



## PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS IS:

- ♥ PACE Center for Girls is a nationally recognized and research-based, gender-responsive model for girls and young women ages of middle and high school age.
- ♥ PACE utilizes holistic, gender responsive and trauma informed services including academics, counseling, service learning, career preparation and independent living skills.
- ♥ PACE uses a strength-based approach that focuses on the unique potential of each girl, with a focus on future outcomes.

## PACE AT A GLANCE

19 CENTERS STATEWIDE

OVER 2,111 GIRLS SERVED EACH YEAR ACROSS FLORIDA

MORE THAN 35,000 GIRLS SERVED SINCE 1985



## FACTS:

- ♥ More than 17,000 girls were referred to Florida's juvenile justice system last year, and girls represented more than 31% of the total juvenile justice population.
- ♥ Girls are at higher risk than boys for sexual abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence, and this elevated risk may explain the strong link between abuse and trauma and girls' delinquency.
- ♥ A one-year, approximately \$16,000 investment in the life of an at-risk girl can avert the average \$42,000-per-year cost if she ends up in the juvenile justice system.

## OUR MISSION

PACE provides girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy.

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

PACE values all girls and young women, believing each one deserves an opportunity to find her voice, achieve her potential and celebrate a life defined by responsibility, dignity, serenity and grace.



16 year old Emily is excited about her future and dreams of becoming a chef. That wasn't always her dream. Emily shared with PACE, "My mother had me when she was very young

and she was not prepared to be a mom. She was on drugs, addicted to alcohol and she was not willing to give that up for anybody." When Emily was four years old, she and her 2 year old brother were found wandering the streets asking for food.

"I was passed around to 15 different foster homes and nobody wanted me ... nobody cared." Emily felt worthless.

Thanks to PACE Emily is excited about her future. Emily says "At PACE, I started making friends and got to know the teachers. I have never met teachers as nice and understanding as these. They aren't just there to be there, they're there because they care about me succeeding. They want to help in any way they possibly can."

## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT PACE?

- ♥ Call to tour or volunteer at your local PACE center.
- ♥ Make a commitment to the long-term future of PACE by considering a planned gift.
- ♥ Visit [pacecenter.org](http://pacecenter.org) and learn about the toll violence and victimization takes on girls.
- ♥ Show girls you believe in them by making a financial investment in PACE. Visit [www.pacecenter.org/donate](http://www.pacecenter.org/donate)

# THE GIRLS OF PACE LEE



Executive Director  
Meg Geltner

3800 Evans Avenue  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
tel: 239-425-2366

## CURRENT STATISTICS

- 110 girls served
- 15.3 average age of girls entering PACE
- 91% were failing one or more classes prior to attending PACE Centers for Girls
- 29% had a prior arrest

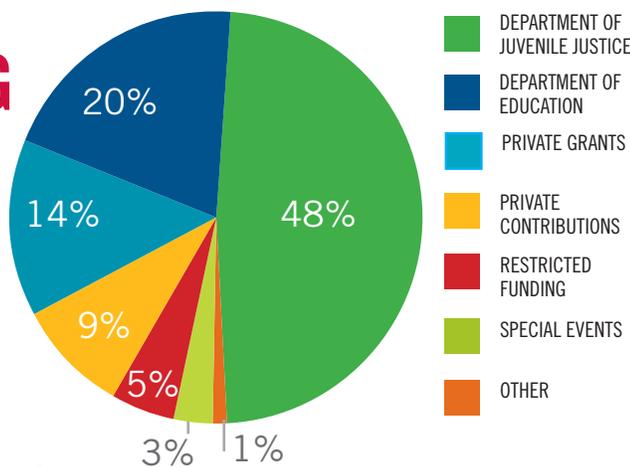


## OUTCOMES

- 93% had no involvement with the criminal justice system within one year after leaving PACE
- 77% of girls improved academically while at PACE
- 89% of girls were in school, higher education, or employed after leaving PACE



## SOURCE OF FUNDING



This document was developed through a contractual agreement between the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc., 2850 Pablo Avenue Tallahassee, Florida