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**Girls Inc. of NW Oregon's Heart of a Woman Luncheon Raised More than \$40,000 for School-based Empowerment Programs, Assertiveness Education, and Community Advocacy for Girl-affirming Policies and Practices**

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PORTLAND, Ore.—October 24, 2007—Girls Incorporated of Northwest Oregon®, auction the premier provider of school-based empowerment programs, assertiveness education, and community advocacy for girl-affirming policies and practices, today announced that it successfully raised more than \$40,000, at the Annual Heart of a Woman Fall Luncheon, to empower local girls to be strong, smart, bold and economically independent.

Girls Inc.'s welcomed more than 300 men and women from the Portland metro area to honor the Girl, Volunteer, and Business Partner of the Year at the their Annual Heart of a Woman Fall Luncheon, held on October 18, 2007. "This year's Luncheon was our most successful—and touching—yet. It is testimony to the work we do and the progress we continue to make empowering Oregon girls to be strong, smart, and bold as they prepare for adulthood," said Annette Klinefelter, founder and Executive Director of Girls Inc. of NW Oregon, "I would like to thank all of our Luncheon attendees for their generous show of support through record breaking attendance and contributions, which allows us to continue to help all girls recognize their potential and exercise their rights." The next Girls Inc. fundraising event, The Power of the Purse, will be held April 10<sup>th</sup> 2008 and will auction off one-of-a-kind handbags, designed by local celebrities and purse designers—all proceeds support Girls Inc. programs.

**About Girls Inc. of Northwest Oregon**

Girls Incorporated of Northwest Oregon®, the premier provider of school-based empowerment programs, assertiveness education, and community advocacy for girl-affirming policies and practices, helps all girls to realize their potential and exercise their rights, and inspires them to be strong, smart, and bold. Girls Incorporated of Northwest Oregon serves all girls particularly those who face intergenerational poverty, juvenile crime, substance abuse, and school failure. 85% of Girls Inc. girls live in poverty, 50% of are ethnic minorities, and 75% have been impacted by family violence.

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