

The **American Association of University Women** advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW is a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

The **AAUW Educational Foundation** provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

The **AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

The **St. Lawrence County Branch** of AAUW was established in 1927. 2017 is our 90<sup>th</sup> year! 2016-17 membership dues are \$68-72 per year (\$49 for national dues, \$13 for NYS AAUW dues, and \$3-7 for local dues) - Retirees get a discount!

The St. Lawrence County Branch is active on local, state and national initiatives. In principal and practice **AAUW** values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

<http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw>

**Yes, I want to support Open Windows for Girls!**

Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the Branch continue the Open Windows for Girls project here in St. Lawrence County.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information about membership in AAUW: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and your check made to **Open Windows for Girls, AAUW-St. Lawrence County Branch**, PO Box 909, Potsdam, NY 13676-0909. Thank You!



Potsdam 9th grader, **Jane Wang** (and her brother, Leo), at Clarkson Camp Horizons, with AAUW member **Faye White**.

# 2017 OPEN WINDOWS for GIRLS

an ongoing project of the



SAINT LAWRENCE  
COUNTY (NY)  
BRANCH

# OPEN WINDOWS for GIRLS

Since 1989 the St. Lawrence County Branch of the American Association of University Women Branch has sponsored **OPEN WINDOWS For GIRLS**, a series of educational enrichment grants for low-income girls from St. Lawrence County to attend a summer camping experience to broaden their horizons and provide an open window to the future.

Hundreds of girls ages 10-15 have attended 4-H Camp, Girl Scout Day Camp, sports camps at local colleges, math and science camps, school trips to Washington, DC, the state and county fairs to compete in 4-H competitions, technology and computer camps, the DEC Environmental camp, and to music camps, among others.



**Lindsay Ellis and fellow camper learn canoeing at 4-H Camp Overlook.**



**Trina Thompson from Salmon River Central working on the components for a robot.**

**Open Windows** was created to combat our frustration with the reality for many girls in St. Lawrence County. It is the largest county in NYS. It is one of the poorest of the rural counties, raking 55 of out NY's 62 counties in poor health; 23% of our children live in poverty; 52% of the county is in economic distress; the teenage pregnancy rate is 11 in 1,000 of females ages 15-19 on a 3-year average.

Many girls have no dreams for themselves. They are afraid to go summer camp, they are afraid to go to college, they are afraid to cross the invisible line that surrounds the North Country. They are held back by poverty, isolation, low self-image, non-supportive families and communities.

**Open Windows for Girls** was designed to show them they could do something different, go somewhere new, learn about something new, develop a talent, and meet people outside of their own proscribed circle.

The program started small: in 1989, with \$70 in proceeds from two bake sales, we sent two girls for a week of summer dance lessons at Potsdam College. The branch had made a

difference in two young lives! One of our first two OW girls now owns her own business!

The **Open Windows** grants usually range from \$150 to \$200 each, paid directly to the camp or school. Often we offer partial scholarships, working with other community-based organizations.

While we recognize that we can't change the lives of every girl, we can make a difference for some. We have helped others to see the potential in young girls. We continue to open the window of opportunity for girls in our county.

## 2016 Open Windows

In 2016, we sent 12 county girls from many different schools to a wide variety of summer camps and helped the Ogdensburg PeeWee Girls Hockey Team attend the Girl Power Hockey Tournament in Oswego.

Your generous financial help will give other young girls the chance to experience a life-changing camp that will open her window to the wider world in 2017!

Thank you for your continuing support!