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Strong Starts Here

Strong Girls Gala Raises \$40,000 to help more girls access this remarkable program

FAIRFAX, VA – The Strong Girls Gala raised \$40,000 to benefit Girls on the Run of NOVA this past Thursday, September 28th at Trummers on Main in Clifton. The event raised funds to support financial aid for the young girls most in need of this dynamic youth development program to help them grow into their best selves. GOTR NOVA offered \$139,466 in financial aid in FY17.

The Strong Girls Gala was hosted by the organization's Board of Directors, with Board Member Margie Johnson as the event chair, and sponsored by Wegmans, LookThink, Acumen Solutions, KPMG, 1406 Group, Pohanka Automotive Group, Freeman, Boost Marketing, and MyFlorist.

"The gala was first rate! My daughter had a great time and was able to see *strong girls* in action," said Mr. Walter Smiley, who attended the gala with his daughter, Kaitlyn, as a father/daughter date night.

Over 150 attendees, including representatives from Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, and Congresswoman Comstock's offices, enjoyed an evening of great networking and inspiration. Brooke Sydnor Curran, founder of Running Brooke; Kate Morse, author and co-founder of Strike Out MS; and Amy Charity, author and coach, all shared their personal stories and wisdom with guests. Amy Charity, the final speaker of the night, closed out the evening by giving attendees three pieces of advice: (1) get out of your comfort zone, (2) find something you're good at, and (3) maintain your integrity.

Katey Comerford, Executive Director for GOTR NOVA said, "We are so grateful. We have a set priority to ensure all local girls have access to high quality youth development programming through Girls on the Run and, more specifically, to increase access to our program in underserved communities. Through the generosity of everyone who attended our Strong Girls Gala we now have the ability to change the lives of more girls in our region."

About Girls on the Run of NOVA

Girls on the Run of NOVA is a 501c3 nonprofit and one of the largest independent affiliates of Girls on the Run International, serving 5,000 girls each year at more than 150 school-based sites across Northern Virginia annually. Now offering the Girls on the Run program for girls in 3rd to 5th grade and Heart & Sole for girls in 6th to 8th, GOTR NOVA envisions a world where every girl knows she has the ultimate power to be her best. GOTR NOVA programming is delivered over a 10-week season by trained volunteer coaches who guide and mentor pre-adolescent girls through a rich curriculum.

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