

GIRLS INCORPORATED OF YORK REGION

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2006

AGENDA

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Introduction – Board, Staff and Guests
- Review of Voting Procedures
- Adoption of Minutes of 25th AGM
- President's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Adoption of Financial Report
- Appointment of Accountants
- Staff Reports
- Nominating Report and Election of Board of Directors 2006
- Staff Recognition
- Adjournment



GIRLS INCORPORATED OF YORK REGION

Girls Incorporated Goal:

Empowered girls and an equitable society

National Organizational Vision:

To be recognized as the premiere nationwide organization that helps all girls to realize their full potential and exercise their rights.

National Organizational Mission:

To inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold.

Girls Incorporated of York Region Mission:

Empowering girls to realize their full potential through gender specific programming that inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. sm

GIRLS INCORPORATED OF YORK REGION

MINUTES OF THE 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MAY 12, 2005

Staff present: Jackie Barkowski, Lyn Alcock, Ali Martin-Boyle, Sarah, Laura Kooger

Board Members present: Michelle Leblond, Robin Holloway, Sarah Lloyd, Chanel Grenaway (Mills), Valerie Fleck, Elaine Sher, Janet Halliday, Hamida Kassamali-Bhimani, Bonnie Wong

Regrets: Jennifer Van Nest, Elisabeth Sachs, Ranji Singh, Stella Kyriakou

Absent: Kenneth Kwosu, Elsie Whitelock

Volunteers & Community members present:

N/A

CALL TO ORDER: 7:10 p.m. by Michelle Leblond. Michelle confirmed that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the 25th Annual General Meeting of the Agency -- the 3rd Annual General Meeting as Girls Incorporated of York Region.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD AND STAFF

- Everyone present introduced themselves and noted their relationship to the agency (staff, board, other)

VOTING PROCEDURES

- Michelle outlines the process for the meeting, confirmed membership and reiterated voting procedures.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF 24th AGM

- Motion by Robin Holloway to approve and adopt the minutes of the 24th Annual AGM. Seconded by Valerie Fleck. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Michelle read the President's Report and asked that it be accepted as submitted. Michelle reiterated the challenges of the year and commended staff and board for working through everything in such an optimistic and professional manner.
- Motion by Valerie Fleck to accept the President's Report. Seconded by Robin Holloway. Carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Lyn Alcock read the Executive Director's report as written. Upon completion she again thanked the board and staff for the support and guidance over the time she has been in her new role and stressed how her experience has shown her what a good board looks like and she really is very lucky for her position and relationship with the board. She also gave kudos to the staff on assisting with the transition and noted she looks forward to the future.
- Motion by Sarah Lloyd to accept the President's Report. Seconded by Chanel Grenaway. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Robin Holloway read the Financial Report as written. She spoke about the financial challenges of the agency and commended Lyn on her fiscal responsibility and dedication to reviewing all financial aspects of the agency. She held that Lyn's efforts alone were integral to reducing the agency deficit. Robin distributed and reviewed the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2004, as prepared by Morley, Sanderson & Millard. She noted that in terms of audits, with the standard noted exceptions, the report was "clean" from a non-profit position. She noted that the audit process was much more streamlined now that we have been through two and this would continue as an annual requirement, as per United Way directive.
- Motion by Valerie Fleck to accept the Financial Report. Seconded by Elaine Sher. Carried.
- Motion by Robin Holloway to appoint Kim MacDonald Accounting as accountants and to appoint them as auditors for fiscal 2005. Seconded by Sarah Lloyd. Carried

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STAFF REPORTS

- Staff Reports (Fundraising, Programs and Services, Matching & Special Events) were reviewed by each attendee individually. Motion by Bonnie Wong to receive the Staff Reports for 2004 as written. Seconded by Sarah Lloyd. Carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Michelle Leblond presented the Nominating Committee Report, noting the agency's continuing involvement and success with the Altruvest BoardMatch program. Michelle acknowledged the efforts of Debbie Pivnick, whose administrative role as Secretary of the board will leave a lasting legacy.
- Motion by Michelle Leblond to elect Hamida Kassamali – Bhimani, Valerie Fleck, Beatriz Friedmann, Janet Halladay, Kenneth Nwosu, Elaine Sher, Bonnie Wong to the Board of Directors for 2005/2006. Seconded by Chanel Grenway (Mills). Carried.

STAFF / BOARD RECOGNITION

- On behalf of the Board, Michelle expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Agency staff for their great support, hard work and dedication to the agency, especially during the last year, which entailed financial and staffing changes. The board has been very conscious of improving the staff / board relationship, demonstrating their trust and appreciation and it was hoped that the staff felt this was a genuine improvement. It was noted that the agency was a success because of the frontline staff efforts and that the new partnership would yield the desired results for the agency. Lyn was thanked for her leadership role and each staff member was commended for their contributions. Staff were provided with a small gift and flowers.
- Lyn Alcock and Jackie Barkowski took a moment and thanked the Board for their commitment to the agency and for their support during the transitions in the last year. Jackie Barkowski announced that the staff will be providing a breakfast with the staff at an upcoming training retreat with Judi, to formally thank the board for their support.

ADOPTION OF BYLAWS

- Michelle circulated copies of the bylaws and reviewed the changes being proposed. These changes were approved in principal by the board of directors at the March 2005 meeting and were now being recommended to the membership for adoption. The bylaws were changed to be written exclusively as Girls Incorporated of York Region and while the core content and intent of the bylaws remains in tact, several new sections have been added, including:
 - Mission Statement
 - Delegates to the National Council
 - Executive Director
 - DissolutionIt was further noted that the bylaws were updated to include options for electronic mail, the terms "President" and "Chair" were made consistent throughout the document and the options for "his/her" was incorporated into the language of the document as it related to staff and board members. There were also provisions to delegate tasks to the Executive Director as appropriate. The final change was to allow for an annual membership fee to be decided, at budget time each fall, and not require a bylaw amendment to accomplish.
- Michelle asked if there were questions or clarifications on the bylaws before formal adoption, which there were not. Motion made by Michelle Leblond to adopt the bylaws as presented. Seconded by Robin Holloway. Carried.
- Michelle thanked the board for their time in reviewing the documents and contributing ideas. Lyn was asked to circulate the revised bylaws to appropriate parties.

CLOSING REMARKS

- Michelle closed the AGM by reiterating her strong belief that we're on the right track for future success and encouraged each board and staff member to play an active role in achieving that goal.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Sarah Lloyd made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Seconded by Valerie Fleck. Carried.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Staff, Board, Supporters and Community:

Our AGM this evening is both a cause for celebration and for me personally, a cause for some sadness. I am at the end of my term as President and am very proud of the board and staff that have brought us thus far. I cannot even begin to express how much I have learned from this wonderful group of dedicated, optimistic and spirited men and women. I only regret I did not share those sentiments earlier with each of them personally. I never expected to face what I did, learn what I did or get involved as I did but I am honoured to be able to say that all *did* happen.

The national Girls Incorporated organization continues to be a support and resource for our agency and in 2006, we expect great strides in the formal organization of Girls Incorporated in Canada and hope for increased partnerships and information sharing with other Canadian affiliates – it is from each other we will learn the most and benefit from true synergy. A thank you also to the various foundations, agencies and patrons that are never-ending in their support and understanding of our mission, programs and services. We could not run our programs without them, our volunteers and a very dedicated and skilled staff.

The last year has seen the agency achieve some amazing milestones yet again – a significant increase in the number of girls being reached with our programming, notable funders were attracted including Trillium, Telus and Magna, to name a few, and our staff matured and solidified in the face of some very trying times. It is the leadership of the staff that has seen the agency succeed despite what the world may throw their way and it is their embodiment of “strong, smart and bold” that never fails to bring a smile to my face.

The years have been almost like a challenge or dare as we encountered issues, circumstances and events we could not even begin to predict, yet every time, we succeeded and more often than not, we flourished. It is with that thought that I say “I dare you”....to make a difference, spot a challenge and most of all, to succeed – it is the best feeling in the world and one that will be in my heart each time I think of Girls Incorporated of York Region, its staff, mission and the board I have had the great honour to work with. We did succeed.

Thank you to everyone – board, staff, funders, volunteers – who have made the board experience so positive for me. I leave behind great memories, hopefully a few (bad) jokes to bring a smile to your face but most of all, a piece of my heart – this is a great agency and you need only believe that anything is possible to see your dreams come true. As I close this report I encourage those who will come after me on the board to take up the challenge and show our community what it means to be strong, smart and bold – good luck, good dreams and I'll be eagerly watching for updates.

Yours in Service,

Michelle K. Leblond
President, Board of Directors

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"Great discoveries and improvements...involve the co-operation of many minds." **Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922)**

Women have choices about whether and how to enter the workforce and pursue a career. Yet for the overwhelming majority of Girls Inc. girls, "whether" is not an option. They will most certainly have bills to pay, children to support, homes to buy and needs to meet. Girls Incorporated of York Region encourages girls to envision themselves in any possible career, or as a full-time parent if that is their choice. Many women and girls are locked in low-wage jobs as cashiers, cleaners, or in fast food restaurants. And while many women have broken through the glass ceiling, many more continue to face the hurdles of sexism, diminished opportunity, teen motherhood and stereotyping. At Girls Inc. we stand up to challenges like these and celebrate the innate ability of girls and young women to overcome them. Through Girls Inc. programs, we are giving them the tools to begin charting their futures to guide them through any eventuality.

This past year has been one of growth, discoveries and improvements for our agency:

- Our staff has grown to include part time and contract program facilitators with generous donations from Trillium and United Way of Greater Simcoe.
- For the first time, funding was sought and secured in Simcoe County. We were able to run Girls Inc. Friendly Peersuasion® as a lunch program at W.H. Day P. S. in Bradford.
- Our relationship with York Region District School Board has grown to include five municipalities and nine schools (14 lunch programs).
- We continue to grow and nurture our relationships with local service clubs; the Aurora Lions and Aurora United Church have become annual supporters of our lunch programs.
- This year girls from southeastern Ontario were invited to attend the first Canadian Girls Incorporated 'Girls Forum'. Girls were interviewed and one will be selected to appear in a Public Service Advertisement created for Girls Inc.
- Canadian affiliates were successful in our bid to have training brought to Canada
- We have been running pilot programs across the region and the results have been very positive

Girls Inc. of York has been fortunate to have forged vibrant, productive relationships with a wide range of partners; forward looking foundations, public minded corporations, thoughtful donors, a hard working staff, first rate volunteers, a keen board and above all, the remarkable girls that we serve. While it is our vision that inspires us, it is our business plan and commitment to financial rigor that drives us. Backed by extraordinary donors like United Way of York Region, United Way of Greater Simcoe, The Trillium Foundation, Telus and Magna International, we ended 2005 on a positive financial note. My deepest thanks to all of you for supporting us and believing in what we are trying to achieve.

We continue to benefit from two, well run and organized Bingo Halls in two municipalities. Barb Perdeaux and her team of volunteers are out every other Saturday night in Aurora. Kathleen Masters continues to look after the Newmarket bingo with her team every Tuesday evening. We have a new Nevada representative, Doug Robbins. Welcome Doug. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers.

I am humbled and energized by the sense of purpose that is the staff and board of directors of Girls Incorporated of York Region. It is these women and man that make the difference. Each of them works above and beyond, they are the inspiration and support that our girls search for. Thank you for sharing in the results that we have achieved and those to which we aspire in 2006.

Respectfully submitted

Lyn Alcock
Executive Director

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FINANCIAL REPORT

The year 2005 was a highly successful year for the agency in many ways. We were blessed with many funding opportunities including the Magna Hoedown and the Trillium Foundation. We remained focused on increasing agency awareness in our community, which we realize is a key success factor in obtaining funding from new sources, and saw increased partnerships.

Consistent with prior years, we received our core funding from the United Way of York Region totalling \$90,000 for which we are extremely grateful. We also received additional program funding from UW Simcoe for the first time which was dedicated to programs in Bradford. Our gaming revenues also continued to be a steady source of revenue for the agency. We currently operate weekly Newmarket and Aurora bingo sessions plus Nevada, with combined revenues of \$45,000 in 2005.

We struggled during the year with our signature events, the Auction and Thrill on the Hill (now Howl on the Hill). Both events turned a moderate profit however the amounts were well below earnings in prior years. We look forward to having our new Director of Fund Development take a fresh look at these events and inject some new ideas and efforts in their direction. This difficulty with special events was not unique to GIYR, but is common among many non-profits as competition for donor dollars increase and donors chose to support fewer or more unique causes and events. Nonetheless, we will continue to explore this non-restricted funding stream.

Total operating expenditures for the agency were 30% lower than the previous year, which is primarily due to reduced salary costs as a result of summer hours and staffing changes. The reduction is also due to efficiency and cost cutting measures taken in all areas of the agency. Our Executive Director, with the support of the staff, has been very diligent in continuing to reduce expenses and set a clear example of fiscal restraint in managing the agency.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, we have an excess of revenue over expenditures of \$3,000 as compared to a deficiency of \$17,000 in the prior year of 2004. We expect this positive trend to continue as we move forward under a highly motivated and dedicated Executive Director and staff. Fund development continues to be a high priority with both board and staff and 2006 is already looking promising in this area.

The challenge before the agency for 2006 will be to continue to explore other avenues of fundraising in order to diversify and expand our fund development initiatives and seek to increase our unrestricted funding options. By generating funds from multiple sources and creating partnerships with female focused donors; we anticipate a more solid funding base as we continue through 2006. The job is not finished but the start is positive already!

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Holloway
Treasurer

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COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

FUND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Howl on the Hill – 3km hike / 5 & 10km run

Howl on the Hill (formerly known as Thrill on the Hill) 2005, was held Sunday October 30th, and was great running and hiking weather. Participant turnout was down and the run saw less than 200 people. This was due in part to losing our primary sponsor a month before the run. Doug Hartwell of Hartwell Thayer Insurance stepped in at the eleventh hour and found a sponsor to take over for us. Kim Pinska, owner of Time 2 Run, will now sponsor the Howl on the Hill and we are excited by this new partnership. Kim has been known to the agency for years and brings a wealth of experience. It was a bit hectic but we got it done.

Bingo

There have been changes made at the Bingo Halls. Bingo Hall owners will now receive a higher percentage of revenue to offset the costs of overhead. Bingo Halls have been losing money and the worry is that they will be forced to close their doors. The A.G.C.O. has given the halls permission to move ahead with the new financial arrangements but this will be monitored closely by all parties. Revenue from the bi-weekly sessions at the Aurora Bingo Centre and weekly sessions at Newmarket Bingo Country are applied directly to programs for girls and young women and continue to provide a regular revenue stream for the agency.

Donations-in-Kind

Product donations always play a vital role in facilitating the activities of any charity. Prizes, food and beverages at the run, items for the annual auction, and resources for programs, represented a formidable amount of support from the community and we thank all donors – big and small – for their part.

Corporate Donors

We are very pleased to receive the support from various community minded businesses. This years corporate supporters include Events Online.ca, Bell Mobility, Hollister Limited, Telus, Maltman Group International, Tektronix, Swiss Herbal Remedies Limited, Warner Music Canada, Magna International and Toshiba Canada. There was also a unique partnership with IKEA Vaughan in December, which provided nicely timed funds for the end of the year.

Foundations and Service Clubs

Trillium Foundation committed generous funds to Girls Incorporated programs. With support from foundations we are able to purchase important resources for programs for girls. The CHUM City Christmas Wish also came through for funding for our annual Holiday party for the girls which is an annual event. Additionally we have received financial support from various service clubs operating in the region. The funds received from these institutions are also applied directly to support the programs we offer. Thanks to the Kinette Club of Keswick, Lions Club of Aurora, Royal Canadian Legion, Aurora United Church Women, Temperanceville United Church, Beta Sigma Phi Newmarket, and the Aurora Optimist Club. We would also like to acknowledge the on-going support received from the Municipal Offices Township of King, Hartwell Thayer Ins., Employee Volunteer Program, Bell Canada, York Region Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation, and the Ontario Power Generation Employees Charity Trust.

The United Way of York Region

Our partnership with UWYR continues to grow and strengthen. The support received both financially and in organizational development allows us to enhance and expand program and service delivery.

The United Way of Greater Simcoe

We successfully acquired funding from UWGS to run Girls Inc. Peersuasion. This is the first time we have had funds to run programs in Bradford. We look forward to a continued relationship.

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PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We are thrilled that this year has seen a lot of changes and growth in the area of Programming. Our active members in programs have increased from 330 in 2004 to 482 by the end of 2005.

Lunchtime Programs

This past year saw great expansion in our lunch programs. We have been receiving positive feedback from the community and schools about the impact of our programs on the girls in the community. We started the 2005-2006 school year with a record high of 14 lunchtime programs. These programs are being offered throughout York Region and Bradford. They target issues such as group cohesion, peer pressure, bullying, self-esteem, economic self-sufficiency, and leadership skills. At this point, we have a waiting list of 4 schools that are interested in our lunchtime programs, but due to lack of resources, we are unable to accommodate these schools. It is our hope we can accommodate them for the 2006-2007 school year.

This year we received funding from United Way of Simcoe County to deliver Girls Incorporated Friendly PEERsuasion[®] as a lunchtime program to Grade 6 girls in Bradford. With the funding, we were able to hire a contract program facilitator to deliver this program. So far, the program has been very well received by the girls and the community. We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with Bradford schools.

Girls Inc. After School Programs

We took a hiatus from this program during the second half of the year. The school we usually run the program out of, Jersey Public School, was being torn down and rebuilt. We felt it was in the best interests of the organization to wait until Jersey Public was open again to continue to use their facility.

Girls Inc. Operation SMART[®]

We successfully secured funding from the Trillium foundation for our Operation SMART Program. With this funding, we have been able to hire a part-time program staff. She is responsible for delivering two after-school programs focused on Operation SMART starting January 2006. We will also be looking to see how we can continue to expand upon these programs and continue to deliver them as well as more in the 2006-2007 school year.

Youth Leadership (ages 12-18) and Girls in Motion (ages 4-11)

We continue to offer monthly programs for these girls. The purpose of these weekend programs is to help the girls to continue to develop social skills, as well as providing them with the opportunity to engage in healthy, safe activities on their weekend. Highlights from the year include Winterfest, Franklin fishing day, bowling, swimming at the wave pool, and a trip to the Toronto Raptor's as the special guests of Moe Peterson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Barkowski
Program Director

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MATCHING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Matching Program 2005

Over 300 girls and young women were part of our matching program this past year. The focus of the program is the matching of a young girl, between the ages of 4-18, with a caring female volunteer, for a minimum of one year. This service is available to girls and women who reside in York Region or Bradford. The girls may come from any family constellation – both parent led, mother led, father led, or a legal guardian. Activities include ongoing weekly visits between each match as well as age appropriate agency events throughout the year for the matches to attend. 30% of the agency matches have been together for 5+ years.

Special Events 2005

Summer Picnic – June 12th, 2005

The summer picnic was held at Magna's Simeon Park again this year for no charge to the agency. There was a turn out of approximately 150 members and volunteers who didn't seem to mind the scorching heat of the afternoon. The swimming pool and water games were among the popular activities this year but the members and volunteers also enjoyed the large parachute games to cool themselves off. Another exciting aspect of the day was having our Members and their Matches get their picture taken together, if they were interested. For the second year we offered both hot dogs and veggie chili dogs, which are always a huge success. There were more than enough veggie/fruit trays and chips and desserts. Members were actually sent home with leftovers.

Franklin Fishing – August 13th, 2005

This was the fourth year that the Franklin Fishing Club had invited us back to their beautiful and private grounds. The agency plans on many more years to come of this strong partnership. There was a turn out of over 30 members and volunteers, who were able to observe and participate in learning how to bait a hook, cast a line and take the fish off the hook. Members of the Franklin Club volunteered their time to be with us that day. Several of the members caught large trout and were able to clean and prepare their catch of the day. We fished from the shore but everyone got a chance to go out in the boat and learn how to cast from there. There was a great lunch of hot dogs, pop, chips and watermelon that was provided for the agency and each member received a cooler filled with goodies, fish lures and games for them to take home. There was also a tour of the fish hatchery, as Franklin Club has the largest hatchery in Ontario.

Santa Claus Parade 2005 – November 27th, 2005

This year's Santa Claus Parade was a huge success. Over 30 members and volunteers attended the event and braved the cold. The theme of the float was 'The Stars of Girls Inc.' which incorporated the theme of the Aurora Santa Claus Parade 'Santa Under the Stars'. A committee was formed of volunteers and Big sisters. The committee organized and planned the entire event. They also helped create decorations and assist in finding a company to donate a flatbed trailer for the agency to decorate. The float was surrounded by 1ft. cardboard stars covered in tinfoil that spelt out 'strong smart and bold'. The members and volunteers that sat on the float held stars that individually read 'strong, smart or bold'. The girls were encouraged to choose a star that best represented them. In addition to the donation of the trailer we also had two 4ft. by 4 ft. Girls Inc. signs created and donated for the event. These signs were held at the beginning of the float and attached to the back of the float.

Holiday Celebration 2005 – November 28th, 2005

The agency held the annual Holiday Party at the Aurora Lion's Club again this year. The hall was donated, less \$50.00 for the custodian. A volunteer committee was created to help plan the event, create decorations and paper mashé over 100 piñatas. Staff, students, volunteers and early arrivals for the party decorated the hall. The small holiday tree was placed in front of the stage and was decorated by members and volunteers as they arrived. The theme of this year's holiday celebration came from Mexico and focussed on the Mexican holiday tradition of Posadas. The agency and volunteers arranged the crafts and activities for the day. Most of the activities and crafts were those traditionally found at a Mexican Posadas Celebration, including, pin the nose on the donkey, Mexican bean bracelets, small piñatas that the members could decorate and fill, tissue paper flowers with clips for their hair and Papel Cortados ornaments. In addition to the crafts and games we had a Dance teacher volunteer to teach the youth how to salsa dance, while the younger girls made their own piñatas. The highlight of the whole celebration was the dog show that one of our volunteers, Suzanne Lauten, with help from Joanna, put on. It kept everyone in the room entertained

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while they finished lunch. Santa arrived with presents and hugs for everyone.

There were also some traditional food and drinks, including salsa, tortilla chips and sangria punch for kids. Members' families and volunteers provided an array of wonderful sandwiches, finger foods and desserts. The members left that day with donated books and presents paid for by the Chum City Children's Wish Foundation.

Respectfully Submitted

Sarah Breese
Program Coordinator

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

As the board enters the 2006 term, the challenge ahead will be to attract new members to replace some of those who are leaving at the end of their terms and also to revive the committee structure and re-focus on areas such as Business Planning, Fund Development and Communications. The past year saw an attempt to get on with business and address the more immediate needs at hand. The committees were designed to reduce the load of individual members and encourage greater participation and input from all board members while supporting the Executive Director and staff in their respective roles and that truly is where the board success lies for the future.

The board has tried to remain targeted on mission critical initiatives as the agency hit various bumps in the road and we are proud to say that we have succeeded in many cases. We have learned that the challenge of balancing the important with the urgent will always be before the agency. With a unified front, backed by various ideas and contributors, a strong ED and her staff, we are happy to say we found the middle ground that allows us each to contribute in a unique way.

Through 2005, the agency remained a strong supporter of BoardMatch, a program available to registered charities to connect them with qualified and motivated applicants with business experience and an interest in board governance. This program has again provided the majority of our new board applicants. Michelle Leblond, Board President, also continues to speak on behalf of BoardMatch at agency and board applicant orientation sessions as a demonstration of our thanks and commitment to the program.

For some board members the end of their terms has come – Robin Holloway and myself are at that stage and two others have chosen not to renew their terms – Bonnie Wong and Beatriz Freidmann. We thank Bonnie and Beatriz for the roles that they played on the Fund Development and Executive Committees, respectively, and are pleased to have had the opportunity to work with them. Elsie Whitelock also left our board when she moved out of the area in the Fall of 2005 and her ideas and energy will also be missed. It should be noted that Beatriz has moved to the US and indicated she is looking for the closest Girls Inc so she can remain involved in a mission she so strongly supports so we may not have seen the last of her involvement yet!

As sometimes happened, circumstances also necessitated that two other board members, Janet Halliday and Kenneth Nwosu left the board through the year and we thank them for the time they contributed.

When we speak of the board being an anchor for the agency, we have to acknowledge the role Robin has played over her years on the board – coupling financial savvy, humour, a positive spirit and a true understanding of our mission, she managed to endure everything she faced and the board honestly would not have been the success it is without her involvement. She provided the support through many financial issues and leadership changes and could always be counted on when it mattered most. She is the true spirit we hope our girls learn as they face life's challenges.

All the best to the board, stay to the mission and continue to build what we believe in!

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Leblond
Nominating Committee Chair

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following individuals have the remaining periods left in their terms as a member of the Board of Directors;

YEAR TWO OF THEIR FIRST TWO YEAR TERM

Hamida Kassamali – Bhimani, Valerie Fleck, Elaine Sher

YEAR ONE OF THEIR SECOND THREE YEAR TERM

Stella Kyriacou (originally held three year term), Chanel Grenaway (Mills), Elisabeth Sachs, Ranji Singh

YEAR THREE OF THEIR SECOND THREE YEAR TERM

Sarah Lloyd

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STAFF

Lyn Alcock	Executive Director
Jennifer Van Nest	Director of Fundraising
Jackie Barkowski	Program Director
Sarah Breese	Program Co-ordinator
Bev Newman	Program Co-ordinator
Cathy Nesbitt	Program Co-ordinator
Laura Kooger	Store Manager, Unique Repeats - Aurora