buildgirls

GROUNDBREAKERS

BuildGirls Co-Founder Emmie Goldsteen Launches GroundBreakers, Bringing Teenage Girls and Habitat for Humanity Together to Build Stronger Communities

BETHESDA, Md. — 2025 — BuildGirls.org, a youth-led nonprofit dedicated to advancing gender equity and opportunity in architecture, construction and engineering, announced the launch of **GroundBreakers**, a new civic leadership initiative developed by co-founder Emmie Goldsteen in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland.

GroundBreakers takes BuildGirls' mission one step further: moving young women beyond learning about the industries that build our world to actually helping build and improve their communities.

The initiative creates a distinctive opportunity for girls under 18, who are generally ineligible for traditional Habitat construction-site volunteering, to participate in specially designed, supervised community improvement projects.

Working alongside construction and engineering professionals, volunteers tackle real projects—from landscaping and planting to restoring homes, schools and neighborhood spaces—while learning practical skills and gaining exposure to career pathways rarely accessible to teenage girls.

"At BuildGirls, we've always believed that girls deserve a seat at the table in industries where women are underrepresented," said **Emmie Goldsteen, co-founder of BuildGirls and founder of GroundBreakers**. "But I wanted to go further. Why should we just learn about building the future when we can help build it today? GroundBreakers brings everything together: mentorship, STEM, community service and leadership; while making a real difference for families right in our own backyard."

GroundBreakers brings together student volunteers, corporate sponsors, nonprofit partners and industry mentors in a grassroots model that combines fundraising with action. Local companies contribute funding, materials, expertise and volunteers, while teenage girls help organize and carry out projects that directly benefit their communities.

The initiative also advances BuildGirls' broader mission of creating pathways to career and financial opportunity for young women. Participants gain firsthand experience, build professional relationships and remain connected to BuildGirls' growing network of mentors and educational programs.

"**Our goal is simple: empower girls, engage businesses and improve communities: all at the same time,**" Goldsteen added. "We want to show that young women aren't just the builders of tomorrow. They can be changemakers today."

About BuildGirls.org
Founded in 2022, BuildGirls.org is a youth-led nonprofit focused on empowering, educating and engaging middle and high school girls in architecture, construction, engineering and other underrepresented STEM fields. Through mentorship, industry partnerships, Discovery Days and grassroots initiatives, BuildGirls works to advance gender equity and expand future career opportunities. Learn more at **www.BuildGirls.org**.

About Habitat for Humanity Maryland
Habitat for Humanity Maryland is a nonprofit organization working to expand access to safe, decent and affordable housing throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Through home construction, preservation, repairs and community partnerships, Habitat brings volunteers, businesses and families together to build stronger communities.

Media Contact: BuildGirls.org | info@buildgirls.org | www.BuildGirls.org