

Anthony Family Providing Opportunities for Girls

For one hour each week, a small group of elementary-age girls get the chance to be Girl Scouts. These girls live at the Oak Grove public housing site in south Oklahoma City where opportunities are few. At these weekly meetings, there are no uniforms worn or badges earned but there is an emphasis on education and self-esteem.

For more than 20 years the Girl Scouts – Western Oklahoma has provided programming for girls who reside in the five public housing sites in Oklahoma City. The Girl Scouts work directly with the Oklahoma City Housing Authority (OCHA) that allows the Girl Scouts to meet at each site's community center and also provides transportation for occasional field trips.

For the four adult daughters of Bob and Nancy Anthony, supporting a program that provides opportunities for girls living in the public housing sites makes sense. For several years, the Bob and Nancy Anthony Family Affiliated Fund has supported grants to the Girl Scouts – Western Oklahoma to specifically support the programming at the public housing sites. The four sisters and their parents take turns recommending grants from the fund.

“Growing up, our parents taught my sisters and me not only that we could be independent and self-sufficient, but how to embody those traits with character,” says Elizabeth Anthony, the eldest daughter. “Women of character can do a lot of good but women of character who also have courage and confidence can accomplish even more. This Girl Scouts program endeavors to build such women in communities where their opportunities for positive change are significant. A little help goes a long way here and we’re happy to help.”

Three Girl Scouts members are joined by Anthony sisters, left to right, Suzanne, Katie, Elizabeth and Christine at the Oak Grove Community Center. The girls are residents of Oak Grove, one of five public housing sites in Oklahoma City.

Photo by Brandon Snider

