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**girls
inc.®**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I feel privileged to have the honors this issue, Volume II, as we head into a brand new year. As I sit here with pen in hand, my first priority is to say "thank you" to all of you –Girls Inc. friends, supporters and volunteers! We could never have gotten this far without your generous donations of time, talents and treasures.

Serving as Volunteer Coordinator gives me a special ring-side seat, meeting a lot of you when you make initial contact with our organization. Whether by phone, email or personal meetings over coffee – I love hearing about what inspired you to contact us, get involved and about the passion and dreams you have for the next generation of girls. I benefit from these conversations, leaving with renewed commitment to make volunteer assignments worthy of your enthusiasm and unsurpassed energies.

As the Board of Directors heads into planning for 2008 programs, it will remain my goal to keep open lines of communication with our volunteer base (actives & inactive). Volunteer needs are becoming more refined as we have now reached new plateaus in Girls Inc. program delivery, advertising and fund raising. If you happen to see a particular volunteer position need (posted at Tucson Volunteer Center, our own GISA website or mentioned in broadcast emails) we hope you'll help us out by forwarding to someone you know that might be a good fit. We depend upon you for referrals, so keep us top of mind.

So, kick back and take time to catch up on our latest news. Meet yet another dedicated volunteer. Read about October's Girls Inc. celebratory breakfast meeting at the Sheraton Hotel. And, bask in the glory of knowing none of this would be possible without you!

Sincerely,

Marcia Jakab



Girls Inc.® of Southern Arizona Connects With Leaders in our Community

Girls Inc. of Southern Arizona (GISA) hosted a Celebratory Breakfast on Thursday, October 25th. Volunteers, friends, supporters and interested community members gathered together at the Tucson Sheraton Hotel's Garden Room for an early morning breakfast meeting. Guests included local women and men representing a variety of professions, including education, law, health & wellness, finance, agencies serving youth, sales & marketing, publishing, social work and business– all with the common interest of wanting "to inspire all girls to be Strong, Smart and Boldsm."

GISA was celebrating a one year anniversary of 501(c)3 non-profit status. The objective was to share accomplishments and vision with the local community and seek input on perceived needs for girls. Accomplishments included the past year's achievements in raising visibility, fund raising and grant awards and training volunteer facilitators.

Girls Inc. programs were high-lighted and explained in detail (e.g., Media Literacysm, Friendly PEERSuasionsm, Economic Literacysm, Operation SMARTsm, and Sporting Chancesm). (continued on next page)



According to the survey taken at the Breakfast meeting:

- The top three needs for girls ages 6-8 are health/fitness, peer pressure awareness and communication skills.

- The top three needs for girls ages 12-14 are peer pressure awareness, an understanding of media & self image and leadership skills.



Presenters included Pat Wallace - Board Chair, Ellen Hezlep - Community Relations Chair and Breakfast Committee Chair, and volunteers Cynthia Flores-Ybarra and Danielle Schweyer who shared personal testimonials about their passion for working with Girls Inc. Attendees were asked for continued support and encouraged to complete a survey to help GISA plan to address local girls' challenges through identified programs.

At the meeting conclusion Ellen and Pat fielded questions, with some attendees suggesting potential partnerships that would help reach more girls with Girls Inc. programming. A

majority of the attendees completed a survey on their perceived needs of girls in Pima County. When asked "If all girls needed to have 3 skills/knowledge/attitudes by age 18 what would they be", the skills selected in order of importance were: financial literacy, life & career skills and (tied for third place) self confidence/high expectations of self and communication/interpersonal skills. This and other input in the survey will help GISA focus on needs perceived by community members. In general, the meeting response was positive and has already resulted in expanding our local network and additional volunteers and support. This breakfast meeting was made possible through a grant awarded by New York Life Foundation.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: KIM BENSON

How did you hear about Girls Inc.?

I was new to Tucson and was looking for an opportunity to get involved in the community. I found Girls Inc. on the Volunteer Center of Tucson website and set up a meeting with GISA's Volunteer Coordinator.

What interested you about Girls Inc.?

I am interested in helping girls navigate the many challenges facing them in today's society. I think the issues of self esteem, peer pressure and lack of support are setting girls up for failure. Dealing with these problems can blind girls to their potential and to the numerous opportunities available to them. Girls Inc. programs help girls to understand these issues and provide support in dealing with them. There is a big huge world out there full of exciting, interesting and beautiful things, I want girls to be able to see past the boundaries that are set up for them and go out and do big things!

What would you tell someone interested in volunteering for Girls Inc.?

Girls Inc. programs are designed to bring out the best in girls and to make them active, contributing members in their families and communities. As discussed in the article above, community leaders recognize the need for these programs in Tucson and Southern Arizona and are eager to partner with Girls Inc. to make them available here. Girls Inc. is an exciting place to be, especially now, and being able to work with Girls Inc. to provide such excellent programs is quite fulfilling.

Support Girls Inc. of Southern Arizona and spread a great message to girls of all ages!

You can do this by purchasing the Girls Inc. "Tell Me" note cards. One pack includes 10 note cards with 10 envelopes. Note cards are blank on the inside and measure 5 1/2" x 4 1/8". The note cards are selling for \$12 per pack plus shipping & handling, \$1.50 for up to 3 packs).

The back of each note card reads:

*Tell me the sky is not the limit.
Tell me the future is what I make of it.
Tell me to dream big.*

It's important for us to send positive messages to girls in our community. A little support and encouragement can make all the difference.



Que Pasa?

Girls Inc.® of Southern Arizona has new Spanish segments added to their website, visit them at:

www.girlsincsoaz.org

DONATE!

Take this opportunity to help further the goals of Girls Inc. of Southern Arizona. You can volunteer your time and your talents, donate money or visit our website to view our wish list of items needed to facilitate our operations. You can call the number listed below to volunteer, mail a check directly to Girls Inc. of Southern Arizona or visit our website. Your help is much appreciated!

Girls Incorporated of Southern Arizona
4729 E Sunrise Dr, PMB 421
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520-623-2661
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VOLUNTEER!

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Inspiring All Girls to Be Strong, Smart and BoldSM

\$MESSAGES ABOUT MONEY\$

How did you learn about money matters - saving, wise spending, budgeting, borrowing? From a parent, friends, TV commercials? How do today's girls learn about money matters? Is there a better way? We are very pleased to be able to offer **Girls Inc. Money Talks Family Financial Literacy WorkshopSM**.

The primary purpose of this workshop is to enhance communication and listening skills around family financial literacy between girls (ages 12 - 14) and influential adults in their lives. The workshop runs about 4 1/2 hours. Girls learn together in fun, interactive ways about spending choices, budgeting, borrowing, and saving. Adults receive a refresher on money issues important in today's difficult financial climate; and then girls and adults come together in a challenging exercise to enhance communication and listening skills around money issues.

GISA is scheduling these workshops in cooperation with other agencies, community groups and schools. If you are interested in having Girls Inc. bring the workshop to your organization or if you or others you know would like to attend this workshop, please contact Aimee Poll at 299-6855 or Pat Wallace at 529-6095.

*Girls Inc. Money Talks Family Financial Literacy
WorkshopSM is sponsored by:*

Bank of the West and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.