

**PRESS RELEASE**



Girl Scouts of Central Maryland  
4806 Seton Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21215-3216  
T 410 358 9711 F 410 358 9833  
Toll Free 800 492 2521

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Danita Terry, Director of Communications  
(410) 358-9711/ [dterry@gscm.org](mailto:dterry@gscm.org)

**Annual Distinguished Women's Award Reception  
Hosted by Girl Scouts of Central Maryland**

**Former SBA Deputy Administrator Melanie Sabelhaus and Margaret Preston,  
Mercantile Bankshares Executive Vice President, Serve as Event Co-Chairs**

Baltimore –Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (GSCM) will host its Annual Distinguished Women's Award Reception at a private club in Baltimore on Thursday, April 6 from 5:30pm-8:00pm. This annual event pays special tribute to women who personify that to which every Girl Scout aspires—courage, confidence and character. Signature Sponsor of the event is the **Alex. Brown & Sons Charitable Foundation**. For tickets contact JoAnne deBettencourt, 410.358.9711, ext. 247.

The 2006 honorees, representing a myriad of professional disciplines, are: The Honorable Ellen M. Heller; Jacqueline C. Hrabowski; Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.; Y. Maria Welch; and E. Follin Smith. One of the perks bestowed upon each honoree is the appointment of a specially selected Girl Scout to “shadow” them in their respective fields. The sentiment of a former honoree captures the impact of that opportunity: “It is amazing what a profound effect this has on a Girl Scout, if only for one day.”

*Every Girl, Everywhere*, the outreach initiative of GSCM, is the beneficiary of all contributions received via this increasingly popular event. Outreach programs highlight the evolving nature of Girl Scouts which seek to address the varying needs of *all* girls in Central Maryland. Baltimore

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**Where Girls Grow Strong<sup>SM</sup>**

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being ranked as the second most violent city in America has fostered the creation of the following outreach programs throughout the counties we serve: P.A.V.E. (Project Anti-Violence Education); In-School and After-School Girl Scouting; Waxter Center (Girls at Thomas J.S. Waxter Juvenile Center); Beyond Bars (incarcerated mothers at the Women's Correctional Facility in Jessup and their daughters); and Bridge Beyond Bars (mothers in the pre-release stages of their term and their daughters).

The "Beyond Bars" program, which was piloted by GSCM in 1992, has since been replicated at over 22 Girl Scout Councils nationwide. The program works to enhance relationships between incarcerated women and their daughters. GSCM expanded the program to mothers in pre-release with "Bridge Beyond Bars". This program goes one step further by supporting mothers and their families with goal setting, financial planning and other assistance as they prepare to transition back into society.

GSCM is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest among the 316 Councils in the United States and is proactive with its development of cutting edge programs for the nearly 31,000 girl members in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties. Information on all of our programs, volunteer and donation information can be found on our website at [www.gscm.org](http://www.gscm.org).

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