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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Girls Inc. of NW Oregon Honors Local Girl, Volunteer, and Business Partner of the Year at Annual Celebration Luncheon; Launches Ground Breaking Mentorship Program

PORTLAND, Ore.—October 18, 2007—Girls Inc. of NW Oregon®, the premier provider of school-based empowerment programs, assertiveness education, and community advocacy for girl-affirming policies and practices, announced today that its Annual Celebration Luncheon, Heart of a Woman, will take place at the Governor Hotel, Heritage Ballroom, on Thursday, October 18, 2007, at 11:30 a.m. The Luncheon will bring together girls, volunteers, sponsors, supporters, and community and business leaders from across the Portland Metro area to honor the following individuals for their strong, smart, and bold service and achievement this past year:

- Girl of the Year: Krystal Moore
- Volunteer of the Year: Jeannie Ellis
- Business Partner of the Year: White Horse

The Luncheon provides a great opportunity for community members, parents, and educators to get to know Girls Inc., learn about the new way that any girl age 8–20 can participate in our empowering programming, and most of all meet some of the girls that we've inspire to be strong, smart and bold!

Ground-breaking mentorship program

The Luncheon also will launch the Girls Inc. Associates Mentoring Program—the only mentoring program of its kind in the country to provide meaningful workplace-oriented mentorship for girls during the workday through collective mentoring. The Associates Mentoring Program will:

- Connect girls to professional women mentors
- Orient girls to futures thinking and opportunities
- Give girls the opportunity to collectively create a product or project that represents the interests of girls while introducing them to the many layers of a business organization
- Make mentoring accessible to busy professional women
- Increase the involvement of the business and service communities in all aspects of our programs through a strong volunteer “associates” program

“Professional women mentoring girls provides one of the most successful methods of ensuring girls’ financial literacy, futures thinking, and equal to access Oregon’s economy as future employees,” stated Annette Klinefelter, found and Executive Director of Girls Inc. of NW Oregon. “Our program goes far beyond businesses giving employees time off to volunteer. It provides businesses, who invest in their employees’ personal development through volunteerism, a program where teams of professional women collectively mentor teams of girls in and out of the workplace. The rewards and benefits are exponential on all sides—the business, the employees, and most of all the girls.”

The Challenge Project

Mentors and their girls meet at the company worksite twice a month to work together on their Challenge—a project or product relevant to girls and related to the work of the company. Girls also receive individual mentoring once a month from one of the women professionals, participate in Girls Inc. events, and have occasional recreational or service-oriented outings with women mentors centered on healthy fun. The Challenge Project introduces girls to key career learning points, such as how to work cooperatively in a professional environment, build a strong work ethic, and experience healthy competition.

For more information about Girls Inc. of NW Oregon

Visit www.girlsincnworegon.org or call Jeannette Shupp, Communications Manager, at 503-230-0054. For more information on participating in the Associates Mentoring Program, contact Stacey Royce, Program Manager, at 503-230-0054.

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 our girls live in poverty. 50% of our girls are ethnic minorities. 75% have been impacted by family violence.

About the Associates Mentoring Program

The Girls Inc. Associates Mentoring Program is the only one of its kind in the country to provide meaningful workplace-oriented mentorship for girls during the workday through collective mentoring. A team of professional women from a business collectively mentor a group of girls primarily in the workplace. Mentors and their girls meet at the company worksite twice a month to work together on their Challenge—a project or product relevant to girls and related to the work of the company. Girls also receive individual mentoring once a month from one of the women professionals, participate in Girls Inc. events, and have occasional recreational or service-oriented outings with women mentors centered on healthy fun.

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