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**Girls Inc. Continues To Inspire Girl's With Endless Possibilities
National Scholars Awards Scholarship of \$15,000**

ALAMEDA, CA –March 3, 2010, Anjuli Sastry, of Alameda High School, has been selected as a Girls Incorporated National Scholar. She has been awarded a \$15,000 scholarship to be used at the college of her choice. She has been invited to receive the award at the 2010 celebration luncheon to be held in New York City on Thursday, March 18th, 2010.

Girls in the 11th and 12th grade, from over 90 Girls Inc. affiliates across the nation, applied for the National Scholar Program. Sastry was one of only 24 applicants chosen to receive a scholarship. "I love Girls Inc. because it provides a place to express my thoughts and accomplish my goals. It has given me many wonderful opportunities over the past few years, the most important being publishing the Out Loud 'Zine, which I absolutely love to do. I am so grateful to Girls Inc.," says Sastry.

"Girls Inc. National scholars are teens who become prominent leaders as women. A foundational experience is involvement in Girls Inc. programs. Anjuli not only participated in the Zine and as a mentor in our girl program, she also gained work experience as my assistant last summer," says Karen Kenney, Executive Director, Girls Inc. of the Island City.

Sastry has applied to several colleges including her top college choices, UC Berkeley and Northwestern University and intends to major in political science at UC Berkeley or journalism at Northwestern, at the Medill School of Journalism. After graduating from college Sastry plans to attend graduate school, her career objectives are to become a lawyer or journalist.

To be considered for the **National Scholars Program**, girl's need to: be members of Girls Inc. for a minimum of two consecutive years; be in the 11th or 12th grade; have a qualifying GPA; write three essays, one of which has to do with the Girls Inc. Bill of Rights and letters of recommendation from teachers and Girls Inc. staff

The purpose of the Scholars Program is to make post-secondary education more accessible by offsetting the financial costs. The goal of the program is to inspire members to succeed in school and to consider a broad range of career possibilities.

Ten young women were awarded \$15,000 scholarships and twelve were awarded \$2,500.00. For the past 4 years, Girls Inc or the Island City has had 5 girls receive scholarships from The Scholars Program.

Since 1993, Girls Inc. has awarded \$2.58 million in scholarships to 413 high school women. The Scholars Program was created in 1992 when long time supporter Lucile Miller Wright made it possible to fund scholarships just for girls. Scholarships are awarded each year and may be applied to tuition and expenses at any accredited 2- or 4-year college or university.

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Girls Inc. of the Island City is the Alameda affiliate of the national organization Girls Inc. Since 1964, Girls Inc. of the Island City has provided the only program in Alameda designed specifically for girls. Girls Inc. programs “fill in the gap” on issues that parents and schools don’t always have the time or resources to cover. At Girls Inc., girls and teens are challenged to explore science, math and computers, examine how money is earned and invested, and to ask questions about and take leadership roles in the world. The organization provides more than 25,000 hours of programming each year to girls ages 6 to 18.

Girls Inc. also offers a licensed childcare service called Alameda Island Kids for both girls and boys at seven elementary schools around Alameda, including Bay Farm, Earhart, Edison, Franklin, Lum, and Otis. For more information about Girls Inc., visit www.girlsincislandcity.org.