



## **NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **GIRLS INC. OF CARPINTERIA HOSTS AN EVENING IN BLOOM**

*Annual fundraiser will honor longtime Girls Inc. supporter **Sharon Organista***

**CARPINTERIA – October 1, 2015** — [Girls Inc. of Carpinteria](#) is rolling out the red carpet again this year for its largest annual fundraiser “An Evening in Bloom” on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-11:00 p.m. at Westerlay Orchids, 3504 Via Real in Carpinteria.

“Each year, being surrounded by the stunning orchids at Westerlay reminds us that people – like flowers – need care, support, and the right environment to bloom into something beautiful,” said Victoria Juarez, Girls Inc. of Carpinteria executive director. “That is what Girls Inc. of Carpinteria is here to do for our girls. Bloom is a special evening of fun and fundraising that brings the community together in honor of our mission to support girls as they bloom into strong, smart, and bold young women.”

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual gala will honor **Sharon Organista**, a travel consultant for Montecito Village Travel and longtime supporter of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria. An active member in the community, Organista served on the board for Girls Inc. for many years, chaired several events, and has always lent a helping hand – whether it’s selling t-shirts at a booth or making homemade tamales and avocado soup for the Avocado Festival.

She is a member of the Carpinteria Women’s Club and previously served on the board of the Boys Club of Carpinteria. Organista has been in the travel business for more than 20 years and, in addition to her passion for Girls Inc., she loves making people’s dreams come true through travel.

“Sharon’s enthusiasm for Girls Inc.’s mission knows no boundaries,” said **Stefanie Herrington**, event co-chair. “She applies her diverse talents chairing our events, organizing auctions, hosting dinner parties, crafting jewelry, and sharing her vast international travel connections to support our girls. Sharon is a loving matriarch of the Girls Inc. of Carpinteria family and we’re proud to honor her.”

Herrington is joined by **Gail Persoon** as event co-chairs for this year’s gala.

The elegant affair will feature a red carpet entrance, followed by cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, dinner buffet, hosted bar, live and silent auctions, local art displays, live entertainment and dancing. Guests are encouraged to dress in cocktail and black tie attire.

Community leader **Geoff Green**, executive director of the SBCC Foundation, will serve as the emcee.

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria currently serves more than 700 girls ages 5-18 each year through a variety of programs, motivating them to take risks and master physical, intellectual and emotional challenges.

Tickets to An Evening in Bloom are \$125 and sponsorship opportunities are available. All proceeds will support the mission of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria to cultivate confident, successful girls, and help them navigate gender, economic and social barriers and grow into healthy, educated and independent adults.

**For tickets or more information, please contact Ericka Loza-Lopez at (805) 684-6364 or [Ericka@girlsinc-carp.org](mailto:Ericka@girlsinc-carp.org). Tickets can also be purchased online at: [www.girlsinc-carp.org](http://www.girlsinc-carp.org).**

### **About Girls Inc. of Carpinteria**

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria is a member of Girls Incorporated®, a nonprofit organization that inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. With local roots dating to 1864 and national status since 1945, Girls Inc. has responded to the changing needs of girls through research-based programs and public education efforts that empower girls to understand, value, and assert their rights. We provide programs for girls 6 to 18 years old that focus on science, math, and technology; health and sexuality; economic and financial literacy; sports skills; leadership and advocacy; and media literacy. To learn more, become a volunteer or offer support, please visit [www.girlsinc-carp.org/](http://www.girlsinc-carp.org/).

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