

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Girl Scouts Announce Partnership with SAFER Prevention at Symposium for Educators and Community Leaders

Baltimore City—Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (GSCM) is partnering with “Families for Prevention” to enhance anti-drug and anti-violence education programs currently administered through its P.A.V.E. (Project Anti-Violence Education) initiative. The partnership will extend GSCM’s current programmatic reach—elementary and middle school-aged children—to pre-school children and parents. A menu of programming options for use in schools and recreation centers will be presented at a symposium sponsored by Girl Scouts of Central Maryland on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park, Founders Room at 1417 Thames Street, in Baltimore City. City and education representatives attending include Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Maryland’s State Superintendent of Schools, the Honorable Sheila Dixon, Baltimore City Council President and Annapolis Mayor, Ellen Moyer. Representatives from Junior Achievement, the Verizon Foundation, Northrup Grumman and the Baltimore Ravens ACT Foundation will also be in attendance.

Girl Scouts’ mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. In keeping with that mission GSCM provides activities and programs, for all girls ages five to seventeen years of age, that focus on developing strong ethics, sound decision-making capabilities and high self-esteem so that they can effectively deal with the personal and social issues facing young women today. P.A.V.E. is part of GSCM’s *Every Girl, Everywhere* outreach initiatives—programs specifically designed to address the needs of girls deemed at-risk. During the 2006 school-year, girls in 60 public schools and seven recreation centers and 12 PAL centers in some of Baltimore City’s lowest economic areas participated in GSCM’s outreach programs.

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Where Girls Grow StrongSM

“We are extremely pleased with this partnership,” commented Traci A. Barnett, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. “We have been working diligently to increase our programmatic impact in schools. We hope that through this symposium and this partnership, more girls will realize the possibilities that exist through Girl Scouting, including the development of leadership skills, self-esteem and self-awareness.”

The “Families for Prevention” program is designed to intervene with drug and alcohol attitudes and acceptance, providing age specific and age appropriate programs for pre-school through eighth grade children. The “Families for Prevention” program has been made possible through the generous support of the Substance Abuse Foundation for Education and Research (SAFER), a Charitable Trust. SAFER’s mission is to help school districts and other non-profit organizations fund and initiate prevention programs for young children that target underlying causes, focus on prevention and provide long-term results. The funding provided by the SAFER Foundation is supporting Girl Scouts of Central Maryland to provide Experience Education’s Families for Prevention program to nearly 3500 youth this year.

Girl Scouts is the largest organization for girls and women in Maryland, and serves nearly 30,000 girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland offers an informal educational program designed to provide an active learning environment where girls are valued, challenged and guided to become capable self-reliant women.

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