

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALAMEDA –) Girls Inc. Begins New Service at Ruby Bridges Elementary School

Beginning this fall, Girls Inc. of the Island City will provide transportation for up to 20 girls from Ruby Bridges Elementary School to its Center located at 1724 Santa Clara Avenue. Girls Inc. of the Island City will provide vans with booster seats to transfer the 20 girls at no additional cost to its normal sliding-scale fees for its after-school programs. Girls Inc. of the Island City offers enriching and empowering programs daily after school for girls in grades 1-12. Girls from Ruby Bridges will join girls from Haight, Lum, Maya Lin, and Franklin elementary schools. Together the girls will practice skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will enhance their ability to stay safe in a variety of situations through programs this fall that focus on self-reliance and life skills, a core area identified as critical to addressing the challenges faced by all girls. To register, please contact Natalie Duarte at 510-521-1743 ext. 206.

This new service fits into Girls Inc. of the Island City's long-term growth-plan goals to serve 39% more girls by 2015 and more girls from the west-end of the city. In the previous school year, Girls Inc. offered a science based program called Operation Smart to girls at the Alameda Point Collaborative. Introducing the service at Ruby Bridges is the next step in the plan.

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Girls Inc. of the Island City is an affiliate of the national organization Girls Inc. Since 1964, Girls Inc. of the Island City has provided the only program in Alameda designed specifically for girls. Our programs "fill in the gap" on issues that parents and schools do not always have the time or resources to cover. We provide more than 25,000 hours of programming each year to girls ages 6 to 18. At Girls Inc. of the Island City, girls and teens are challenged to explore science, math and computers, sports and health, friendships and conflict resolution, as well as to examine how money is earned and invested, and to ask questions about and take leadership roles in the world.

We also offer a licensed childcare service called Alameda Island Kids for both girls and boys at seven elementary schools around Alameda, including Bay Farm, Earhart, Edison, Franklin, Lum, Otis, and Paden. For more information about Alameda Island Kids, call (510) 521-1743 ext. 202 or visit our website at www.girlsincislandcity.org.

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