



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

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

## **Girl Scouts' CEO is a "CEO You Need to Know"**

Baltimore--Girl Scouts of Central Maryland's (GSCM) Chief Executive Officer, Traci A. Barnett, M.B.A., is among the 2009 "25 CEOs You Need to Know," an honor given by the Gazette of Politics & Business to presidents and CEOs of small, medium and large organizations who are not only running successful businesses, but are also giving back to their community. "We're excited about this year's astute and diversified group of leaders" said Cliff Chiet of The Gazette. "These presidents and CEOs are not only running successful businesses, but are also giving back to their community."

Ms. Barnett, along with GSCM Board Member, Dr. Ellen H. Yankellow, President and CEO of Correct Rx Pharmacy Services, Inc. was among the 2009 Smart100 CEOs named by SmartCEO magazine. The award spotlights local CEOs for their leadership, strategic vision and character. Ms. Barnett oversees an operating budget of \$5.5 million, a full-time staff of 53, four camp properties and two council stores as well as the annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program which yielded \$3.3 million in revenues this year and donated 13,696 boxes of cookies to their annual Gift of Caring Project, Operation U.S. Mint, in a recurring collaboration with the local USO.

"I am proud to have been named a SmartCEO and a "CEO You Need to Know," said Ms. Barnett. "But," she added, "I am even more proud of the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (GSCM) council staff, Board of Directors and volunteers who work together to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, via programs and activities for 30,000 girls ages 5-17 in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. Our mission is to encourage girls to lead with courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place." She added, "Receiving this award demonstrates that we live up to this promise in both spirit and action." **-more-**

Ms. Barnett has received numerous awards for her business leadership during her tenure as Girl Scouts of Central Maryland CEO. She is a member of Network 2000, a member of the Greater Baltimore Committee, Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce and the Girl Scout Legislative Coalition of Maryland. Ms. Barnett is a 2006 recipient of Smart Woman/Smart CEO Magazine's BRAVO Award and was one of four CEO's from across the country to assist with the development of a new program model for Girl Scouts of the USA, which began implementation in 2008. She also received the Toastmasters International Leadership and Communication Award in 2007 and was named a Maryland Top 100 Woman by the Daily Record in 2008.

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Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland provides a myriad of programs and activities for nearly 30,000 girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. These experiences encourage girls to discover their potential, connect with others in their communities who inspire them to take action to fulfill their dreams.