

GoddeSS

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MAGAZINE
June/July 2011

8 Ways
to Shine
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You Are

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Battle
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Acne!

Summer
Fashions!!

17 year old Survivor of Cancer

Meet *Taniesha Broadway*



Polished Girlz

by: Diona Donnelson
Staff Writer

Every girl has an inner *Goddess* that shines through so bright you can't help but to notice. Alanna J. Wall is one of those types of *Goddess* Girls. At the tender age of 10 years old, she decided to put her creativity and desire to volunteer together and created the Polished Girlz Organization. Polished Girlz is a non for profit organization that polishes the nails of young girls with special needs as well as the youth volunteers who serve them. Alanna's believes that "we are all girlz at heart". "Every Gem Deserves to be Polished" and "Glitter Makes Everything Better" fuels her organization. *Goddess Magazine* had the opportunity to catch up with Alanna to talk about her organization and to give our *Goddess* Girls more insight about the Polished Girlz Organization.

Goddess Magazine: Where did the idea for the organization come from?

Alanna Wall: The idea for Polished Girlz.org came from my love of nail polish and art. I started to get my nails done with the glitter as polish. I thought that if an organization used glitter, stickers, nail art and different designs on girls with special needs that maybe they would also learn about washing their hands, and keeping their nails clean. This would prevent and decrease



Alanna J. Wall

the amount of times that they are getting sick. Hand washing saves lives.

GM: How did you come up with the name Polished Girlz?

AW: Me and my mom brainstormed different names and the Polished Girlz fit perfectly.

GM: Who helped you bring this organization to life?

AW: Mostly the young volunteers and our clients bring the organization to life. My mom made brochures, a website, a blog, Facebook and Twitter page to get the information out to the public. She also contacted different organizations and support groups. My board of directors includes my dad, Jeffrey Wall Sr., Desiree Williams, who owns Phenomenal Female Enterprises.com, and Carmen Bostic A. All of which believe in me and believe in motivating young people. My father's motto is "the concept is easy but the work is hard". When running a nonprofit organization, it is important to have a team who supports me and helps me with the hard work.

GM: How does your age affect your ability to move forward with your organization?

AW: My age affects my ability to move forward with our organization because I was initially too young to serve at many of our local volunteer service centers. My age is a challenge when I am trying to volunteer at larger organizations, like the Children's Medical Center, because I don't meet their minimum age requirements. We were able to overcome this obstacle when we recruited volunteers and team leaders that are over 18, so even though I cannot personally polish at the hospital my organization can be represented and the patients can still get the chance to have their nails polished and learn more about hand washing. My age is what made me realize that if I wanted to serve I was going to have to start my own organization.

GM: How do you adjust to the scheduling, at such a very young age?

AW: We are now scheduled out through the end of the year and into the next year. Some organizations we do monthly and I schedule around my school hours. For example, the Down Syndrome Association meets in the evening at 6:30 in the evening. The United Rehabilitation Services I do monthly, but because the clients are only there during day hours I schedule their polishes on my days off of school like spring break, teacher in-service days or school half days. Children's Hospital polishes are early evening so there is no conflict with my school. Most support groups meet after the parents are off of work so scheduling has not been that difficult yet.



GM: How did you come up with your polishing team?

AW: At first, I asked the girls at my school, and my mom asked her coworkers if they had girls that would like to help. Then, we grew every time we talked about the organization. Moms, teachers, coaches and strangers had girls that they thought would fit perfectly, and they volunteered to serve on their own. Through the blog and Facebook, people across the United States learned about us and asked to start teams and volunteer in their cities for us. Now we have a volunteer coordinator that is responsible for the new referrals and starting new teams.

GM: How many people do you have on your polishing team, and what ages do they range from?

AW: We have approximate 16-20 young polishers ranging from 10-21 and then the team leaders can be adults. We want as many kids polishing as possible

GM: Why children/women with special needs?

AW: We used to only serve children with special needs. But when we visited a child/adult center where we polished the adults, we realized

“we are all girlz at heart.” Now we will polish any female with special needs. We enjoy working with children/women with special needs because they are caring, funny and loving people who deserve to be treated with respect and care and often they don't get the services that we take for granted.

GM: How does doing this act of service make you feel?

AW: This organization makes me feel happy and proud and I know that I am doing a good job. I feel like I am a leader. I am also spreading the word about hand washing and how it prevents people from getting sick and that makes me feel like I can change the world.

GM: What would a typical polishing event consist of, from start to finish?

AW: We first find out how many girls we are expected to polish so that we can get the volunteer count. Then we collect all of the polish and supplies that we need for the event. We show up in uniforms (our aprons are Polished girlz.org T-shirts). When we arrive at the event we set up the tables that we will be working from and have the parents sign the consent forms, then we polish usually 2-3 girls at a time.

GM: Do you have a favorite polish or nail design?

AW: Right now, I like Shatter nail polish, because you can do cool different designs' beneath it. I love this because I like that the clients are surprised, it is almost like a special effect for them. I also like the loose glitter fingernails; we let them choose a color for the base and

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GM: How do you think having cancer has molded you as a young woman?

TB: It has made me much wiser and more appreciative of life and how I live it. I used to be afraid to do things like public speaking and roller coasters. Now I know that every day is not promised so I should not be afraid to live.

GM: What are your future plans?

TB: My dream plans are to become a model and fashion designer because I think it would be so much fun! I'm also very interested in law and philosophy. I like the way philosophy makes you question everything and I know that could be helpful if I was a lawyer, to win cases.

GM: What advice would you give any of our *Goddess Girls* with an illness or obstacles they have to overcome?

TB: I would say don't give up and while you're going through it make goals to achieve when you get out of it. Believe you will get out of it and it shall happen. Pray about it and all things will become well, don't think negatively.

GM: What tips would you give *Goddess Girls* to encourage them to stay grateful and determined?

TB: I would tell them that they should be grateful for what they have. Girls can be grateful by constantly telling themselves they are still here. Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Enjoy life and everyone in it is worthy of your time. Laugh, smile, joke around and simply be happy. Personally, I always think of any situation I'm in as a piece of cake compared to what others are dealing with. I would feel selfish to cry and complain about my problem that may be like a paper cut to others. My greatest advice would be to say every problem that you may have in your life is only a temporary ditch in your road to success. It's your choice if you let that ditch affect you. You can stop and admit you messed up and continue until you reach your destination of success, then you can reflect proudly upon your journey.

GM: What is your Mantra or "I am" statement?

TB: I am blessed. When you say you're blessed, you think of everything you're blessed to have. You don't complain about anything because you are content.

Taniesha is not only an inspiration to *Goddess Girls* but to guys and adults alike. At a young age she has gained a meaningful view of life and aspires to inspire others through an unfortunate circumstance she had no control over. All of us, even *Goddess Girls*, will face obstacles. Taniesha is a prime example that what matters most is how you come out of those circumstances and the attitude you maintain.

sprinkle the glitter over the top, the girls really like the way it sparkles and shines on their nails.

GM: What does the future hold for Polished Girlz?

AW: It is my dream to have a Polished Girlz.org nail team in every state. We have a very specific mission about hand washing and hygiene and we use the cool nails to sneak that message in to the girls and their family and friends. I hope to one day be able to polish girls all over the world and work with other non-profit agencies to spread our vision.

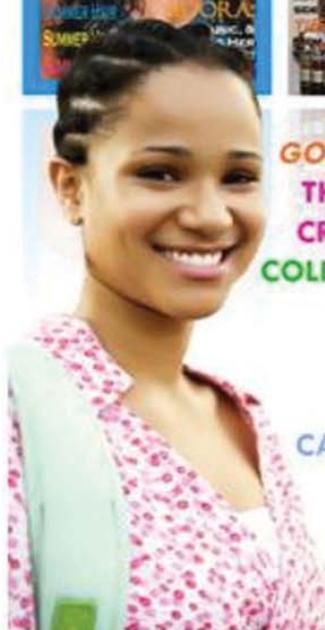
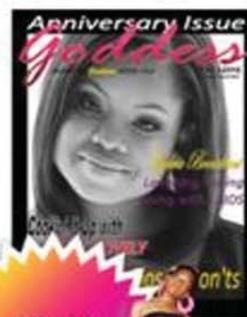
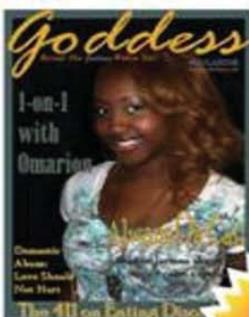
Polished Girlz was recently acknowledged by OPI a well known nail polish company and they are eager to help their cause. OPI has agreed to make a donation to The Polished Girlz Organization. The Polished Girlz Organization has also been offered a chance to go to West Africa to serve in May 2012. The Polished Girlz Organization has accomplished more than they could have imagined. Alanna's initial goal was to polish 100 clients by the end of their first year, but ended up polishing over 130 clients their first quarter. They expect to polish more than 500 in their first year. Their progress within the organization is amazing and is continually growing. They are always looking for volunteers to join. Allow Polished Girlz to bring out your inner *Goddess*.

Please visit their website at www.polishedgirlz.org to see how they can help your organization or how you can donate goods, financial support or volunteer hours. Visit their website and blog polishedgirlz.org for upcoming news and events. For questions, to request speaking engagements or media request feel free to email polishedgirlz@yahoo.com. Follow them on Twitter at www.twitter.com/polishedgirlz and be sure to "like" them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/polishedgirlz



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