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Girls Inc. of the Seacoast Area Announce Winners of First Annual “Breaking the Glass Ceiling Awards” to be presented on November 17
Three Extraordinary Women and One Bold Girl to be Honored

NEWBURYPORT, Mass. October 21, 2010 – The Girls Incorporated of the Seacoast Area, which was established as a Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center program in 2008 and is hosting its first annual “Breaking the Glass Ceiling Awards Luncheon” has announced the names of three inspiring women leaders including a CEO, firefighter and an English teacher and one strong, smart and bold girl to be honored at the celebration luncheon on November 17.

The Community Leader Award recipient is Sue Marden, a Merrimac resident who serves Bedford, NH as the only fulltime female firefighter. In addition, she has taken an active leadership role in initiatives to upgrade the Merrimac girls softball program with new equipment, improved field conditions, better uniforms and the establishment of the nonprofit Merrimac Softball League.

The Business Leader Award winner is Delia O’Connor, president and CEO of Anna Jaques Hospital since 2005 who has been recognized by her peers at the American College of Healthcare Executives for her work in improving healthcare delivery. She was also commended for creating an exemplary workplace environment by Boston Business Journal when Anna Jaques Hospital was named as one of the 2010 Best Places to Work.

The Education Leader Award will be presented to Patty Hoyt, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a masters degree from Salem State University who has been an innovative teacher of English teacher at Amesbury High School for 35 years. In addition, in 1989, she was part of a delegation of women, including US Congresswomen, from across the nation who traveled to the USSR to meet Russian woman and other diplomats as part of a peace mission.

The first ever Bold Girl Award will be received by Bryna Shuman, a 16-year-old Newburyport resident and National Honor Society student who has been an active community volunteer collecting canned goods, making baby quilts and Easter baskets for the DARE house, Christmas caroling at local nursing homes and serving as a People to People student ambassador in places such as Germany, Switzerland and Belgium.

“Girls Inc. of the Seacoast Area is taking this opportunity to recognize three outstanding women and one amazing girl for the many profound ways they each contribute to the quality of life for girls. We are thrilled to honor these exceptionally inspiring members of the community,” says Suzanne Dubus, CEO and executive director of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center.

The nominees had to live or work in the communities of Amesbury, Newburyport, Salisbury, West Newbury, Merrimac, Rowley, Ipswich, Newbury, Georgetown or Groveland. The three adult awards were selected for recognition from the fields of education, community service or business and have demonstrated their leadership in creating opportunities or effecting change for women and girls. The girl nominees had to be between the ages of 6 and 18 and have demonstrated leadership in her school or community.

Award recipients will be honored at the Breaking the Glass Ceiling Luncheon and Awards on Wednesday, November 17 between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Seaglass Restaurant in Salisbury. The Presenting Sponsor is Arthur S. Page Insurance and a keynote address will be given by Salem State University President Patricia Meservy. There will be a Grab a Bag, Give to Girls silent auction which will feature a selection of premier handbags. For more information about tickets to the event, call 978-465-0999.

Girls Incorporated is a national research, education, and direct advocacy organization that inspires girls to be strong, smart, and bold. Programs, based on research gathered at the Girls Inc. national resource center, encourage girls ages 6 to 18 to take risks and master physical, intellectual, and emotional challenges. Girls Inc. of the Seacoast Area is a provisional affiliate of the national organization and a program of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center.

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