



Girls Incorporated®
of Westchester County

Inspiring all girls
to be strong,
smart and boldsm

Winter 2007

Eileen Fisher Becomes First Girls Inc. Westchester Founding Sponsor

We are proud to announce that Eileen Fisher, one of the most influential and respected business-women, whose innovative and women centered clothing business, Eileen Fisher Inc., is based in Westchester, has elected to be the first **Founding Sponsor** of Girls Inc. of Westchester County. She has connected with our mission and has made a commitment of \$75,000 a year to GIWC for each of the next three years. We are very grateful to Eileen for sharing the Girls Inc. vision and helping us get launched.

"I am very impressed with Girls Inc. Personally, I am interested since I have a 14 year old daughter and feel all girls in Westchester County can benefit from Girls Inc. programs" says Eileen.



In a highly competitive world where every charitable organization is looking to secure funding, we know how fortunate we are to have Eileen's support and commitment.

"It is fantastic that two like-minded organizations that support women and girls have come together to make this dream a reality for us" adds Ellen Kraus.

This funding enables GIWC to begin serving some of the more than 80,000 girls ages 6-18 in Westchester County with innovative, field-tested Girls Inc. programs that can impact their capacity to learn and excel, equip them to deal with social and personal pressures and prepare them for a successful adulthood.

With this donation and others from our growing network of supporters, we have been able to hire our first executive director and begin serving girls as we further our plans to have a meaningful impact on the lives of Westchester girls.

Thank you Eileen for being so strong, smart and bold. We are hopeful that your example and belief in us will now inspire others to follow your lead and support GIWC so that we may reach more and more girls in Westchester. We are looking forward to all the great partnership opportunities that lie ahead.

Letter from Ellen Kraus

Dear Members, Sponsors and Friends,

These last few months have been very busy at Girls Inc. of Westchester County, and we have a lot to celebrate and share.

Since incorporating and receiving official provisional membership as a Girls Inc. affiliate, we received our tax exempt status late last year and have been operating as a full fledged not-for-profit organization since January. The group of "strong, smart, and bold" women who make up the board of directors and committees have worked tirelessly to build the foundations and to launch this organization. I am very proud to be the first Chairperson of Girls Inc. of Westchester. We have achieved many milestones since January.

We have been able to hire our founder and Vice Chair, Ms. Sally Baker, to be our first Executive Director. Sally has more than seven years experience working with Girls Inc. and she had been blazing the trail, working tirelessly for the last 2 years to establish Girls Inc. in Westchester. Going forward, with Sally's experience, enthusiasm and leadership, I am confident that GIWC will continue to grow and flourish.

The most exciting news is that we have started serving girls! In April and May, we delivered 2 pilot programs at the Port Chester Carver Center, and at the end of September we held an incredibly successful financial literacy conference in White Plains, called *A Man Is Not A Financial Plan*. This initial programming is just a preview of all the wonderful and innovative programs that Girls Inc. will deliver to Westchester girls going forward.

We want to thank each and every one of you, as we would not be where we are if not for your generous support and donations. In the coming months I hope to reconnect with each of you to thank you personally for all of your support. I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming events!

Best regards,

Ellen Kraus

Chairperson, Girls Inc. of Westchester County



Letter from Sally Baker

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to serve as the first Executive Director of Girls Inc. of Westchester County and to work with an amazing and ever-expanding network of passionate individuals committed to inspiring Westchester girls to be strong, smart and bold.



Having worked for Girls Inc. of New York City for seven years, and witnessed first-hand how Girls Inc. literally transforms girls lives, I am thrilled that we are now in a position to begin addressing the needs and celebrating the strengths of Westchester girls. The Needs Assessment that we conducted last summer confirms that there is not only a tremendous need for Girls Inc. research-based programs, but also a number of organizations eager to partner with Girls Inc. to complement the work they are already doing and achieve better outcomes for Westchester girls.

In the coming months we will be working with community partners to pilot a variety of programs, from mother/daughter workshops focusing on economic literacy or communication building around issues of puberty, to a semester long Media Literacy program that gives girls the opportunity to craft the kinds of messages they think girls should hear. And we will continue to forge the relationships and lay the foundation to offer even more programs and serve even more girls in 2008.

At Girls Inc. Westchester, we know that every girl – regardless of her age, background, interests, or dreams – has the potential for greatness. We are looking forward to delivering programs, creating supportive environments, and providing experiences and opportunities that allow girls to broaden their sense of what is possible and to achieve their potential. We hope you will support our efforts to do so, and we look forward to continuing to share our progress with you.

Sincerely,

Sally Baker

Programming Underway

Program Launch in Port Chester

Girls Inc. Westchester kicked off its first ever programming this spring at the Carver Center in Port Chester! In anticipation of year long Girls Inc. programming at Carver starting this winter, the girls were given a taste of a Girls Inc. program. We were also able to hear directly from them about the challenges they're facing and the kinds of programs they would like Girls Inc. to deliver.



Our facilitators were not surprised to find what we always find when we bring girls together in a safe and supportive all-girl environment – they are eager to engage and share what's on their mind and they are quick to embrace the Girls Inc. message. After just two Girls Inc. sessions, girls told us: "I learned that it's okay to be myself;" and "Girls should have self confidence and be strong, smart, and bold." They are thrilled to have Girls Inc. at the Carver Center, and we are looking forward to working with them again when we bring our Media Literacy program – Girls Get the MessageSM to the Teen Center in January.

More to Come...

Thanks to a small grant from the Open Meadows Foundation, plans are underway to offer **Growing TogetherSM** -- our Mother/Daughter communication building workshop around issues of puberty -- in White Plains in February. This fun and interactive workshop not only helps parents and daughters have "the talk," but ensures that they keep talking throughout the challenging years of adolescence.



Financial Literacy Conference a Resounding Success

Over 100 people turned out for our first conference, **A Man is Not A Financial Plan**, held at Berkeley College in White Plains in partnership with the Financial Planning Association of the Greater Hudson Valley, and the Financial Women's Association. Girls and their mothers came from throughout the county on a beautiful Saturday to learn practical tips for ensuring a financially secure future for themselves and their families. They attended fun and interactive workshops with their peers, met women who had taken different paths to financial independence, and got comfortable talking about money and planning for their futures. Interest in the conference was overwhelming and we had to turn people away due to space constraints, which shows that we clearly hit on an important topic. The interest was so high and the feedback was so positive that we are considering doing it again. Pictures and more details about the conference will soon be available on our website, but here's a taste of what some of the participants had to say.

This was fun and extremely helpful. Thank you!

15 year old, Mt. Vernon



It was wonderful attending this workshop. Now I can take what I have learned and use it to help me lead a better and financially stable life - 16 year old, White Plains

The fact that this was a free event made it possible for people who really need this advice to attend. Thank you! Mother

And, given the overwhelming response to our recent A Man Is Not A Financial Plan conference, we are now seeking funding for **Money TalksSM**! -- our family financial literacy workshop that we hope to begin offering in the winter for girls and their mothers at various locations throughout the county.

Thanks to your support, GIWC is off and running to make a difference in the lives of girls in Westchester!



Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart and boldSM

Board of Directors

- Ellen Kraus, President
- Valerie Adelman, Treasurer
- Sally Baker (ex-officio)
- Judy Bartlett
- Jean Brewster
- Cheryl Campbell
- Kay Cioffi
- Madi Ferencz
- Wanda Meyers
- Pamela Rubin
- Doreen Stephens
- Sara Werder

Girls Inc. Bill of Rights

We believe that girls have the right to:

- Be themselves and resist gender stereotypes
- Express themselves with originality and enthusiasm
- Take risks, strive freely and take pride in success
- Accept and appreciate their bodies
- Have confidence in themselves and be safe in the world
- Prepare for interesting work and economic independence

Girls Inc. of Westchester County

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It's Fashionable to Support GIWC

Worth Sample Sale

Thanks to Grace Yeung, GIWC received a donation of a large and varied selection of the high priced designer clothing sold under the exclusive WORTH label. We held a very successful sample sale, offering beautiful dresses, sweaters, coats, evening wear and accessories at incredible prices. We had a great turnout, and those who attended got some gorgeous things at unbelievable prices. Best of all, the full amount of the proceeds from the sale went to help Girls Inc. Westchester.

Bloomingdale's Partnership

We were delighted to have been selected as one of a handful of Girls Inc. affiliates to receive proceeds from Bloomingdale's fall Fashion Fundraiser, and are thrilled to have entered into a partnership with Bloomingdale's White Plains that has already brought in unanticipated revenue and some terrific visibility for our new chapter.



Wise Wonderful Women of Westchester

We were thrilled to have been chosen as the beneficiary of the 8th annual Wise Wonderful Women of Westchester sponsored by the WAG, a Mary Ann Liebert publication, and held at IBM on Nov. 11th. Thank you to all of you who supported GIWC by coming out to hear how some of Westchester's high-powered women are balancing their careers and personal and family lives.