



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Girls Incorporated of Alameda County celebrated the opening of its first site in Oakland at Concordia Park with 60 community leaders and members. Councilmember Desley Brooks, Councilmember Jean Quan and Alameda County Office of Education Superintendent Sheila Jordan were in attendance at the event, which featured a presentation of a stained glass project from Girls Inc.'s All STARS middle



school program. This project gave girls an opportunity to express themselves and their contribution to the community through artwork. In addition to the girls' presentation, Saturday's event featured Girls Inc. participant Alexandria Timms and Board Member Rhonda Hirata as MCs. Timms, who has been playing at the park since childhood, impressed guests with her personal story of perseverance in the face of hardship

and struggle. As a member of Girls Inc. for two years, she is especially excited to see

Girls Inc.'s new presence in her community because she know what a positive impact its programs make.

Concordia Park serves 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls, offering much-needed academic support, leadership opportunities, health and fitness activities and field trips. Programming began at Concordia Park on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> and recruitment for programs will continue throughout the spring. Girls have already begun to express excitement over upcoming projects – such as the *Healthy Nutrition Garden*, in which girls will plant and maintain their own garden of nutritious vegetables, and a *Youth Run Mock Courtroom* that will teach girls about the legal justice system. Program leaders at Concordia Park will emphasize community involvement by giving girls opportunities to engage with and contribute to their neighborhoods.

Girls participate in Girls Inc. activities five days a week during after school hours. Girls Inc. has renovated the existing recreation center at Concordia Park and additional construction will take place in the early part of the year to increase the capacity of the programs and provide a technology center and homework lab for the girls. The Concordia Park Center will be a valuable resource for girls in the community.

On Saturday, Executive Director Pat Loomes thanked donors for their generous support during Girls Inc.'s capital campaign: “We would not be here today if not for the tireless efforts of our board members, major donors and community advocates. With your help, middle



school girls will have opportunities that will inspire them, challenge them, and improve their lives.”

### **About Girls Incorporated of Alameda County**

Girls Incorporated of Alameda County is a local affiliate of the national Girls Inc. nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring all girls to be *strong, smart and bold*. Currently serving over 7,000 girls annually, Girls Inc. of Alameda County offers year round academic, enrichment and skill building programs, as well as counseling services to youth, and their families, from low-income communities. Girls Inc. challenges girls to explore their potential, attend college, build careers and to expand their sense of what is possible.