See how we are achieving our growth plan goal to meet the needs of more girls in our community by employing strategies that work. We use strategies that emphasize real-life situations to build entrepreneurial skills with students at Alameda Community Learning Center; strategies that provide hands-on experiences designed to make science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) more interesting and accessible to girls from low-income homes at Alameda Point; and, strategies that change girls' lives by developing their leadership potential through the opportunity to attend Girls Inc.'s Girls InCharge Summit in Indianapolis this summer.

Girls are drawn to and persist in programs in which they have fun, meet friends, can voice their opinions, and make their own choices. The following programs do just that.

Support Girls Inc.

During the month of April, there are 3 great ways to support Girls Inc.!

**HONOR THE STRONG, SMART, AND BOLD WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE**

In commemoration of Girls Inc. Week (May 6-10), make a special gift to Girls Inc. of the Island City to honor an extraordinary person who made a difference in your life while bringing attention to the importance of mentors and role models and the difference they make in the lives of all girls. Honorees' names will be included in a Girls Inc. ad in the Alameda Sun and/or on Girls Inc. of the Island City’s website during Girls Inc. Week for all gifts of $50 or more made by May 3rd.

Donate Now

**Hands-on Experiments Lead to a Smart Way of Thinking**

Twice weekly from January to March, girls at the Alameda Point Collaborative participated in hands-on activities in biology, chemistry, physics and psychology through a program implemented by Girls Inc. of the Island City called Operation Smart®. Using familiar items, girls were fully engaged in experiments of their own making. One favorite activity had them conducting acid-base reactions
with baking soda and vinegar to inflate balloons with carbon dioxide.

In the beginning, girls had difficulties verbalizing their observations and questions. But by program's end, they gained a better understanding of science and how it works while their confidence and communication skills blossomed!

The program, funded by a City of Alameda Community Development Block Grant, is designed to develop girls' enthusiasm for and skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). It also reaches girls before high school when they are most at risk for taking only the minimum required science and math courses and dropping out as soon as allowed for fields that are traditionally perceived as more gender-appropriate. The problems of access to and under-representation in STEM are significantly greater for girls from minority backgrounds and for girls from low-income families.

Budding Entrepreneurs Learn to Grow!

What do pillows, duct tape and cupcakes teach girls about entrepreneurship? Plenty! Girls Inc. of the Island City recently introduced "Exploring Entrepreneurial Experiences" (E3) to female students at Alameda Community Learning Center (ACLC). The program teaches young women how to link the things they enjoy into money-making projects while learning to write introductory business plans.

One ACLC Senior is recycling used fabrics to make throw and bed pillows. This "upcycling" idea (refurbishing and reusing materials to make something new) will raise money for other "eco-friendly" projects. Meanwhile an ACLC 7th grader is making duct tape pen tops to help fund her "Somebody Cares About You" friendship bracelet project. When you buy her bracelets, a matching bracelet is given to a child being treated for leukemia at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. And, finally, one 6th grader's idea really takes the cake! She's funding her peers' entrepreneurial efforts by selling "Yum Yum Cupcakes" to help provide

AT ALAMEDA'S BLUE DOT CAFE & COFFEE BAR

When you purchase a scone during the month of April, a percentage of the proceeds benefit Girls Inc. of the Island City's girls.

ROUND UP AT JCPENNYP OR JCP.COM

Girls Inc. is jcpenny's newest Round Up partner. All month, ask to round up purchases & together we can raise $1 million for Girls Inc. college scholarships.

National Volunteer Week 2013
(April 21-27)

Volunteers Make the World Go 'Round

A great big THANK YOU to all the wonderful volunteers who supported our recent Women Who Dare Awards luncheon! From set-up to check-in and raffle ticket sales; whether behind the scenes before the event, or lending a hand on event day, our volunteers helped Girls Inc. to shine on March 16th and we are GRATEFUL.

Girls Inc. of the Island
interest-free loans for girls who want to start their own businesses!

In 2011, Girls Inc. of the Island City was one of 12 Girls Inc. affiliates to pilot the E3 program which it did at the Academy of Alameda.

Three Local Teens To Benefit From Life-changing Opportunity

This Saturday, Girls Inc. of the Island City will present a workshop on the possibility of entrepreneurship as a career path to female high school students from Alameda Science and Technology Institute (ASTI), Saint Joseph Notre Dame, Alameda Community Learning Center (ACLC), NEA Community Learning Center, Alternatives in Action, and Encinal. The students will participate in interactive activities, spanning the areas of business plan development, financing and finding resources for small business operations, and leadership.

From this group, three will be selected to attend the Girls InCharge Summit, July 23 through July 25, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Girls who attend the Girls InCharge Summit will experience three fast-paced days of activities geared towards developing the soft skills necessary to be an effective leader and entrepreneur. Following the summit, these girls will then work within their team to support and ensure the delivery of two entrepreneurship workshops to middle school youth in the spring of 2014.

The Walmart Foundation will underwrite all costs associated with Girls InCharge, including travel, meals, accommodations, and event activities. Upon completion of the program, the girls will receive a stipend of $500 each.

A Big Thank You

We are tremendously grateful to all those who attended our 14th Annual Women Who Dare Awards luncheon on March 16. At the Awards luncheon, District Attorney of Alameda County Nancy O'Malley, Teri McKeever, and Shauna Rosenblum were presented a Women Who Dare...
Award by girls in our Best Foot Forward program for their achievements in challenging the existing stereotypes for women. These women, honored along with the three incredible teens, challenged, amused, and inspired close to 250 members of the Alameda Community to support efforts that eliminate barriers for girls in all walks of life.

Girls like Sandy* (*name has been changed), whose mom reported, "[The Best Foot Forward program] was a really good experience for [Sandy]. She keeps saying that she wants to grow up to do something really important like the women she met, not for the award, but to just do something special."


Help us Recruit for Girls Inc.'s innovative Eureka! Teen Achievement Program

Eureka! is a three-year program for girls beginning the summer before 8th or 9th grade and continuing through 10th or 11th grade that encourages girls to explore science, technology, math and engineering in a fun, hands-on environment culminating in a job shadow experience at the end of the three-year program. Possible job shadow experiences in the works include Alameda Municipal Power, Alameda Pediatric Dentistry, and Tracy Zollinger, L.Ac., a Licensed Acupuncturist and Herbalist.

Some of our Girls Inc. of the Island City Eureka! participants were featured in the PBS Sci Girls Episode, The Awesome App Race; participated in a panel discussion with scientists at Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, and one of our Eureka! girls won a Girls Inc. Excellence in Self Expression National Award. To learn more, download the Eureka! Information Packet.

When asked which traits define someone as "smart," the girls at Girls Inc. of the Island City responded: a person who is knowledgeable, caring and respectful; who also has a positive attitude and makes a great effort. Program Facilitators believe Jaden (5th grade) and Emely (2nd grade) are excellent examples of being "smart." Congratulations to Jaden and Emely--our February 2013 Girls of the Month!
Applications for the Eureka! program are for girls currently in 7th grade or 8th grade. To apply for the Eureka! program please Eureka! Coordinator at 510-521-1743 ext. 225. 
**Deadline to apply is April 29, 2013.**