



Stichting Cosmic Girls/Cosmic Girls Foundation

Annual Report 2024: A Year of Growth and Milestones

Introduction

"The United Nation's data from 2021 states (source: Global Human Rights Defense) that women are underrepresented as researchers in STEM fields in all regions with the global average being 28.8 percent and the number of women in the aerospace industry staying around 20 percent over the last 30 years (UN, 2021). Moreover, only 11 percent of astronauts have been women and women account for only 19 percent of CEOs and leaders in aerospace and defense (UN, 2021). This highlights that much still needs to be done in the fields of STEM to advance gender equality and increase female representation."

In 2024, the Cosmic Girls Foundation continued its mission to bring gender equity to space exploration by empowering geographically diverse and economically vulnerable girls to become part of the next generation of astronauts and space industry leaders. Building on the strong foundation laid in our inaugural year, we celebrated new milestones, expanded our global reach, and took significant steps toward achieving our vision of a more inclusive space frontier.

Our Updated Vision

We empower girls globally to become pioneers in the new space economy, leading humanity into the cosmos.

Our Updated Mission

We nurture girls through STEM education and skills training to become astronauts, astrophysicists, and aerospace engineers.

The Cosmic Girls Foundation is dedicated to addressing the urgent need for gender equity in space by expanding access to space education and training programs for young girls worldwide. With the space industry growing exponentially, it is crucial to diversify the astronaut talent pipeline and equip the next generation with the skills needed to thrive. By including girls from all continents and backgrounds, we aim to create a future where women's voices and contributions are integral to space exploration and its sustainability.





Highlights of 2024

1. Launch of the 6 Girls, 6 Continents Competition and Cosmic Forum

- In October 2024, we launched the "6 Girls, 6 Continents" global competition. Hundreds of applications poured in from every corner of the world to join both our Cosmic Forum—our community of girls supporting one another—and the competition. We extended the length of the competition to allow more girls to join our programs before selecting the finalists in early 2026. From this talented pool, six finalists—one from each continent—will be selected to undergo world-class commercial astronaut training at our international facilities.
- Our nonprofit program partners worldwide provided free STEM and life skills training to all entrants.

2. The Cosmic Forum: A Thriving Global Community

An extraordinary **393 individuals** have joined the Cosmic Forum, with **109 active members** hailing from over **107 countries**. Together, they form a vibrant and supportive global community, united by their shared passion for empowering girls in space exploration. The forum serves as a daily source of inspiration, keeping young women motivated, intellectually stimulated, and engaged with new ideas for pursuing careers in space and STEM fields. By fostering camaraderie and offering tailored guidance, it helps participants remain focused on their ambitious goals.

This supportive environment strengthens their resolve to break barriers and excel in traditionally male-dominated industries, paving the way for a more inclusive future in space exploration and beyond.

Additionally, our website in 2024 has attracted **3,789 unique visitors**, and **6929 total sessions**, showcasing the growing global interest in our mission and initiatives.

3. Partnerships and Collaborations

Our partnerships grew in 2024, enabling us to amplify our impact:

- **New Collaborations:** We welcomed new program partners and supporters, including Stories of Space, Kids Out and About, Silent Donor, and Not Rocket Science. These partnerships aim to enhance our financial growth and media reach.
- **Program Partners:** We expanded our list of program partners to include VHTO, Oxford Academy of Excellence, Wogel Aerospace, Habitat Marte, Womenovate, Limitless Space Institute, Nerdy Girl Success, Rocket Mavericks, Out of the Box, SSERD, Mission ShakthiSAT, and One Giant Leap.





- **Strengthened Relationships:** Existing partnerships with organizations like Blue Abyss, Inner Space Training, NASTAR Center, Baker Donelson, and World Space Week were further solidified through joint initiatives and media campaigns.

4. Expanding Our Organization and List of Ambassadors

Our organization of volunteers and ambassadors has grown significantly in 2024. We welcomed three new ambassadors—Alyssa Carson, Amy Imhoff, and Raja Katz—who collectively have a substantial reach of 571k followers in the space and aerospace communities. Their involvement is expected to boost our reach further in 2025.

Furthermore, we have expanded our Board Membership to include Annika Versloot-van der Velden as our new president, succeeding Dr. Michael Golombok, and Brady Brim-de Forest. Both bring extensive leadership experience, and we are confident in their ability to help Cosmic Girls achieve its ambitious goals.

5. Awareness Campaigns

- **Global Engagement During International Events:**
 - Our CEO, Dr. Mindy Howard, served as a guest speaker and panelist at the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) Space4Women Conference in Kenya in November, sharing insights on empowering women in the space sector.
 - Cosmic Girls' global launch was prominently featured on the Highlights page of the United Nations' World Space Week, amplifying our mission to an international audience.
 - Dr. Howard delivered an inspiring address on gender equity in space exploration at the UN Women "Women in Space" conference at King's College London in October.
- **Space Education and Webinars:** We organized webinars, live Q&A sessions, and educational workshops to engage and inspire young girls, including:
 - "Redefining Launches: Creating Positive Impact for Our Emissions" (United Nations World Space Week)
 - "Closing the Dream Gap" (Space Education Summit)
- **Podcasts:** Dr. Howard appeared on several prominent podcasts, including Women Aerospace Network's "Space for All," Foundation for the Future, Space Podcast, T-Minus Space Daily, and The Space Show, expanding Cosmic Girls' reach and influence.
- **Awards and Media:**
 - Dr. Howard was a finalist for the Netherlands British Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) Women of the Year award for the societal impact of Cosmic Girls Foundation in increasing female technical talent.
 - Cosmic Girls received extensive media coverage, with features in Dutch and international outlets such as Marie Claire Magazine (NL), Editie NL TV program (NL), NOS Radio 1, Channel 2 News (USA), Shell International Global





Magazine, and SpaceWatch Global. A comprehensive media listing is available on our website.

6. Fundraising

Despite significant media attention and new partnerships, financial gains did not meet the level required to fully execute our ambitious program. Donations in 2024 remained consistent with the previous year. Stepping up our fundraising efforts in 2025 will be critical to achieving our program goals, including the competition and documentary projects.

Financial Overview

Detailed financial statements for 2024 for both the Cosmic Girls Foundation (USA) and Stichting Cosmic Girls (Netherlands) are attached.

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to:

- **Volunteers and Donors:** Your unwavering support and generosity fuel our mission.
- **Partners and Sponsors:** Your collaboration empowers us to achieve our goals.
- **Community Members:** Your belief in our vision inspires us to dream bigger.

Looking Ahead

2025 promises to be an even more transformative year. With the continuation of our "6 Girls, 6 Continents" competition, our mission is gaining momentum worldwide. We remain steadfast in our commitment to upskilling young girls and proving that space truly belongs to everyone.

Together, we are breaking barriers, inspiring dreams, and shaping the future of space exploration.





Get Involved

Join us in making history. Visit www.cosmicgirls.org to learn how you can support our mission through donations, volunteering, or spreading awareness. Together, we can help young girls reach for the stars.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mindy Howard
Founder & CEO
Cosmic Girls Foundation

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