



GIRLS INCORPORATED

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA • CHATTANOOGA, TN • NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHILDREN DO WELL WHEN THEIR FAMILIES
DO WELL, AND FAMILIES DO BETTER WHEN
THEY LIVE IN SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

In communities across the nation, Girls Incorporated® offers innovative programs that inspire girls to be strong, smart, and boldSM. In 2008, Girls Inc. reached more than 900,000 girls through Girls Inc. affiliates, its website, and educational publications. Girls Inc. programs strive to spark girls' learning and development and support families to help girls achieve their dreams.

With local roots dating to 1864 and national status since 1945, Girls Inc. has responded to the changing needs of girls through research-based programs and public education efforts that empower girls to understand, value, and assert their rights. In its work, Girls Inc. strives to take a holistic approach to strengthening the future outlook for girls and their families.

The following programs have been awarded with the 2009 Family Strengthening Awards, a joint venture of Girls Inc. and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. These programs have demonstrated the understanding that families are an important key to girls' success.

“Strong families create the foundation for girls to build successful and fulfilling futures,” says Joyce M. Roché, president and CEO of Girls Inc. “By supporting families, we are supporting girls as they reach their fullest potential.”

F.A.C.E.S. (FAMILIES ACHIEVE COMMUNITY THROUGH EMPOWERED SUPPORT) GIRLS INC. OF ALAMEDA COUNTY • SAN LEANDRO, CA

At Girls Inc. of Alameda County, families are an important part of working with girls to ensure that they build bright futures. Through the F.A.C.E.S. Project, Girls Inc. uses multiple strategies to involve parents, strengthen families' economic status and connect families to useful resources in the community, including health care, housing and job assistance. In all of its work, Girls Inc. understands that family success is the cornerstone of girls' success – a value that is reflected in the organization's strategic plan.

A bilingual F.A.C.E.S. coordinator provides wide-ranging support to families and parents – most of whom primarily speak Spanish. Starting with a strength-based intake assessment, the coordinator helps families identify needs and goals and matches families to appropriate community resources.

Through English classes, financial literacy workshops and “nutrition on a budget” workshops, Girls Inc. helps families achieve greater economic self-sufficiency. Families also have access to case management, holiday assistance programs and bilingual mental health services. To help parents build social support networks and bond with other families, the program hosts at least two social nights during the year. Parents also participate in workshops on fitness and puberty and hygiene that help improve communication skills between parents and daughters.

CROSS-CULTURAL TRANSITIONS PROGRAM GIRLS INC. OF CHATTANOOGA • CHATTANOOGA, TN

In 2008, Girls Inc. of Chattanooga launched the Cross-Cultural Transitions Program to help fifth-grade African American and Latina girls at a local elementary school succeed in their academics and pursue college. The program aims to provide support through the girls' first year of college in 2014.

Knowing the importance of family involvement, Girls Inc. made a concerted effort to work with parents from the start of

the program. Through research conducted prior to the program's inception, Girls Inc. learned that many parents – particularly recently immigrated parents from Guatemala – did not expect their daughters to finish high school, but to drop out of middle school and get pregnant. Girls Inc. hired a bilingual parent facilitator to work closely with these families, build relationships with the parents and expose families to the opportunities of higher education. The facilitator meets with families in their homes and provides referrals to resources that they might not be aware of, such as job opportunities, a community garden and food banks.

The program holds workshops that help parents learn about issues affecting their daughters while also encouraging parents to build supportive networks with each other. Workshop topics range from health insurance to college preparation. Girls Inc. also takes families on college tours to two universities.

CAFÉ LAUREN

GIRLS INC. OF NEW HAMPSHIRE • MANCHESTER, NH

When families come to Café Lauren at Girls Inc. of New Hampshire, they get a free hot meal – and much more. Five days a week, Café Lauren dishes out healthy breakfasts and dinners, serving more than 80 people each day. For hard-working families facing hard economic times, the meals are a welcome support, providing respite from the difficulties of the day. Many of the parents have lost their jobs and the majority of the families are led by single parents. More than 40 percent of the families who dine at Café Lauren make less than \$15,000 per year.

Maximizing the time with girls' parents, Girls Inc. offers fun and helpful activities, such as a weekly book club, family game night and presentations about community resources. Last year, Girls Inc. hosted Southern New Hampshire Services to discuss the state fuel assistance program. Many families learned that they were eligible for assistance to pay for heating costs – a significant source of support for families weathering New Hampshire's long winters.

Café Lauren not only feeds low-income families but also employs low-income and developmentally disabled workers in partnership with community agencies such as Workplace Success, Work Opportunities Unlimited and Independent Services Network. Café Lauren also operates a daytime catering program to serve healthy lunches for a local child care center.



OUR AFFILIATES UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN FAMILIES FLOURISH,
GIRLS FLOURISH. WE WORK TO SUPPORT THE SUCCESS OF THE
WHOLE GIRL, AT HOME, IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE.

–President and CEO Joyce M. Roché, Girls Incorporated

FAMILIES COUNT FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

Through a joint venture of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Girls Incorporated, the FAMILIES COUNT Family Strengthening Awards recognize Girls Incorporated affiliates with outstanding programs that work to give children what they need most—strong, capable and economically successful families. Responding to the varied needs of the families they serve, these organizations improve the economic prospects of working men and women and create the services and networks of support that all families need to realize their aspirations for themselves and their children.

GIRLS INCORPORATED

Joyce M. Roché, President and CEO
Girls Incorporated
120 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005-3902
212-509-2000
www.girlsinc.org