

# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

**Boys and Girls Club  
of Acadiana +**



Our organization depends on the generosity of community partners, individual donors, and volunteers to ensure girls' access to the transformational programming provided by Girls on the Run.

Studies found that cyberbullying increased by 70% since the start of the pandemic and social-isolation was causing girls to feel more lonely or depressed. At a time when girls needed the program most, Meritus Credit Union committed \$2,500 in fall 2020 to provide program scholarships to girls at the Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana – Jackie Unit. With their support and the dedication of a team of volunteers, middle school girls received a semester of intentional life skills lessons paired with activity. Here's what Jackie Unit Director, Elise had to say about the program's impact on the girls:



*I have seen a huge change in our teen girls since we started the Girls on the Run (Heart&Sole) program this fall! Before GOTR, our teen girls would prefer to hang out in the teen room and watch TV, play on their phones or go on the computers. The GOTR program provided an opportunity for our teen girls to get up and get moving! I love when I walk outside of The Club on Tuesday afternoons and I see the girls being active and running. Thank you GOTR for encouraging our girls to stay active! -Elise, Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana - Jackie Unit Director*

This is just one example of the tremendous impact our partners have in the lives of girls in the community.

Thank you 2020 community partners!