour
- 5:00 pm Ballroom Open
- 5:30 pm Welcome, Dinner, Keynote Speaker, Table Awards, Pandora's Reveal and More!
- 6:45 pm Closing Remarks

# Table Decoration Guidelines

- Table dimensions: 72 inch round; seats max of 8
- Chair dimensions: 36.5" tall, 16.6" deep, 15.5" across
- GP Provides: china, silverware, glassware, and white, pink, or green table cloth
- Electrical outlets are in high demand and are limited. Reserve your table soon to ensure you'll have power!
- Consider the *Girls Place Wish List* when choosing your theme. Please note that table theme and/or décor items do not count towards the Sugar Mama award, only wish list items.
- You may bring chargers, vases, votives or other contained candles, centerpieces or additional table linens. **No lit candles, no open flames, glitter, or confetti.**
- Do not adhere anything to walls and floors.
- Please, no political themes or commercial advertising for tables. These tables will not be considered for judging.
- ADA access is available. Please alert Girls Place staff as soon as possible for accommodations.
- Decorating time frame: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. All tables must be completed by 4:00 p.m. when the ballroom doors close for judging and table setting.
- Each table will have the individual opportunity to be present during judging as directed during the event, but all other participants must leave the ballroom by 4:00 p.m.
- Don't want to decorate? No problem, we will get a beautiful arrangement of flowers for a centerpiece!





## Award Criteria

### \$ugar Mama (2)

Awarded to the table captains and tables who raise the most for Girls Place beyond the cost of the table. One will be awarded to the table with the largest cash donation and one will be awarded to the table with the largest value of in-kind contributions from the Girls Place Wish List. **All monies and receipts must be turned in to Girls Place by Thursday March 28 and all in-kind products delivered to Girls Place following the event.**

### Table Awards (3)

A panel of judges will choose the top 3 tables (selected in no particular order) that have creatively executed their theme.

### Girls' Choice Award (1)

The favorite table of three Girls Place girls

### New Comer Award (1)

The top table by a new Table Captain

### Best Hat:

Speaks for itself. Show your creativity and wear your most magnificent millinery.



## How to Compete for \$ugar Mama!

**In-kind donations should come from the Girls Place Wish List: <https://a.co/78JxhJR>**

Enlist the assistance of your guests. Encourage them to go beyond the minimum seat cost.

Seek sponsorship for your table\*. Reach out to businesses you know and ask them to become a sponsor of your table.

\*Purchase of the table, either by individuals or a company, do not count towards the Sugar Mama contest. Only sponsorship dollars and money collected above and beyond the cost of the table will be counted.

Invite your friends who can't attend to contribute to your table. You can send an email, write a letter, or go right out and ask your friends to support Girls Place. You can even direct your friends to our online giving page - **[www.girlsplace.net/#donate](http://www.girlsplace.net/#donate)**. Just be sure they indicate that their gift is to be credited to you!

Hold a bake sale. Nobody can resist homemade treats. Entice even the biggest Scrooge with the smell of brownies, cookies or other baked goods! Or, go healthy and sell apples at your desk!

Encourage your friends to make gifts to Girls Place in lieu of birthday or holiday presents.

Take up a collection at your holiday parties or events.

Hold a Jeans Day at your place of business. Charge your colleagues a few dollars to wear jeans on a Friday. You can even encourage everyone to wear pink for Girls Place that day!

Set a goal and encourage your friends and colleagues to challenge you to do something silly. Challenges could include wearing your pjs to work or kissing a pig! Make it a high goal—you don't want to kiss a pig for nothing!

Collaborate on other fundraising ideas with your guests and friends. Let Girls Place know what you are planning so it can be announced to the public. You'll raise more \$\$ and make a statement about how much helping girls means to you.

