

# Girl Power Press

A publication of Girls Incorporated of the Island City  
Volume 2, Issue 2, September 2002

## **Career Discovery Pilot Program a Big Success!**

Girls Incorporated of the Island City piloted a new *Career Discovery Program* at the Meyers Center this summer.

The program, originally called our Career Mentoring Program, is a series of one-hour workshops designed to help girls ages 9-18 explore the pros and cons of career paths they may be interested in following.

We invited women from the community to talk with the girls about what they do for a living and the path they took to get there. Six wonderful women participated in the pilot this summer!

We kicked off the program with a powerhouse trio: Detective Jill Ottaviano, dispatcher Rachel Herron, and evidence technician Karen Martin, all of the Alameda Police Department. The three women wowed the girls with stories about how they chose their jobs, learned their trades, and work as a team.

The girls wowed their visitors by asking thoughtful, intelligent questions—does your job make you happy, does your job put you in a position of power, are you allowed freedom to make your own choices? By the end of the session, most of the girls in the room raised their hands when asked who would like to work in law enforcement someday!

Other women from the community who participated in the program this summer included: Andrea Mejia, a marketing administrative assistant with Alameda Power and Telecom, who talked about juggling work with motherhood; Donna Smyth, a marketing and sales trainer with North American Title Company, who brought in goodie bags to illustrate the creativity she uses in her job; and Beth Kane, a local author who gave the girls a taste of self-expression by leading a creative writing exercise.

The program culminated in a thank-you reception at our end-of-summer BBQ in August.

*We will continue the program this fall. To participate, please contact Development Director Kristin Butler, at (510) 521-1743 or [kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org](mailto:kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org).*

Girls Inc. Meyers Center  
1724 Santa Clara Ave.,  
Alameda, CA 94501

(510) 521-1743  
[www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org)



Kids became stars at *Make a Circus* this summer

## **Kids Learn to Avoid Stereotypes with Make a Circus this Summer!**

More than 100 kids and their families participated in the *Make a Circus* event sponsored by Girls Inc. and the *Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth and Their Families* at Washington Park on Aug. 10. At the event, the kids not only watched the circus, they became the circus in an interactive program. This year's theme was about avoiding stereotypes.

We offered the event for free. Girls Inc. also held a free raffle and we want to thank the following people and organizations for donating prizes:

City of Alameda Chuck Corica Golf Complex; Oakland A's; University of San Francisco; West-Wind Kung-Fu Karate; Dance 10 Performing Arts Center; Alameda School of Dance; Tucker's Super Creamed Ice Cream; Harsch Investments and South Shore Center; Museum of Children's Art; Brad Gaster of Alameda Property Maintenance; and Michele Abrate of Armstrong and Hedges.

## **Upcoming Girls Inc. Events . . .**

October—We will launch our new, local website at [www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org). Check it out!

October 12—Ivy removal work party at the Meyers Center

### **Local Girls Inc. Rep. Goes National!**

Romy Amos—our Executive Director who celebrated her 9th anniversary with us this month—has been elected to serve on the Girls Inc. National Board by the Girls Inc. affiliates in Region I.

Her two year term was ratified in April at the National Conference in Washington D.C. The Board meets four times a year and is responsible for governance of the national organization (which includes 125 Girls Inc. affiliates), fundraising, and committee work. Amos will serve on the Public Education Committee.

Other members of the Board include Pat Mitchell, (president and CEO of PBS), Stedman Graham, (Chairman and CEO of S. Graham and Associates), Barbara Levy Landes (a V.P. at America Online), and 24 other leaders from around the country.

### **Welcome New Board Members!**

On July 24, Girls Incorporated of the Island City welcomed 7 new \* members to our local Board of Directors. Our Board now includes the following:

Dorie Guess-Behrstock, *President*  
Mary Kenney, *1st Vice President*  
Samarial Brown, *2nd Vice President*  
Gordon Fullmer, *Treasurer*  
Susan Adams, *Recording Secretary*  
Charlotte Tlachac, *Director-at-Large*  
John Abrate, *Past President*  
Juelle-Ann Boyer \*  
Diann Castleberry \*  
Nicholas Chung \*  
David Mercado  
Donna Milgram \*  
Frances Montell \*  
Lynne Robertson \*  
Renie Stamm-Kirk \*

Would you like to help make a special event, project or Girls Inc. program come to life? To donate time, money, or equipment, bring someone from our Speaker's Bureau to your organization, write an article about us in your publication, or collaborate with us to bring one of our programs to your site, please call Development Director Kristin Butler at (510) 521-1743 or send e-mail to [kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org](mailto:kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org)



### **Enterprising Volunteers Clear Girls Inc. Ivy**

Seven hard-working volunteers from Enterprise Rent-a-Car in San Leandro spent the morning of Sept. 10 ripping out the overgrown ivy at Girls Incorporated of the Island City as part of their participation in *Week of Caring*. The annual event is co-sponsored by Volunteer Centers of the Bay Area and United Way.

With shovels, clippers, and gloves in hand, Sara Durkee, Jennifer Lee, Rob Schoemehl, Tamara Tamas, Cherie Davis, Grace Huang, and Amy Mikvra (not pictured) removed seven garbage-bags of creeping ivy from the side fence, which was being destroyed by its green tendrils.

Although the volunteers worked hard all morning, there is still ivy left to remove. We plan to get rid of the rest of it during a **work party on Saturday Oct. 12 and are looking for volunteers to help.**

#### **Other needs ...**

We are looking for someone to **dismantle and remove** the **wooden play structure** at our Meyers Center. The structure is in good condition and includes a metal slide, hand-over-hand bars, and rubber mats.

We are also looking for **donations and wrapping supplies** for our annual **Holiday Sale on Dec. 5**. The sale is a chance for the children in our programs to purchase gifts for their families for under a dollar. Donations should be new, small items appropriate for men, women, and kids, gift bags, or wrapping paper.

*If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, contact Development Director Kristin Butler at (510) 521-1743 or [kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org](mailto:kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org).*

***Girls Inc. is dedicated to inspiring all girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold<sup>(SM)</sup>***