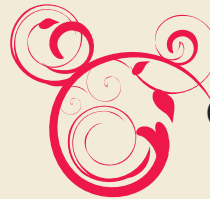


From the President and CEO



Girls Inc. 2009
annual report

I am delighted to share our annual report for the fiscal year 2009 with you in this innovative format. We at Girls Inc. strive to be exceptional stewards of your trust and support, and to be responsible citizens. As part of this effort, we are working to move as many of our communications as possible to electronic formats, in order to reduce costs and environmental impact. We hope you enjoy the presentation.



It is impossible to talk about our 2009 fiscal year, which ran from April 2008 through March 2009, without acknowledging the enormous economic upheaval we have all witnessed. And yet, although Girls Inc. has felt the financial effects of the downturn, our faith in the future remains unshaken. After all, the future bounds through our doors every day in the guise of eager, enthusiastic, hopeful girls.

Over nearly 150 years of working with girls, we have gained a profound trust in their spirit. We know that girls are inherently strong, smart, and bold and that our job is to help them stay that way in the face of the pressure society continues to put on them to be compliant, to tone themselves down, to sacrifice themselves for others.

In the nurturing, caring Girls Inc. communities throughout the United States and in Canada, girls learn how to develop a healthy sense of self-worth

by setting goals, learning new skills, taking well-considered risks, and supporting each other. They become lifelong learners, secure in the knowledge that they can handle any challenge they might encounter in the course of their lives.

We as an organization strive to live by the same principles we impart to the girls—always to stay focused on our goals, to learn, to be creative. One example of this commitment from the past year is the innovative economic literacy project we launched in partnership with the ING Foundation. The ING-Girls Inc. Investment Challenge is a ground-breaking program that gives participating girls practical, hands-on investing experience while allowing them to keep their gains in the form of college scholarships.

With the help and guidance of trained Girls Inc. staff and ING employee volunteers, teams of girls ages 12–18 began to build

and manage diversified, real-time portfolios as part of an integrative investment- and economic-literacy curriculum. After three years, two-thirds of any gains in the portfolio will be paid by the ING Foundation to the girls in the form of Girls Inc. scholarships for post-secondary education; one-third of the gains will be given to the local Girls Inc. affiliate to support local programming. The original \$50,000 principal will then be re-assigned to the incoming team.

The program began with a one-year pilot in New York City, Denver, Los Angeles, and Alameda County, California. The first year of the program has been very successful—with the teams showing a real appetite for investing skills—and will be expanded to two more communities in the coming year.

The Girls Inc. Economic Literacy® program has long been a favorite for girls and their families. Not only do girls

bring home what they learn at Girls Inc., we have also created workshops, with funding from Amerprise Financial, for the families of our girls to help with budgeting, managing spending, and avoiding predatory lending. Even more important than the skills themselves are the opportunities for cooperation and conversation—so critical to healthy family relationships—that practicing them together create.

Through the difficult months of this past year, many of our local organizations, with support from Girls Inc., have redoubled their efforts to be there for girls' entire families. With funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Girls Inc. affiliates offered girls' families everything from free nutritious meals to help finding needed services in the community. A girl needs a healthy, nurturing family environment in order to strive for her fullest potential. We consider it an essential part of our mission to support families in creating such an environment.

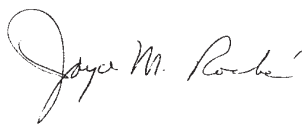
In the spirit of our belief that girls need to be a part of creating an equitable society, we engaged girls in the political process. Girls Inc. She Votes encouraged girls to think about participating not only as informed, active voters but also as future candidates.

Our girls also reported from both national political conventions, as the parties chose their candidates for the presidential ticket. In this historic election year, it was especially gratifying to have the girls' perspective on the issues of the day and the future of our country.

A century and a half of working with girls assures all of us at Girls Inc. that the future is in good hands. Please join us in expressing our gratitude to girls everywhere for their phenomenal spirit.

And on behalf of Girls Inc. and the girls we serve, please accept our thanks for your dedicated support. It makes the mission of inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold possible.

Warmly,



Joyce M. Roché

