In spring, we get the opportunity to observe the once concealed beauty of the flora that quietly persisted, and with the proper conditions, develop into vibrant foliage and colorful blossoms. This rite of spring bears a striking resemblance to Jessica Irabon, who with the nurturing of family and Girls Inc. of Carpinteria, is coming into bloom herself.

Irabon started in the after school program with Girls Inc. when she was in first grade at Canalino Elementary School. She is now in seventh grade and continues to participate in Girls Inc. programs throughout the school year and summertime. Her parents, Jemmi and Ester, are both employed full-time and were seeking the right environment to meet their needs, as well as those of their timid young daughter. “Girls Inc. is a safe and friendly environment that gives my parents peace of mind while they work, and most of all, a place for girls only,” shared Irabon.

Ericka Lopez, Teen Director at Girls Inc., recalls how introverted Irabon was during their first interactions. “She was excessively shy. She would reply last, if at all, when asked to participate or respond aloud.” Irabon’s continued participation with Girls Inc. has enabled her to overcome her introverted nature and become one of the most involved girls in the teen program. According to Irabon, “Girls Inc. helps me improve my self-esteem, boost my grades and be active in the community.”

Last summer, Irabon participated in the Girls Inc. “Fun in the Sun” summer camp and played a lead role in a charitable endeavor to collect recyclable aluminum and plastic items from the local community to raise funds that were donated to local charities. Her latest community project was serving as a volunteer for the City of Carpinteria’s Tobacco Prevention program during the annual Avocado Festival. Irabon interviewed business owners and gathered data on the tobacco ban.

The once bashful Irabon took another big leap and joined the Girls Inc. drama club. Along with other drama club members, she acted in skits about challenging issues facing teens which were later performed before an audience of family members. She is also an active member of the Girls Inc. volleyball team which provides a balance to her more intellectual pursuits.

Academically, Irabon is the rare student that enjoys all subjects equally. She is excited to be participating in the college bound Eureka! Program this summer and will spend four weeks on the University of California Santa Barbara campus exploring career paths in scientific, mathematical, engineering and technical fields (STEM). Irabon, while undecided on her exact major in college, is “interested in a science-based career and maybe engineering like my dad.”

When asked for the most positive thing about her Girls Inc. experience so far, Irabon responded, “There are a lot of girls my age to interact with, and Teen Director, Ericka. She is a great role model that is always there for me, ready to help.”

Our Mission

In order to inspire girls & young women to be smart, strong and bold, the mission of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria seeks to empower girls & women to achieve personal, social, economic and political success.
My journey with Girls Inc. of Carpinteria during this past year has been both exhilarating and challenging. It reminds me of an earlier journey I took, nearly twelve years ago, when I graduated from California State University, Long Beach. I joined the Peace Corps and spent the next two years of my life in the Russian Republic of Chuvashia. I grew up in Kettleman City, a tiny farming town in the middle of the San Joaquin Valley, and so far as my parents were concerned, Chuvashia may as well have been Narnia. It was a big step for me but my time abroad helped prepare me for a career in the nonprofit world. It stimulated my zeal for education, for working with underserved populations, and for building strategic partnerships in the local community and beyond. My struggle to maximize limited resources and leverage every dollar I earned (or ruble) to provide a public good while serving a diverse population was, in essence, the same challenge I face as the Executive Director of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria.

Like many nonprofits during these challenging economic times, Girls Inc. has had to make difficult decisions. We have worked hard to be fiscally responsible while preserving our quality, research-based programs that serve over 600 girls every year. We are also expanding our reach by launching exciting new programs like Eureka! This comprehensive, three year program will bring middle school girls to the University of California Santa Barbara campus every summer and help prepare them to successfully make the transition into higher education. Eureka! is critical to ensuring that we have young women who are prepared, enthused, and confident to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

We invite you to learn more about programs like Eureka! and to invest in girls who are strong, smart and bold. You can make a contribution, volunteer in one of our programs and support our events.

Thank you very much!

Victoria Juarez

Hutton Parker Foundation has provided operating support to lead the way in supporting Girls Inc. of Carpinteria. These critical operating funds will allow us to continue programs focused on core areas of academic support; science, math, and technology; health and sexuality; economic and financial literacy; sports skills; leadership and advocacy; and media literacy.
FEATURED BOARD MEMBERS

Girls, Inc. of Carpinteria is fortunate to have many accomplished and engaging members serving on the Board of Trustees. We want to extend a very warm welcome to Stephanie Herrington, who recently joined the board, bringing much valued skills as an author and editor. We also want to highlight, Nini Seaman, who in her first year with our organization has established herself as a generous and attentive leader.

STEFANIE HERRINGTON

Stefanie Herrington grew up in Portland, Oregon, and received her B.A. from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She was an editor for multiple newspapers, including the Boulder Daily Camera. Stefanie received her J.D. from the University of Oregon School of Law, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the Oregon Law Review. After clerking for a judge in Denver and practicing law in Portland, Stefanie co-founded Bartlett & Herrington, a general practice law firm in Carpinteria. Stefanie is a member of the Carpinteria Morning Rotary Club and the Carpinteria Woman’s Club, and she volunteers with the Plaza Playhouse Theater, the Santa Barbara Symphony, Carpinteria Beautiful, and the California Avocado Festival.

NINI SEAMAN

Nini Seaman is an active volunteer in the Santa Barbara and Carpinteria communities. She has lent her talent, time and treasures to CALM, Laguna Blanca and the Scholarship Foundation. Most recently she co-chaired the annual Women of Inspiration event and raised a record number of gifts for Girls Inc. of Carpinteria. Born in Montevideo, Uruguay and raised in the Midwest outside of Chicago, Nini graduated from Boston Museum School of Fine Arts and Tufts University. For several years her paintings were exhibited in galleries in Los Angeles. Nini partially grew up in Wyoming herding cattle, cutting hay and taking trips up into the Wind River Range. Her husband and children have been part of this for the past twenty-six years, and when they are together, they can be found chasing the fish.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
SUZIE ZIMMERMAN AND KAMIE MULROY

Suzie, an AmeriCorps volunteer for Partners in Education, has been helping our organization build our volunteer program. She recruits community members and works to place them where they are the best fit. Suzie also comes to Girls Inc. once a week and tutors our girls in various homework areas. Her kind demeanor and supportive nature make her one of the girls’ favorites. Suzie really raises the girls’ self esteem when it comes to academics, which motivates them to work harder and view college as a viable option.

Kamie has been providing creative and nutritious cooking classes to our elementary girls. She is a great example of someone sharing her personal passion with the girls. Kamie’s enthusiasm about cooking, along with her positivity and patience, make “Cooking with Kamie” a much loved Monday activity at Girls Inc.
Under the leadership of new Academic Coordinator Jessica Wetzel Girls Inc. of Carpinteria’s After-School Enrichment Program is providing girls with the specific tools and instruction crucial to academic success. Wetzel collaborates closely with teachers and parents to develop an academic support plan for each participant in the program. Girls Inc. of Carpinteria has provided informal mentoring and homework help to its girls since it was founded in 1971. According to Wetzel, the addition of the new Academic Coordinator position is “helping to close the achievement gap by more closely aligning the homework component of our after-school program with what the girls are studying during school hours.” Wetzel utilizes the Carpinteria school district database to identify each participant’s needs, individualize homework support and track progress throughout the year. She also developed partnerships with a number of local organizations, including Partners in Education, the Center for Community Engagement at CSU Channel Islands, and members of the business community, to recruit homework volunteers. “We are really excited by this new opportunity to work with partners who will aid us in our mission to help all girls become strong, smart and bold,” says Executive Director Victoria Juarez. “Academic success is fundamental to building their future economic independence and active engagement with the local community.” Wetzel graduated Magna Cum Laude from California State University, Fullerton with a Bachelor’s Degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Elementary Education. After earning her degree in 2008, she developed curriculum for Kidzart of Southern California, a fine art enrichment program that serves elementary students throughout Orange County. She also volunteered with the Inland Valley Humane Society and Sunrise Convalescent Home of Claremont.

WOMEN OF INSPIRATION – A GARDEN TO TABLE CELEBRATION SUCCESSFULLY RAISES $40,000 IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL GIRLS

The annual event was held on March 19, 2012 at Girls Inc. of Carpinteria on Foothill Road. The event honored four women from our community who are undoubtedly strong, smart and bold – Mari Cooney, Janet Garufis, Janet McCann and Meredith Scott. We thank these women for being a true inspiration in all they do! We also want to extend our sincere thanks to the event co-chairs, Nini Seaman and Sandra Tyler, and event committee members Sue Parker, Connie Smith, Tara Towers and Betsy Jones Zwick. Members of the 2012 Women of Inspiration event committee helped make this our most successful luncheon to date!

We are grateful to all our volunteers, speakers, event sponsors, board members, attendees and those who donated so generously at the event!
Each spring, every first- and third-grade student in the Carpinteria Unified School District participates in KidAbility, a four-week sexual abuse prevention program taught at local elementary schools. KidAbility teaches children how to identify problematic situations and behaviors, speak assertively and reach out to adults for help to combat abuse.

KidAbility strives to build self-confidence and teach children that they have the right to protect themselves. "Children are taught to respect adults and not to question authority," said Jessica Wetzel, a KidAbility instructor and Academic Coordinator for Girls Inc. "This leads to confusion when the very same people they are taught to respect are abusing them." KidAbility teaches children to approach appropriate adults for help when they encounter an uncomfortable or unsafe situation.

Jaci Browdy, the After School Enrichment program director for Girls Inc., has taught the course since 1994. Browdy uses interactive teaching methods that include role playing and discussion when she helps children talk about their fears.

During one component of the KidAbility course, children learn how to stay safe when they are home alone. As children role play answering the door for a delivery person, they learn how to "talk through the door" and instruct the stranger to leave the package on the porch or return at a different time. When discussing how different touches make them feel, children hold up happy and sad faces to demonstrate their feelings.

Browdy enjoys teaching children the skills that keep them safer and she encourages her students to share their knowledge with friends. When Browdy encounters children who attended her course, they are eager to share stories of situations where they used their KidAbility skills, particularly to address bullying behaviors. "KidAbility allows me to get to know more than just the girls of the community," Browdy said. "And … for the boys to see a little portion of what we do at Girls Inc."

THE FACTS:
Since Girls Inc. adopted KidAbility in 1994, more than 300 local boys and girls ages 6 to 9 have learned valuable sexual abuse prevention skills.

• One in four girls experiences an episode of sexual abuse before the age of 18.
• Children between ages 7 and 13 are most vulnerable to sexual abuse.
• Sixty-one percent of all rapes are committed against children under the age of 18.

— National Center for Victims of Child Abuse

Santa Barbara Foundation has invested in girls’ futures with a generous gift to Eureka! This new program will provide 40 girls with an intensive experience at University of California Santa Barbara for four weeks, followed by educational and experiential opportunities during the school year. Eureka! will wrap up with paid internships focused on math, science and technology for the participants.
A gift to Girls Inc. of Carpinteria will ensure essential programs for the girls in our community to become Strong, Smart and Bold. Charitable gifts improve the girls’ self-esteem, prepare them for higher education, allow them to express themselves creatively, help prevent drug abuse and unintended pregnancy and encourage healthy friendships.

Charitable donations are critical to fulfilling the Girls Incorporated of Carpinteria’s mission. Community members, sponsors, foundations and parents who support our organization know that preparing girls for their futures is crucial for the future of our community.

We have many convenient ways for you to make a tax-deductible donation:

CREDIT CARD
Use our secure server at www.girlsinc-carp.org or call us at 805-684-6364.

CHECK
Send us your donation by mail at:
Girls Inc. of Carpinteria
5315 Foothill Rd.
Carpinteria, CA 93013

GIFTS OF STOCK
Giving appreciated assets to Girls Inc. of Carpinteria is easy. Usually, a sale of appreciated securities results in a tax on your full gain – meaning that you keep only part of the profit. But, if appreciated securities are given to Girls Inc. of Carpinteria, there may be no tax on your gain, even though the entire value of your gift is counted as part of your charitable deduction.

To take advantage of any tax benefits through a gift of appreciated assets, do not sell your stock prior to gifting it to the Girls Inc. of Carpinteria. Please contact Victoria Juarez at 805-684-6364 or VJuarez@girlsinc-carp.org for more information or to set an appointment.

OTHER GIVING OPTIONS
There are many other ways to financially support Girls Inc. of Carpinteria. These include making an endowment gift, making a bequest in your will, establishing a charitable remainder trust, designating Girls Inc. of Carpinteria as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy and donating benefits from IRA’s and pensions. Many of these can have exceptional tax advantages.

Of course, it is important to speak with your financial advisor to learn what options are best for you. Please contact our Executive Director, Victoria Juarez at 805-684-6364 for assistance.

Southern California Edison has donated to the Operation SMART® Program. Over 45 girls in Carpinteria will benefit from this magnificent grant. Girls Inc. Operation SMART® develops girls’ enthusiasm for and skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Through hands-on activities, girls explore, ask questions, persist and solve problems. By interacting with women and men pursuing STEM careers, girls come to view these careers as exciting and realistic options for themselves. Girls are currently working on science projects that they will present to their families in late spring.
**SUMMER CAMP!**

Summer camp is designed to provide a safe, supportive environment where kids connect with adult role models, find self-expression through the arts and form positive friendships to last a lifetime.

**REGISTER NOW!**

Limited scholarships available.

Fun In The Sun (FITS) focuses on improving reading skills & character development in a fun & creative atmosphere!

**An all-day, Monday-Friday program (June 18th - August 3rd)**
- Two groups of 3rd - 5th graders (boys and girls)
- One group of 6th - 9th graders (girls only)

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**GIRLS INC. OF CARPINTERIA PRESENTS**

The 6th Annual Carpinteria Mariachi Encuentro

Saturday, May 12, 2012

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria 5315 Foothill Rd.

Featuring Mariachi Espectacular de Beto Jimenez & Mariachi Aguas de Mexico

$50 Preferred • $40 Reserved • $30 Bleacher Seating

For tickets call Girls Inc. 684-6364 or John Cerda 570-8378

Advance purchase only - no tickets at door

Ticket price includes dinner served 5:15 - 6:30 p.m.

Doors open at 4:45 p.m. • No Host Bar

All proceeds benefit Girls Inc. of Carpinteria Scholarships & Programs

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**HOLIDAY HELPERS**

Thank you to Ray Seider and HUB International for donating food baskets and to Montecito Bank & Trust for donating gifts to our families during the holidays. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated!
Please help us save paper and postage—it’s easy!

Sign up to receive your Girls Inc. Newsletter via email! Contact jaci@girlsinc-carp.org to be put on the mailing list.

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OUR PROGRAMS
Academic Support
After-School Enrichment
Club Volleyball
College Exploration
Economic Literacy
Eureka!
SMART
(Science, Math & Relevant Technology)
STEM
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
Teen Mentoring