

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WJZ's Maria Broom Brings Dance To Baltimore's Beyond Bars Program

Baltimore—Former WJZ reporter Maria Broom, who is known to many for her roles in HBO's "The Wire" and "The Corner," will bring her storytelling and dance talents to girls and their mothers at the Women's Detention Facility in Jessup, Maryland on Saturday, March 4, 2006. The performance will take place during one of two regularly scheduled Girl Scout troop meetings at the detention facility as part of the council's Beyond Bars program. The Beyond Bars Girl Scout troop consists of 17 girls--and 13 moms who reside at the facility.

The Girl Scouts Beyond Bars program debuted in Baltimore through the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (GSCM) council about 14 years ago. Partnerships with the National Institute of Justice and the Maryland Department of Corrections enable GSCM to provide support and encouragement to a population often overlooked—daughters of incarcerated women. The key elements of this award winning program include:

- Helping to reduce the trauma that girls may experience from having an incarcerated parent
- Helping to reduce the incidence of intergenerational incarceration
- Helping mothers work towards being better parents during incarceration and upon their return to the community.

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- Help mothers maintain connection and involvement with their daughters and sustain the mother/daughter bond

Since 1992 over 200 Baltimore area girls have benefited from this program. The GSCM Beyond Bars program has been recognized by the National Institute of Justice, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Maryland Criminal Justice Association. Over 50 Girl Scout councils nationwide have replicated this life-changing program in their cities and states.

Exposure to performances like the one Ms. Broom will render are all a part of an on-going effort to ensure that the girls take part in activities that are inspiring and uplifting. The fact that they can take part in some of these activities with their mothers—despite the fact that they are incarcerated—is an added plus that goes a long way. One of the Beyond Bars participants had this to say about the program:

“ Girl Scouts Beyond Bars brought my mother and me much closer together. Girl Scouts showed my mother how to be a better mother. And girl Scouts taught me to be a better daughter...”

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland provides programs and activities to girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland is the 9th largest of 315 councils in the U.S. serving 30,000 girls. Girl Scouts is committed to helping girls develop character, confidence and courage so that they can become leaders of tomorrow. For more information about the Beyond Bars program contact Girl Scouts of Central Maryland or visit www.gscm.org.

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