

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **At Dec. 10 Event, Girl Scouts Announced Sobering Facts About California Girls: State Ranks 29th in Terms of Girls' Well-Being**

**More than 800 influential LA business leaders gathered at the 2014 ToGetHerThere Luncheon,  
raising nearly \$445,000 for girl leadership programs in greater LA**

**LOS ANGELES, Dec. 12, 2014** – On Dec. 10, a network of **more than 800 of LA's most influential women and key business leaders** gathered at Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles' 2014 ToGetHerThere Luncheon at the Ray Dolby Ballroom to hear about the current state of girls in California—and how Girl Scouts is leading the way in supporting greater LA girls to become tomorrow's leaders. **The event raised nearly \$445,000 for critical Girl Scout programs in greater LA.**

[\(Click here to view photos from the event.\)](#)

After mentoring 100 Emerging Leader Girl Scouts—high schoolers who have demonstrated keen leadership ability—executives from **Deloitte, Ernst & Young, AIG, Alcoa, Herbalife, Union Bank, Toyota, Southern California Gas, Nestlé**, and more joined the girls for an inspiring luncheon focusing on women and girl leadership development. The program included talks by Girl Scout alumnae and Women of Distinction Honorees **Robin McGraw, bestselling author, television personality, philanthropist, and entrepreneur; Julie Hamp, group vice president and chief communications officer for Toyota North America**; as well as **Lise L. Luttgens, chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA)**; and **Anna Maria Chávez, national chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of the USA**. Fox11 News Anchor Christine Devine emceed.

GSGLA CEO Lise L. Luttgens kicked off the program by sharing the sobering findings of *State of Girls: Thriving or Surviving*, a by-state report from the Girl Scout Research Institute—which used current statistical indicators focused on key issues such as health, safety, educational achievement, as well as demographic trends in the U.S.—to examine the health and well-being of girls in each U.S. state.

**According to the study, there are 3.2 million girls ages 5 to 17 living in California. Of those girls:**

- 23 percent live in poverty
- Roughly 11 percent have experienced neighborhood violence
- Only a quarter of fourth grade girls are proficient in reading and only a quarter of eighth grade girls are proficient in math

**How California ranks in other regards:**

- In girls' physical health and safety, California is ranked 31st out of 50 states
- 32nd in girls' economic security
- 30th for girls' education
- 37th in girls' emotional health
- **In an overall index of girls' well-being, California ranks 29th**

In her talk, Luttgens pointed out that today's girls are the women of tomorrow who will represent 50 percent of the workforce.

"These statistics indicate major risks we run if we don't address the needs of our girls," Luttgens said. "What does the future hold if we don't take action? At Girl Scouts, we are working to make a difference and lower those risks by focusing on prevention now in hopes of decreasing the need for intervention down the line."

Other event speakers echoed Luttgens' call to action in supporting and helping GSGLA expand its reach through the **ToGetHerThere campaign, which was launched and fueled by the fact that only one in five girls believes she has what it takes to be a leader.** Its slogan: Together, we can get her there.

"With Girl Scouts, we can empower girls to step up, speak up, and stand up," said Toyota North America Chief Communications Officer Julie Hamp, honored alongside Robin McGraw as Women of Distinction at the event.

Currently, GSGLA serves 40,000 girls in Los Angeles County and parts of Ventura, San Bernardino, and Kern counties, engaging girls in programs in leadership, STE[A]M (science, technology, engineering, art, math); outdoor adventure; business and financial literacy; and healthy living.

By bringing together 800 members of the business community and 100 Emerging Leader Girl Scouts, **the 2014 ToGetHerThere Luncheon raised nearly \$445,000 to support these leadership development programs in greater Los Angeles' diverse communities.** The nonprofit's goal is to give every girl in greater Los Angeles the opportunity to gain courage, confidence, and character through Girl Scouts. To lend support through donations or volunteering with Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, visit [girlscoutsla.org](http://girlscoutsla.org).

#### ***About Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles***

*Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles serves more than 40,000 girls in partnership with more than 20,000 volunteers throughout the diverse communities of Los Angeles County and parts of Kern, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. The council engages girls through programs in Leadership, Business and Financial Literacy, Outdoor Adventure, STE[A]M (science, technology, engineering, art, math), and Healthy Living. To join, volunteer, reconnect, or support, visit [www.girlscoutsla.org](http://www.girlscoutsla.org) or call 213-213-0123.*

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