

United Way of York County funds 74 programs through 37 Partner Agencies. Here is one way your dollars improve the lives of individuals and families in York County.

FOCUS AREA: EDUCATION

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

GIRL SCOUTS IN THE HEART OF PENNSYLVANIA

Do you believe that girls can be anything they want to be?

When Kaitlyn was a young girl in York County, she knew that she liked taking things apart and she wanted to go into engineering, but she constantly heard “engineering is for men.” **Her male classmates made fun of her for liking math and science, which made her timid.**

Enter Girl Scouts. Kaitlyn enrolled in Girl Scouts and eagerly earned every STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) badge that she could. In an all-girl environment, Kaitlyn came out of her shell and began to shine. Through her time in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, **she found female mentors who encouraged her to pursue engineering, and she learned how to handle bullies at school and develop self-confidence.**

As she entered high school, Kaitlyn decided that she wanted to take the confidence she’d learned as a Girl Scout and give back. She says, “I wanted to let girls know that it is OK. There are women in these fields who are out there and have been successful. I want to help other girls be comfortable going into STEM careers.”

So, she signed up to do a Gold Award project. The Gold Award is the highest honor that a girl can earn in Girl Scouting and involves completing a significant community service project.

For her Gold Award Project, Kaitlyn did a four-day, after-school STEM program for elementary school girls, with each day focusing on a different pillar of STEM. Throughout the course of the after-school series, Kaitlyn saw the girls grow more confident, and many expressed an interest in pursuing STEM careers when they get older.

“I love making an impact on other people’s lives,” said Kaitlyn. “I love being the person that girls can look up to and say ‘This is who I want to be someday.’”

You, too, can follow Kaitlyn’s lead and make an impact by giving to support the United Way of York County’s Community Fund. By giving to the Community Fund, you support programs like the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, giving girls confidence to be anything they want to be.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

