

Girl Power Press

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Celebration of Excellence Luncheon is May 3,

Girls Inc.'s *Fourth Annual Celebration of Excellence Luncheon* will be from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 3, 2003, at the Grand View Pavilion in Alameda.

The purpose of the luncheon – themed “*Women Who Dare*” – is threefold:

First, it gives Girls Inc. a chance to honor five new women and girls from the greater Bay Area each year who have done something extraordinary and who, often, have not been recognized for their achievements.

Second, it gives us an opportunity to teach the girls in our program a number of valuable skills as they participate in our award-winning *Best Foot Forward* program offered in April. In *Best Foot Forward*, girls learn skills in research, interviewing, script writing, presentation, and etiquette. The girls use these skills at the luncheon, where they serve as hosts and present the awards.

Third, the luncheon is a marketing event that allows us to showcase and raise money for the girl-centered programs that we offer year-round at our Meyers Center. Because girls ages 6-18 can participate in our programs every day after school and during the summer for only \$40 a year, we must look to the community to help defer the costs of our professionally-staffed programs.

In addition Girls Inc. is doing something new this year - we are offering a certain number of **free tickets** to each high school and middle school in Alameda so that more teenage girls and their teachers can come to the luncheon for free.

In order to be able to offer these “scholarships,” we are asking folks from the community to donate money to cover the girls’ tickets.

Tickets for the event are \$50 each.

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Women from the Alameda Police Department taught girls how to fight crime in Girls Inc.'s Courageous Women Program

Courageous Women, Courageous Girls

More than 30 women have participated in Girls Inc.'s ***Courageous Women Program*** since it began during the 2002 summer session.

This career mentoring program - formerly called Career Exploration - has gone through a number of exciting changes since Site Director Sara Mancini came on the scene in November.

The program allows everyday women from the community to share their wisdom – about their careers or other important life experiences - with our girls., ages 9 to 13.

Guest Speakers visit for 30 minutes (usually starting at 4:00 p.m. on a Tuesday afternoon), to share the story of their life.

Discovery Lab offers an extended amount of time in the afternoon for visitors to teach our girls a skill through a hands-on activity.

AdventureX! takes mentoring to the next level by inviting our girls to visit a woman's place of work.

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(Luncheon Continued)

We will be honoring exceptional women and girls this year.

Janice Lee, Vice President of Edward Jones Investments in Alameda and a local community philanthropist, will be an awardee and the keynote speaker at this year's event. Other adult awardees include **Bernida Reagan**, Director of Social Responsibility at the Port of Oakland and an award-winning public interest lawyer, and **Jill Ottaviano**, a detective with youth services at the Alameda Police Department, a community volunteer, and mentor at Girls Inc.

Two youth awardees will also be honored at the event. **Sara Heaps**, a freshman at Encinal High School, is a two-time Bay Area Science Fair winner and recipient of the Outstanding Young Scientist of the Future award given by the Muses organization of Southern California. **Mia Kabasakalis** is a home-schooled Alameda eighth grader who is an award-winning golfer and one of only 14 kids in the country chosen to be a reporter for *Time for Kids* magazine.

Several wonderful women are serving as Honorary Chairs for our luncheon this year. They will be hosts and will help us promote the event. They are:

Carol Beaver, Community Development Manager, City of Alameda Development Services Department
Renel Brooks-Moon, Radio/TV Personality 98.1 KISS FM (Former Awardee)
Moira Fossum, Owner, Uniglobe Total Travel
Beverly Johnson, Mayor, City of Alameda
Melody Marr – CEO Alameda Chamber of Commerce
Kate Pryor, Owner, Tucker's Super Creamed Ice Cream (Former Awardee)
Alejandria Sales, Student, HOMEBASE
Vickie Smith, CARE Project Student Relations Program Director, Encinal High School
Dr. Audrey Trotter, V.P. of Instruction, College of Alameda

Since this is our one major fundraising event of the year, Girls Inc. is looking for sponsors to either help pay the cost to send girls to the event for free or to support a particular Girls Inc. program and be on a banner that will be flown at the event. **To help**, contact Kristin Butler at 521-1743 or kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org.

We need volunteers 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 5 to stuff invitation envelopes for the luncheon - 521-1743!



Girls investigate the guts of a computer in a ***Courageous Women Discovery Lab*** with board member Renie Stamm-Kirk.

(Courageous story continued)

As a counterpart to this program, Sara created the ***Courageous Girls Program*** for teens looking for community service credit or just for fun!

Girl Panel allows teen girls a chance to share their story with 9-13-year-old girls.

FacilitateHER offers an extended amount of time in the afternoon for a teen girl to teach our girls a skill through a hands-on activity.

Tool Belt is for teen girls who don't feel like working directly with our girls, but still want to make a difference by participating in work parties or other activities to help Girls Inc.

Pursuit allows a teen girl to "shadow" a Girls Inc. staff member for a week to learn how to be a facilitator for a group of 9-13-year-olds.

Teen Talk is an opportunity for teen girls to organize and produce a monthly forum that gives girls and adults a chance to talk about the issues that are most important to them.

To participate in these programs, contact Sara at 521-1743 or smancini@girlsincislandcity.org.

Other needs include: Paint, tetherball post, wood backboard for handball, basketball hoop, digital camera, and a volunteer to teach girls Web Objects Fusion.

A big Thank You to the Oakland Greater Bay Area Lions Club for helping stuff and mail our sponsoring membership letters Feb. 1st!

Girls Inc. is dedicated to inspiring all girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold^(SM)