

Girl Power Press

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Second Annual Girls Take Charge Summit

On Saturday, Oct. 16, Girls Inc. will host the second annual *Girls Take Charge Summit* for high school girls and their parents at our Meyers Center.

The day will include a keynote dance performance by *Envisions Dance*, a dance theater company operated by Rose Caruso that combines lyrical modern/jazz dance, narration, poetry, and theatre. The troupe will kick-off the event by giving an inspirational performance created around Maya Angelou's poem "Phenomenal Woman."

After the performance, (with goody bags in hand!) girls will participate in a variety of workshops on topics including: avoiding gossip and preserving healthy boundaries; learning to be an equal earner and a savvy spender; avoiding sexually transmitted diseases; learning to be a confident business woman; modeling, makeup, and the truth about beauty; the realities of being a teen mom; body image; and art from real women's lives presented by the International Museum of Women. There will also be workshops for parents about how to weather the changes that occur as their girls grow into women.

After lunch, girls, parents, and volunteers will participate in the *Girls Matters* panel, where several girls will lead a discussion about the top issues facing teen girls today. During last year's *Girls Matters* panel, participants voted to choose teen dating violence as the top issue they wanted Girls Inc. to tackle during the next year. In response, Girls Inc. hired a new teen specialist and started *Blueprint*, a program that allows teen girls to design curriculum to solve a problem. Girls from the *Blueprint* program will be at the *Summit* to talk about their work and the \$20,000 grant from Andore Capital Management Girls Inc. recently received to support this program. During this year's *Girls Matters* panel, girls will choose a topic to be addressed in the next year's *Blueprint* program.

The day will end with a raffle. Tickets are \$5 per girl, \$10 per parent and include lunch. Group discounts are available. To register, volunteer, sponsor, or donate a raffle prize, **call Sara or Kristin at 521-1743.**

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Incoming Girls Inc. Board President Diann Castleberry (left) poses with outgoing Board President Susan Adams at the 40th Awards Event and Installation Dinner July 8

40th Awards Event and Installation Celebrates Four Successful Decades, Looks To the Future

Board members, staff, and volunteers celebrated 40 successful years, welcomed new members, and set their sights on the future at Girls Inc.'s annual Awards Event and Installation dinner at the Elks' Rathskeller on July 8.

"You've come a long way, baby," said outgoing Board President Susan Adams as she welcomed guests. But there is still a lot of work to do, she said.

Citing trends in teenage pregnancy, the disparity between men and women's wages, and the dearth of women serving in Congress, Adams called upon her fellow Girls Inc. supporters to keep up the fight to improve the lives of girls.

Incoming Board President Diann Castleberry joined Adams by urging her "team" to pull together during the next year and raise \$100,000 to continue and expand the organization's programs to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.^(SM)

(Continued)

Women of the Century Club

Girls' problems are our problems. Did you know that:

- 1 in 4 high school girls has been the victim of physical abuse; 4 million women are physically abused by their male partners each year
- By the time girls reach their senior year in high school, 34% report periodic heavy drinking; alcoholism is the third leading cause of death among American women ages 35 to 55
- Boys outnumber girls 3 to 1 among students taking the advanced placement test in computer science; only 1 in 10 employed engineers are women
- American teenagers have the highest pregnancy rate in the industrialized world; salaried women in this country still earn only 76% of men's earnings

We at Girls Inc. have made great strides with successful programs such as the *Blueprint* program to end teen dating violence, the Friendly PEERsuasion^(SM) program to combat tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse, Operation S.M.A.R.T.^(SM) (science, math, and relevant technologies), Economic Literacy, and Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy.

But there is still much work to be done. That's why we have started a new program called the **Women of the Century Club**.

For a \$100 initiation fee, which will go to fund our girls programs, members of the club – women from Alameda and the Bay Area – can come together four times a year to hear guest speakers and discuss ways we can solve the problems facing girls and women.

Members will be able to share their ideas, network with a diverse group of like-minded women, and be aligned with an amazing organization through inclusion on our website, this newsletter, and other Girls Inc. public relation activities.

To become a charter member of the club, nominate someone to serve as a guest speaker, or be a WCC sponsor, please contact Kristin Butler at 521-1743 or kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org.

(Installation Dinner Continued)

Former and current executive directors Joyce Denyven and Romy Amos each spoke, current and past volunteers Dorie Guess Behrstock, Kaye Van Valkenburg, Bill Dickerson, Arlene Tennant, Rob Wonder, and Lillian Taddei shared “decades” of stories, and Program Director Pam Williams reminded everyone that “it’s about the girls!”

The following folks won awards:

Dr. Edith Meyers Center Award: Susan and Gary Adams

Benefactor Award: The Alameda Police Officers Association, Sergeant Jill Ottaviano accepting

Outstanding Service Award: Diann Castleberry
Advocacy Award: Lena Tam

Outstanding Board Member: Karen Granados
Alumnae Award: Janice Lee

Certificate of Appreciation: Hank Stephenson
Board Members Emeritus: Mary Holgerson and Bill Godfrey

Welcome to the following new Board members: Lucy Gigli, Gail Graves, Shannon Hobbs, Charlotte Tlachac, and Gayle Uchida!

Sara's Notes

We are looking for **donations, wrapping supplies, and volunteers** for our annual **Holiday Sale** on Thursday, **Dec. 2**. The sale is a chance for the children in our Meyers and Activity Center programs to purchase gifts for their families for under a dollar. Donations should be new, small items appropriate for men, women, and kids, gift bags, or wrapping paper. To volunteer, call 521-1743.

A special THANK YOU goes out to volunteer extraordinaire Stephanie Amber Barbic, a professional organizer with her own business called “**Mind Your Home Business.**” Stephanie spent weeks with our girls re-organizing our very crowded sewing room. Her donated time and organizing items are very appreciated! Stephanie can be reached at sbarbic@sbcglobal.net.

Girls Inc. is dedicated to inspiring all girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold^(SM)