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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Girls Embrace “New” Leadership Style of Local Women Leaders

Baltimore—Today’s girls have a new way of thinking about leadership, according to a report by the Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI). Girls believe that a leader is someone who works with others to make things happen and, that leadership is knowing what you believe in and putting it into action. Five local Girl Scouts were able to see this ethic in action during their shadow experiences—a day-on-the-job with one of five Girl Scouts of Central Maryland’s Distinguished Women Honorees. The Girl Scout’s day on the job will be spotlighted at the annual **Distinguished Women’s Award Reception on April 30**, from 5:30p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Baltimore Country Club in Roland Park. Event tickets are still available online or by contacting Maria T. Johnson, Vice President of Advancement at mjohnson@gscm.org or 410.358.9711. The 2009 Distinguished Women Honorees are: Laura B. Black, Carmen Ortiz Larsen, Sharon R. Pinder, Paula B. Singer and Jenny Trostel (bios of each of the honorees can be found at: www.gscm.org/supportus/dwevent/honorees/honorees.html#1).

There are 160,000 women owned businesses in the state of Maryland that generate more than \$21 billion in sales. “Being able to provide our older Girl Scouts with the opportunity to see first-hand how these women, as well as other women executives, handle the responsibilities associated with their businesses allows us to offer a unique and empowering experience to our girls,” said Traci A. Barnett, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland CEO. “This experience,” she added, “helps girls to discover how their dreams can be realized by connecting with women who are living their own dreams.”

“Mrs. (Laura) Black has already changed my world just by altering my perspective on numerous things, like the way you treat others, networking, prioritizing, volunteering,” said Girl Scout Molly Malarkey of her day-long experience with entrepreneur and community leader Laura B. Black. “I know that I can carry with me everything she has taught me, and that I can be successful in my future.”

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“Paula Singer became who she is today not because of an agenda but rather a passion,” noted Girl Scout Caroline Ladzinski. “She was a teacher with an idea, a person with drive and a woman with an incredible spirit. Now she is an executive of a multimillion dollar corporation,” Caroline added.

According to the GSRI report, *Change it Up! What Girls Say About Redefining Leadership*, this is the kind of leadership that excites today’s girls and the kind of leadership they are attracted to. For them the days of leadership for the sake of power are gone. Today’s girls want to be leaders because they want to help other people, share their knowledge and skills with others and change the world for the better.

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Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland serves 30,000 girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties providing programs and activities that allow them to Discover, Connect and Take Action.