Dear Friends and Local Businesses,

I am writing to ask for your help. MaryAnn Maki, a St. Charles resident and mother of two junior high and high school girls has helped her sophomore daughter, Isabella, launch the first girls computer coding club in the Fox Valley. Starting on January 8, 2016, the club is providing high school age girls the opportunity to learn how to code in an interactive, fun and supportive environment. We are reaching out to local residents and businesses for support to help fund the year's costs to get this club off the ground.

Attached is a flyer that provides more details, but here is the snapshot:

Why does this program need our support?

Presently, there is no funding available from local high schools to support coding clubs. In St. Charles, computer classes are limited to only one AP computer science class offered for students. We need more opportunities for girls to learn computer programming while in high school to open up education and their exposure to potential career opportunities in their future.

This club will use the open source Girls Who Code curriculum. For more information on Girls Who Code, please visit www.girlswhocode.com

What is the goal of the club?

To educate, inspire, and equip high school girls with the skills, resources and confidence to pursue opportunities in computing fields.

What is the cost of the program?

The annual cost of the program for the 2016-2017 school year is anticipated to cost **$2800**, which covers the facility costs of the host site, 25N Coworking, to hold meetings weekly. The two instructors have graciously donated their time at no cost. The girls will be required to provide their own computers.

We presently are at 22% of our fundraising goal!

What will they learn?

The founding class will enable 10-12 high school girls to learn coding based on the open source curriculum utilized by the national Girls Who Code Club. They will work with Scratch (created by MIT), JavaScript and basic CS concepts.

Who will teach them?

Two local women software developers have donated their time and will teach weekly 2 hour training sessions to be held on Friday nights. During each year of club participation, a girl will receive 40 hours of computer coding instruction.

Where will the classes be hosted?

25N Coworking

25N Coworking Offices, a Geneva coworking community and meeting space.

How can I donate?

Presently, we can only take cash donations since we are not recognized as a not for profit. ***Checks can be made out to Fox Valley Girls Coding Club and mailed to 25N Third Street, Suite 1106, Geneva, IL 60134. You can also contact the club at fvgcc12@gmail.com.***

How will I know my money funded a project that's impactful?

These girls are motivated! They have committed to monthly email updates to donors on their progress. Additionally, the weekly agenda and projects will be featured on their website - foxvalleygirlscodingclub.com. These girls are appreciative of all of the help they will get and cannot wait to get started!

Please contact us if you have any questions. THANK YOU for your consideration and donations!

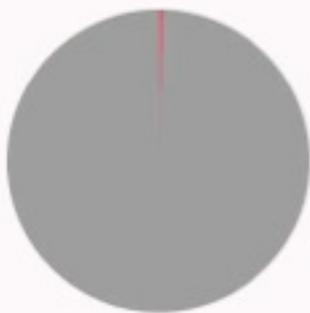Dottie Lee - Instructor - codefandot@gmail.com

Robin Schroeder - Instructor - robintschroeder@gmail.com

Amy Rodgers-Duffin - Fundraising - rodgersduffin@yahoo.com

Mary Ann Maki - Communications - maryannmaki@comcast.net

Isabella Maki - Student Founder and Ambassador - ikmaki14@gmail.com

WHY IT MATTERS

0.3%

In middle school, 74% of girls express interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), but when choosing a college major, just 0.3% of high school girls select computer science.