



Girls Incorporated®
of Metropolitan Dallas

www.girlsincdallas.org

Media Contact: Kirsten Bossart
(w) 214-654-4540
kbossart@girlsincdallas.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Next Friday, Oct. 11, UN and Girls Inc. to celebrate International Day of the Girl

DALLAS, Texas, Oct. 2, 2013 — Next Friday is the United Nation’s International Day of the Girl, and its focus on “Innovating for Girls’ Education” is exactly what Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas does for 847 girls every day in its afterschool programs.

The organization helps underserved girls in the Dallas area become healthy, educated, economically independent women by providing support and guidance in afterschool programs at four campuses: Love Field, West Dallas, South Dallas and Oak Cliff.

Azalia Salazar, 19, is a recent Girls Inc. graduate now enrolled at Texas Women’s University and majoring in graphic design. When she first joined Girls Inc. as a 6-year-old, she didn’t speak English. Her family had emigrated from Mexico just two years earlier, and she still struggled with the language barrier and leaving behind family and traditions.

Girls Inc. helped her adapt quickly. “I was taught everything I needed to know in life: nutrition, how to make friends, how to manage money, body changes,” Salazar said of her 12-plus years with Girls Inc. “My family of five lived in a one bedroom apartment, and my father worked three jobs everyday to support our family.”

“The International Day of the Girl creates awareness about the importance of empowering girls and urges communities to get engaged and take action so that more girls like Salazar are able to succeed,” Lori Palmer, CEO of Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas said. “We hope that the Dallas community is aware of the great work Girls Inc. is doing to inspire girls to be smart, strong and bold.”

Every staff member at Girls Inc. impacted Salazar’s life in some way, serving as both her mentors and family. Palmer explained that Girls Inc. uses a research-based curriculum focused on enrichment and life skills for its afterschool and summer programs. “Girls Inc. provided me with motivation and influence, and that was what pushed me to thrive for success,” Salazar said.

Without Girls Inc., she says she probably would have dropped out of high school. The organization helped Salazar rise to her full potential in spite of the many obstacles she faced. For a child who was scared to grow up because she thought she had no future, Salazar has come a long way. She is confident that Girls Inc. will guide many other girls to be leaders, thriving for success.

Girls Inc.’s afterschool programming is funded by donations. Every contribution counts as 82 cents of each dollar is put directly towards the organization’s programs.

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About Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas

Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas aims to inspire all girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold. For more than 40 years, Girls Inc. has provided effective life skills and enrichment programs that empower girls to take daily charge of their lives. At four campuses, Girls Inc. offers learning and development opportunities for personal effectiveness, academics, and career planning so that girls ages six to 18 are inspired to lead successful, independent, and fulfilling lives. To learn more, visit www.girlsincdallas.org.