

**PRESS RELEASE**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Girl Scouts of Central Maryland CEO Receives Leadership and Communication Award**

**Baltimore**— Traci Barnett, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, was awarded the Leadership and Communication Award by Toastmasters International. Toastmasters International has been in existence for more than 80 years and offers a proven and enjoyable way to practice and hone the communication and leadership skills of its members. Ms. Barnett received the award for her leadership in improving the personal lives of at-risk girls and women who are behind bars through Girl Scouts of Central Maryland's *Beyond Bars* outreach program. The *Beyond Bars* program allows girls to meet bi-monthly with their mothers who are incarcerated at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women. The program addresses the traumatic issues that both mothers and their daughters experience as a result of incarceration, which includes low self-esteem, loss of dignity and depression.

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland originated the Girl Scouts *Beyond Bars* program in collaboration with the National Institute of Justice 15 years ago. Girls in the *Beyond Bars* program range from Daisy Girl Scout to Senior Girl Scout levels. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland's award winning *Beyond Bars* program has been replicated in over 37 Girl Scout councils across the country. For more information about the program, visit [www.gscm.org](http://www.gscm.org).

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*Girl Scouts of the USA is the largest organization dedicated solely to girls. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland serves nearly 30,000 girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. With the help of 10,000 adult volunteers, the Girl Scout leadership development program develops girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.*

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