



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Harold D. Elish
Vice President
Mario Diaz-Cruz, III, Esq.
Treasurer
Jane Muqaddam
Secretary
Monica L. Sherer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Buller
Katherine Cohen
Sharon Content
Mrs. Theodore N. Danforth
Jessica L. Davis
Mario Diaz-Cruz, III, Esq.
Harold D. Elish
Gail Armstrong Gross
Brian P. Joyce, MSW
Sharon R. King
Elyn Levine
Jane Muqaddam
Eileen Murphy
Laurianne Murphy
Maureen O'Gorman
Monica L. Sherer
Felecia Webb

President Emeritae
Ann B. Copeland

Advisory Board
Liz Y. Alicea-Velez
Mrs. Henry I. Barbey
Ann B. Copeland
Felicia Fisher
Mrs. Harry E. Gould, Jr.
Lucia Gould
Nancy Hirsch
Bert Lamar
Cindy Lamar
Patricia W. Marx
Gillian Minitier
Frances Mitiieri
Susan Morgulas, PhD
Laura O'Donohue
Carmen Marqués Peréz
Nancy C. Sambuco
Constance Stine
Benjamin Timmons
Leighton K. Waters
Sidney S. Whelan, Jr., Esq.

Executive Director
Susan Hall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date July 2005

Contact: Connie Lewin
212.532.7050
clewin@girlsquest.org

The Girls' Vacation Fund Announces Renaming to Girls Quest: Rebranding Reflects Expanded Mission

New York – The Girls' Vacation Fund, which for 70 years has provided a long-running summer enrichment program for disadvantaged New York girls, announces that it has changed its name to Girls Quest, to more accurately reflect both its literacy emphasis and increased year-round programming, setting it apart from many other well-known summer camp programs for girls.

“Girls Quest provides girls with a safe, single-sex environment where they can think creatively, form friendships and be themselves,” said Susan Hall, Executive Director. “Our teachers create lesson plans that improve self-esteem, and academic and social competencies.”

Girls Quest's summer program is designed to lessen the Summer Learning Gap, the summer learning loss that disproportionately affects low-income children. During 2-week sessions at Girls Quest's summer camp facility in upstate New York, the vast majority of girls make significant improvements in reading, writing, public speaking, teamwork and social skills, as they grow more enthusiastic about learning. About 60% of the girls return to the program each year.

Low-income girls may additionally lack the self-esteem and positive reinforcement from role models that are necessary for healthy overall development. Most of Girls Quest's girls come from families that fall below USDA Federal Income Poverty Guidelines, where they face the risk factors of urban poverty on a daily basis, including crime and violence. Moreover, few live in 2-parent households. To provide ongoing support and guidance to these girls, Girls Quest offers year-round mentoring and teen leadership programs.

Girls Quest nurtures girls from low income families in New York to help them achieve their full potential and become active members of their communities by building academic and social competence. Since 1936, Girls Quest has provided a summer enrichment program to over 60,000 disadvantaged girls, ages 8 to 14 from the New York areas. For more information or to find out how to get involved, please contact Susan Hall, Executive Director, at 212-532-7050 or via email at info@girlsquest.org. or visit Girls Quest's web site at: www.girlsquest.org.

###

