



Empowering  
**GIRLS**  
for Life



Girl Scout Council of Orange County **2007 ANNUAL REPORT**



Girl Scouts®

## Our **Vision**

Girl Scout Council of Orange County creates THE BEST Leadership Development experiences for all girls in Orange County.

## Our **Mission**

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.



*“In Girl Scouts, leadership isn’t just about building future leaders—it’s about building girl leaders for today.” —Kathy Cloninger, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA*

# Girl Scouts is about the leadership in all of us and how we lead our lives, today and everyday.

What do we do best in Girl Scouting? Quite simply, we develop leaders.

When Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouts 95 years ago, she encouraged girls to reach beyond the narrow and rigid roles that held females back. She gave girls from diverse backgrounds unparalleled opportunities to develop self-reliance and resourcefulness, and inspired them to prepare for professional and community leadership roles.

Girls growing up in the U.S. today are still marginalized, but in different ways. Negative influences and pervasive pressure for girls to look and behave a certain way threaten their self image and undermine positive values. Girl Scouting's intentional focus on leadership development boosts girls' confidence in their own skills and competencies. We prepare girls for future success while **empowering them to become leaders of their own lives today.**

Girls who **develop real-life skills and self-confidence, and get to practice leadership** in a supportive and cooperative environment — the very basis of the Girl Scout program — are more likely to emerge as leaders. Generations of accomplished women credit Girl Scouting with helping them build the confidence and skills required to rise to the top of their professions.

The Girl Scout program utilizes three powerful Leadership Keys to help girls **Discover** themselves and the world, **Connect** with others, and **Take Action** to make the world a better place. Vital to the delivery of the program are **thousands of volunteers** who are dedicated to unlocking the potential within every girl in Orange County.

This past year, the Council strengthened its efforts to ensure that our **valued volunteers enjoy quality and rewarding experiences** in Girl Scouting. Our commitment to them has been advanced in our 2008 – 2010 Strategic Plan.

As an organization dedicated to bringing out the best in others, we also examined our internal processes in 2007. We reaffirmed an **organizational culture that values and rewards honesty, respect, cooperation and professionalism** in all our interactions, internally and externally.

In June, as a result of the Council's consistently sound financial management practices, we made a long-anticipated and much-needed move to a new headquarters in Irvine. The building's larger size and professional layout allows us to provide **additional resources for girls and volunteers** and a more efficient administrative environment for staff.

As we are increasingly recognized as the **voice for girls in Orange County**, we continue to seek better and more effective ways to make our vision a reality. We are only able to do this because of our extraordinary volunteers and board members, dedicated staff, and a generous community that supports our mission.

We are proud to present this report. We invite you to take a few moments to see and appreciate the many ways Girl Scouts are **making a positive impact in Orange County.**

Sincerely,



Susan Luehrs



Nancy Nygren



Susan Luehrs, 2007 Board Chair



Nancy Nygren, CEO

*“A leader is defined not only by the qualities and skills one has, but also by how those qualities and skills are used to make a difference in the world.” —Elizabeth, Girl Scout, age 16*

# The world is ready for a new kind of leader. She is called a Girl Scout.

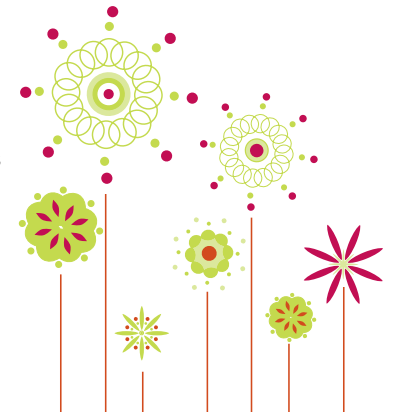
The Girl Scout program is redefining leadership in meaningful terms. It's not about control; it's a philosophy of **personal responsibility, respect for self and others, and community service**. The factor that most strongly influences a girl's desire to actively pursue leadership is confidence in her own skills and competencies.

The Girl Scout program incorporates three powerful **Leadership Keys** that inspire girls to:

- Discover:** Understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.
- Connect:** Care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally.
- Take Action:** Make their neighborhoods, communities, and the world, a better place, today and everyday.

Girl Scouting is flexible, so that girls from every community and life circumstance can benefit from Girl Scout leadership experiences. Girl Scouts participate in different ways:

- Troops
- Travel
- Short-term sessions
- Special interest activities and events
- Resident and Day Camps



Financial Literacy



Active Lifestyles



Business Skills



Cultural Awareness



*“What leadership means to me is bringing others together as one and helping them do things they have never tried before.”—Shelley, Girl Scout, age 11*

Every girl wants to do something amazing with her life.

## Girl Scouts are doing it.



Girl Scout **community service work shapes future leaders** and sets them on a lifelong path to committed citizenship. Through their service projects, the girls learn more about themselves and others and begin to realize their power to make a difference in the world.

Orange County Girl Scouts of all ages, in teams or individually and in partnership with adult volunteers, contributed tens of thousands of hours to the following people and causes in 2007:

- Abused & abandoned animals
- Automobile & pedestrian safety
- Beaches, parks & wildlife habitats
- Blind & hearing-impaired children
- Breast cancer & other disease research
- Homeless & hungry children & adults
- Hospitalized children & their families
- Impoverished children & families
- Military troops abroad & in hospitals
- Nursing home & rehab patients
- Orphans & foster children, at home and abroad
- Women & children in shelters



### Leadership Awards

Many girls aspire to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold leadership awards. Starting as early as grade 4, award candidates complete multiple projects that address problems in their communities or beyond. As the girls move into higher grades, the requirements become more challenging.

A **Gold Award** candidate (age 15 – 17) must possess extraordinary leadership and organizational skills and make a commitment of more than 150 hours and 1-2 years to earn the esteemed award. In 2007, **166** exceptional Orange County teens earned the **ultimate leadership award**, the Girl Scout Gold Award, and contributed nearly **12,000 hours of community service** addressing such important issues as poverty, hunger, the environment, literacy and automobile safety.

*“In earning my Silver Award and continuing my progress with the Gold, I have become attuned to the needs of other people and hope to continue applying the ideas and tools I learned in Girl Scouts, ready to take a stand and make a difference.” —Rebecca, Girl Scout, age 16*

# Girl Scouting provides a powerful antidote for the negative pressures faced by today's girls.

Girl Scouting counteracts a pressure-cooker world of negative influences and pervasive pressures that marginalize girls. Through fun, age-appropriate activities that are girl-led, based on learning-by-doing and cooperative learning, Girl Scouts develop real-life skills and confidence and get to practice leadership in a supportive and cooperative environment.

Community service, nature and wildlife conservation, financial literacy, the arts, business skills, career research, outdoor skills, technology and science activities enable Girl Scouts to:

- Gain self-confidence and practical skills
- Promote cooperation and team building
- Become critical thinkers and resourceful problem solvers
- Develop planning, organizational and business skills
- Identify community needs and contribute to solutions.



**Bilingual Programs**



**Career Planning**



**Nature and Wildlife Conservation**



**Teen Moms Growing Strong**

*"I was thinking about dropping out of school, but becoming a Girl Scout made me realize how important it is for me and my baby to finish, and maybe even go on to college." —Anita, Teen Moms Troop, age 17*



Top to bottom: Suzanne Huffmon Esber, Martha Fluor, Debbie Mountford, and Christine Mueller were honored as the Council's most outstanding volunteers for 2007.

# Girl Scout volunteers are the very heart of Girl Scouting's success.

The influence one caring adult has on a child will last a lifetime. Multiply that by more than **5,000** active Orange County volunteers working with nearly **24,000** Girl Scouts, and it represents a groundswell of positive change.

Girl Scout volunteers interact with girls in a uniquely Girl Scout leadership style. In 2007, these dedicated individuals contributed almost **one million hours** providing healthy, supportive partnerships with the girls and serving as advisors, mentors, motivators, and inspiring role models.

These caring and trained women and men are from every age group, walk of life and cultural community in Orange County, but they all have one thing in common—**they are changing girls' lives through Girl Scouting.**



*“Girl Scouts is changing girls’ lives every day and preparing them to help change the world. I am proud to be a part of something so wonderful.”*

—Virginia, volunteer



*“You have made Girl Scouts something we will carry with us forever. We aspire to become women that you will be proud of. You’ve exemplified strength and compassion, and have been role models for the kind of women we want to be.” —Natalie, Girl Scout, age17*

# Sound fiscal management practices ensure optimal resources for girls and volunteers.

## Girl Scout Council of Orange County Financial Statements\*

### Audited Statement of Financial Position

(as of December 31, 2007)

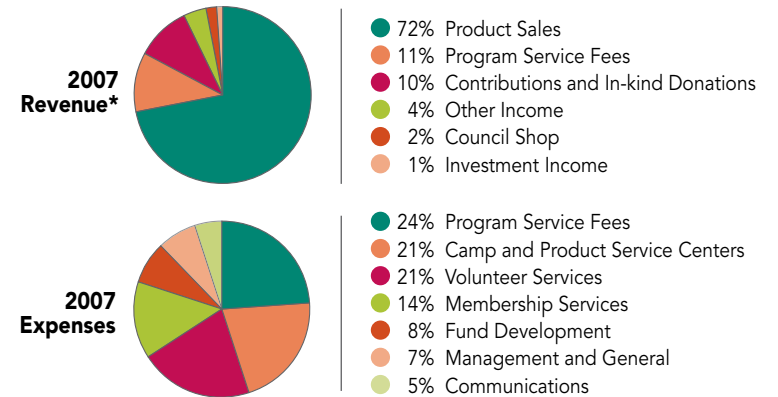
Total Assets	<u>\$ 14,559,987</u>
Liabilities	<u>\$ 1,711,543</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$ 12,848,444</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 14,559,987</u>

### Audited Statement of Activities

(as of December 31, 2007)

Total Support, Revenues and Gains	\$ 9,755,493
Total Functional Expenses	<u>\$ 8,269,391</u>
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,486,102
Net Assets, beginning of year	<u>\$11,829,206</u>
Net Assets, end of year	<u>\$12,848,444</u>

\*Excludes Friends of the Girl Scouts Trust.



\*Excludes \$2,281,079 from gain on sale of assets.

## Generous donors and community partners help girls become leaders of their own lives.

The Girl Scout Council of Orange County appreciates all gifts of "time, talent, and treasure" and is proud and honored to recognize the following individuals that provided financial support or partnered with Girl Scouts in 2007.

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\*All Trefoil Society members are also Promise Partners  
 Names in bold are 2007 Urban Adventure Sponsors

*"Words cannot express how much you have done for me and how grateful I am. I can't wait to become a leader and teach younger girls to give back." —Lisa, Girl Scout, age 17*

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*“I am only just beginning to see how Girl Scouting shaped who I am. I could not be more grateful to Girl Scouting for giving me such incredible opportunities.” —Izzy, Girl Scout alumnae*

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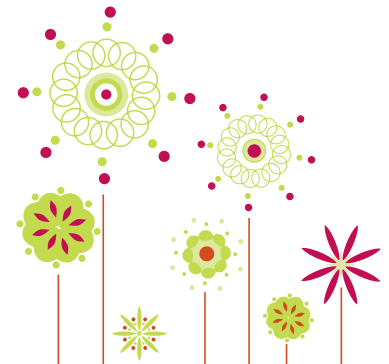
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We sincerely regret any omissions in the donor list. Please call the Fund Development Office with any questions.

*“Through my community service work, I have become aware of the importance of giving back to the earth and its people. I am forever grateful to Girl Scouts.” —Kierston, Girl Scout, age 15*

# The Girl Scout Council of Orange County is the community's largest organization preparing girls for future success while empowering them to become leaders of their own lives today.



In 2007, **23,621** Orange County girls built courage, confidence, and character, to make the world a better place through Girl Scout leadership experiences.

The **166 exceptional teens** who completed the rigorous requirements to earn the esteemed **Girl Scout Gold Award** contributed nearly **12,000 hours of community service** addressing such important issues as poverty, hunger, the environment, literacy, and automobile safety.

More than **5,000 volunteers** contributed almost **one million hours** providing healthy, supportive partnerships with girls and serving as advisors, mentors, motivators, and inspiring role models.

Nearly **600 Girl Scouts** were introduced to the rewards and challenges of various careers and the realities of paychecks versus paying bills in face-to-face meetings with more than **170 Orange County business and professional women and college students**.

**46 Teen Moms Growing Strong** troop members developed problem-solving and decision-making skills, confidence, and self-reliance to help them overcome barriers to graduation and future success.

Nearly **1,600 Girl Scouts in underserved bilingual communities and at-risk middle and high schools** had opportunities to develop leadership skills and experiment with leadership roles in special-interest and after school programs.

**8,806 girls of diversity** (nearly 38% of total girl membership) developed real-life skills and self-confidence and got to practice leadership in a supportive and cooperative environment.

Girl Scouts, working in partnership with Boy Scouts, collected **110,039 pounds of food** to help feed the county's less fortunate individuals and families.

**12,887 women and men** confirmed their belief in the Vision and Mission of the Girl Scout Council of Orange County by becoming Girl Scout members.

Girl Scouts, from ages 5 – 17, **contributed tens of 1,000s of community service hours** to Orange County people and causes, learning more about themselves and gaining awareness of their ability to make an impact on the world.

*"I joined Girl Scouts to have fun with my friends, but I've gained confidence, leadership skills and the value of giving back to the community." —Marissa, Girl Scout, age 15*

## About Girl Scouts

Girl Scouting provides the nation's most successful leadership development and positive values experiences for girls. Girl Scouts develop real-life skills and become empowered to make an impact in their communities. The Girl Scout Council of Orange County serves nearly 24,000 girls, reflecting the county's cultural and economic diversity. More than 5,000 active volunteers work in partnership with the girls, creating the fun, friendly, safe and girl-led environment that is the cornerstone of the Girl Scout leadership experience. Girl Scouts lead with courage, confidence, and character, to make the world a better place.

- 82% of high-achieving alumnae believe that Girl Scouting influenced their success.
- 64% of women listed in *Who's Who in America* were Girl Scouts.
- 68% of women in our current Congress were Girl Scouts.

## How To Reach Us

Girl Scout Council of Orange County  
9500 Toledo Way, Irvine, CA 92618  
tel: 949•461•8800 web: [www.gscoc.org](http://www.gscoc.org)

### To Volunteer

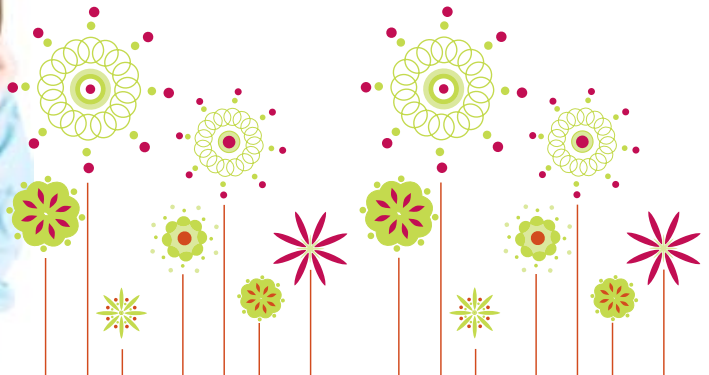
[Volunteers@gscoc.org](mailto:Volunteers@gscoc.org)

### To Donate

[SupportOCgirls@gscoc.org](mailto:SupportOCgirls@gscoc.org)

## The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:  
To serve God and my country,  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.



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