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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Girls Inc. Honors *Women Who Dare***

**Alameda, CA** – Girls Incorporated of the Island City will honor four local women and girls at the organization’s *Fifth Annual Celebration of Excellence Luncheon* this spring. Dana King, co-anchor on CBS 5 Eyewitness News, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The luncheon – themed “Women Who Dare” – is both a program for members of Girls Inc. and the organization’s only major fundraising event of the year. It will be from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 1, 2004, at Spotlight on the Square in Alameda. At the event, members of Girls Inc. will honor four women and girls from the community who represent excellence in their endeavors.

Tara VanDerVeer, head coach for Stanford’s Women’s Basketball team, will be an awardee and the keynote speaker. VanDerVeer gave Stanford a face in women’s basketball nationally as well as the Bay Area and was chosen as one of ANG Newspapers’ *50 Most Significant Bay Area Sports Figures of the Century*. In a storied 24-year coaching career, she has established herself as one of the top coaches in the history of both collegiate and international women's basketball. In 1996, she guided the United States Olympic Women’s Basketball Team to the gold medal in Atlanta. Her enormous contributions to the sport were recognized in April of 2002 as she was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The *Celebration of Excellence* luncheon will also recognize adult awardees Lateefah Simon and Dr. Alice Challen. Simon is Executive Director at San Francisco’s Center for Young Women’s Development and winner of the MacArthur Foundation’s “Genius Award.” Challen is a retired Alameda physician who became a doctor when it was rare to see women in the profession and who delivered a large number of the babies born in Alameda. In addition to these adults, a local youth will also be chosen in March and will be awarded for her achievements at the luncheon.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$50 and must be purchased in advance. Sponsorship opportunities are also available by calling Kristin Butler at (510) 521-1743. At Girls Inc., girls are inspired to be **strong, smart, and bold<sup>(SM)</sup>** through innovative programs, activities, and advocacy that will help them become successful adults. To become a member or get more information, check out our website at [www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org).

The mission of Girls Incorporated of the Island City is to inspire all girls to be **strong, smart and bold<sup>(SM)</sup>** through innovative programs, activities and advocacy.