

PROMISE

for friends and supporters of Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

spring 2011

girl scouts
of central illinois

Women of Distinction to Honor Young Women

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of Women of Distinction, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, in collaboration with Altrusa International, is recognizing our first-ever Young Women of Distinction. We are honored to recognize these outstanding young women who are actively making the world a better place.

All of the Young Women of Distinction nominees were inspiring, and the selection committee chose three amazing young women to be the first recipients of this new award. Please join us in congratulating **Sharain Dunn** of Danville and **Emma Rannebarger** and **Ainsley Reiser** of Champaign.

Our three outstanding Young Women of Distinction will be honored along with our Women of Distinction, **Dr. Kathleen Buetow**, **Barbara Hedlund**, and **Rachael Wright** of Champaign-Urbana, **Tammy Wilson** of Danville, and **Jessica Holmes** of Rantoul.

Women of Distinction 20th Anniversary

May 5, 2011

5:30 reception

6:30 dinner and program

Hawthorn Suites Champaign

Tickets \$60

Please join us at our 20th Anniversary Women of Distinction event to learn more about the outstanding accomplishments of this year's honorees and support Girl Scouts of Central Illinois. For tickets or sponsorship information, please contact Holly Thompson at 800-328-5112 ext. 1210 or hthompson@girlscouts-gsci.org.



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www.girlscouts-gsci.org



Dear friends,

While attending a United Way luncheon recently I was reminded of a story I'd heard long ago about a young woman who was discouraged from throwing starfish into the receding tide once they had been stranded on the beach. A passerby told her, "There are miles of beach here. You'll never return enough starfish to the ocean to make a difference." As the young girl tossed yet another starfish back to sea she responded, "I made a difference for that one."

Those words resonated with me as I likened them to the efforts of our tireless staff and volunteers who work to make a difference in the lives of girls by reaching them with programs that fulfill our mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. But this is not our only "starfish" need or opportunity.

Donors and potential donors may wonder if their donation, however modest they may feel it is, truly makes a difference, and to that I would say, "You made a difference for that one." For your regular annual gift or support of a Girl Scout special event, I say thank you, thank you, thank you! If you are now or will in the future be looking for an opportunity to make a larger difference, no matter your level of affluence or current ability to give, please consider making a planned gift to Girl Scouts of Central Illinois.

Planned gifts may be in the form of bequests, endowments, trusts, or one of many other forms of planned or estate gifts. If you have questions about these possibilities or are simply seeking more information, we would be glad to meet with you to discuss your options.

Your planned gift could truly change the lives of thousands of girls. There is no greater legacy than the peace of knowing that your thoughtful preplanning changed the life of a girl for the better, forever. Thank you for considering Girl Scouts of Central Illinois as you plan for your financial future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam".

Pam Kovacevich, CEO
Girl Scouts of Central Illinois



VOLUNTEERS CREATE

events

TO REMEMBER



Friendship, food, entertainment, outstanding community service, laughter, and fun -

these are just a few of the things you can look forward to at upcoming Girl Scouts of Central Illinois special fundraising events. These events allow us to showcase outstanding role models who exemplify the values of Girl Scouting in the communities we serve and share the exciting ways Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character.

Girl Scout special events are a success thanks to the strong community support we have to assist in planning and carrying them out. Committee members help with event planning, honoree selection, sponsorship solicitation, and silent auction donations. Last year alone, our events raised over \$65,000 to support Girl Scouting across central Illinois. This would not be possible without the strong support of our volunteers. We are currently seeking committee members to help us plan the following events:

**SPECIAL EVENT
VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTE
TO OUR
SUCCESS**

Women of Distinction – an evening of dinner and awards honoring exemplary adult and young women from the Champaign area for the contributions they have made to their communities.

Friendship Circle – join your friends for breakfast or lunch to hear stories from local Girl Scouts about how their lives have been positively impacted by their participation in Girl Scouting.

Diamonds Events – evenings of hors d'oeuvres and entertainment to celebrate Girl Scouting in local communities and to honor the outstanding contributions of local community citizens, with the opportunity to own an exquisite piece of diamond jewelry.



If you are interested in serving on a special event planning committee in your region, please contact Lynette Nelson at lnelson@girlscouts-gsci.org or 877-231-1446, ext. 1608.

GSCI *Equestrian Program*



We have recently transferred the GSCI horse herd to Camp Tapawingo in Metamora. The horses are flourishing and we are gearing up for upcoming equine resident camp, saddle club meetings, fall equestrian programs, and riding lessons. Read on to discover what our horses have in store for girls in 2011!

GSCI equestrian events allow girls from a variety of backgrounds to connect with their passion for horses. Research has demonstrated that horseback riding is beneficial to children in a variety of ways. Horseback riding is physically rewarding and causes less stress on developing bodies than high impact sports. For many girls horseback

riding is mentally and emotionally gratifying as well. GSCI equine programs are developed to not only allow girls the opportunity to increase their knowledge about horses and to ride but also to discover the importance of community service in keeping the horse program running smoothly.

Saddle Club

Beginning in April, the GSCI Saddle Club will meet twice per month at Camp Tapawingo. Saddle Club provides an exciting and safe place for older girls with or without riding experience to meet one another and explore their passion for horses. Saddle Club participants will be given the

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opportunity to meet equine professionals, including veterinarians and farriers, and will observe a variety of equine procedures, such as shoeing and vaccination administration.

Beginning in June, girls throughout central Illinois will have the opportunity to attend a number of resident equestrian camp programs. Programs such as Hoofin' It, Paddle and Saddle, and Cowgirl Round-Up can accommodate varying riding levels, from equestrian newcomers to experienced riders. In the fall, girls can continue their equestrian education with group or individual riding lessons.

Horses are one of the most expensive investments the council maintains.



Support our horses

The GSCI equestrian program is one of the most popular programs with our girl members. Horses are also one of the most expensive investments the council maintains. A horse can eat about 2.5% of its body weight in a single day. That means a typical 1,000 pound horse eats about twenty-five pounds of food a day. This adds up to 14,725 pounds of food per month for our

herd. That's a lot of horse food! Additionally there are health care costs such as vaccinations, regular hoof trimmings, and equipment costs. We are currently developing an Adopt-A-Horse program that will allow troops and individuals to adopt a member of the council herd and contribute to its upkeep. In addition to offsetting some of the cost associated with maintaining a herd of horses, it is our hope that

the GSCI Adopt-A-Horse program will allow girl members, adult members, and community friends a unique way to embrace their love of Girl Scouting, camp, and the GSCI horse herd.

To learn more about how you can support GSCI's horse herd, please contact Holly Crotty at hcrotty@girlscouts-gsci.org or 800-791-9319 ext. 1304.



Reaching Out

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois outreach programs are designed to reach at-risk girls in the communities we serve to offer them Girl Scout programming that they may not otherwise receive through the traditional troop setting. Outreach programs are frequently offered in partnership with local school districts and social service agencies to overcome many barriers to service that exist when arranging to meet with girls outside of school or during after-school program hours.

One outreach program we offer in our Decatur region, **GIRL (Growing into Responsible Leaders)**, is designed to reach at-risk girls in grades 6 – 8. GIRL teaches real life conflict resolution skills, exposes girls to new experiences, gives incentives for positive behaviors in the classroom, and helps participants set a GPA goal for themselves.

“You have to do the right thing, and you have to hang around people who do the right thing,”

At this year’s GIRL kick-off event we hosted a local judge and a women’s correctional facility warden to speak to participants about their own personal experiences and challenges. These two positive role models gave advice about making good choices, being a true friend, and setting personal goals.

Another outing gave participants the opportunity to tour the Macon County Jail and hold a mock trial in a local courtroom. Girls role-played defense and prosecution teams, defendants, and judges. “You have to do the right thing, and you have to hang around people who do the right thing,” Judge White stressed to the participants. “Nothing worth doing is easy.”

In addition to these special program sessions, Girl Scout staff members visit six different schools monthly to offer GIRL meetings in a group setting that stress important life skills such as self-esteem development, anti-bullying strategies, anti-violence programming, the importance of staying in school, and financial literacy. The program will conclude in May with a college tour to reinforce to participants that completing their secondary education and attending college is an attainable and desirable goal.

We are fortunate to be able to offer outreach programs in many of the communities we serve thanks to generous donors who make this important programming in the life of a young woman possible. Other examples of funded projects include

•**Helping Outreach Programs Excel (H.O.P.E.)** – a coordinated outreach effort that provides uniquely ME! self-esteem programming and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to girls in Peoria area schools and social service agencies. **This program has been made possible by a grant from The Thomas and Ellen Foster Fund and The Louise Flora Howard Fund of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois**

•**Take Charge** – now in its third year, this popular outreach program provides education in the areas of anti-bullying, self-esteem, creative conflict resolution, and resisting peer pressure to girls in grades K – 6 in Adams County schools. **This program was made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Quincy Area’s Samantha Otte Youth Opportunity Fund.**

•**Troop Support** -Thanks in part to support from the **Rotary Club of Pekin**, GSCI is able to help support outreach troops at the Pekin Salvation Army and the Pekin Housing Authority.

•**Artrageous!** day camp will give girls in grades 1 – 5 the opportunity to work with local artists in a variety of fields including painting, jewelry making, story telling, acting, and more. **This program is supported in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the McLean County Arts Center.**



To learn how you can support GSCI outreach efforts, please contact Holly Crotty, COO of Communications and Fund Development, at hcrotty@girlscouts-gsci.org or 800-791-9319 ext. 1304.

GSCI
Camperships
Help Girls
Experience Camp

In just a few short months GSCI camps will be open and bustling with girls. From creative arts to water sports to horseback riding, the GSCI Outdoor Education team has a great lineup of summer programs planned for girls of all ages throughout central Illinois.

In 2010, more than 1,700 girls attended GSCI summer camp programs and their lives were forever changed by their experiences. Unfortunately, not all girls have access to the unique and potentially life-changing experience of Girl Scout summer camp, simply because their families do not have

the means to send them. To ensure that every girl who wishes to attend camp has access to that opportunity GSCI provides monetary assistance, or camperships, to girls with a financial need. In 2010, GSCI provided almost \$30,000 in campership funding, assisting nearly 200 girls in attending camp who otherwise would not have been able to attend. **You can donate to our 2011 Campership Assistance Fund**

In 2010, GSCI provided almost \$30,000 in campership funding, assisting nearly 200 girls in attending camp who otherwise would not have been able to attend.

by mailing a donation to GSCI Campership Fund, 3020 Baker Drive, Springfield, IL 62703 or save a stamp and donate online at www.girlscouts-gsci.org.

One person who sees the value of supporting camp through camperships is Robert Westerdale, a former Illinois resident who currently makes his home in Millersville, Maryland. Mr. Westerdale's support of GSCI continues today because of his daughter's and late wife's many years of involvement in Girl Scouting and the great camping experiences they had while they lived in Illinois.

In addition to providing a way to continue to honor his "girls'" involvement in Girl Scouting, Mr. Westerdale believes in the benefits of camp for girls:

- **Summer camp gives girls** the opportunity to get away from their home routine and discover and increase their feeling of independence
- **Summer camp takes girls** out-of-doors where they can build new skills and challenge themselves with new experiences, thereby increasing their self-esteem
- **Summer camp is, simply,** a peak childhood experience for those who are fortunate enough to experience it

The satisfaction for Mr. Westerdale and others like him who believe in the unique benefits of Girl Scout summer camp is the simple satisfaction of knowing that because of his gift, girls who would not have been able to attend summer camp any other way are experiencing these benefits now and for years to come.



GSCI Alumnae Association
Share Your Thoughts

Since 1912, Girl Scouts has been building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Next year, 3.5 million active Girl Scouts and volunteers will join some 50 million Girl Scout alumnae in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting. This momentous occasion provides a unique opportunity for Girl Scout alumnae to reconnect with each other and to discover what today's Girl Scouts are doing in their communities.

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois has enjoyed reconnecting with many Girl Scout alumnae since we began the GSCI Alumnae Association in 2010. The Association has many possibilities, and we welcome your input about activities for this group. To share your thoughts or to join the GSCI Alumnae Association, contact Holly Crotty, COO of Communications and Fund Development, at hcrotty@girlscouts-gsci.org or 800-791-9319 ext. 1304. All adult Girl Scouts (18 years and older), including former girl members, former and current volunteers, and former and current Girl Scout staff, are encouraged to join.



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