

Girl Power

Polly Corbett knows what it means to be a girl, and that includes having rights.

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By Wendy Killeen

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"No one should tell girls what to do; they should make their own choices," said Corbett, 11, of Newburyport, in an illustrated essay that won a Girls' Rights Week creative expression contest.

The contest was sponsored by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center Inc. in Newburyport and its division of Girls Inc. of the Seacoast Area.

"Girls should have the right to play sports because they need to be physically strong to jump through hoops in life," Corbett wrote. "Girls should know it's their bodies and no one should touch it in a harmful way."

A sixth-grader at the Rupert Nock Middle School in Newburyport, Corbett was recently honored at the Dare to Dream breakfast hosted by the crisis center.

She read her essay to the large group of invited guests.

For more than 25 years, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has been helping individuals and families at risk from domestic violence. Girls Inc. is a national research, education, and advocacy organization that encourages girls to be "strong, smart, and bold."

Girls Inc. of the Seacoast Area is an affiliate of the national organization and a division of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. Call 978-465-0999 or visit www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org.

