

JAN A. VERHAGE – BACKGROUND PAPER

Jan Verhage is the Executive Director of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC), a position she has held since 1985. GSCNC serves more than 82,000 girl and adult members in the greater Washington region including six counties in Maryland, five counties in Virginia, and the District of Columbia. She directs 120 full-time and 400 part-time staff. Ms. Verhage has devoted her professional life to the not-for-profit sector where she has worked for more than 39 years, including 33 years in Executive Director positions in Boston, the Chicago area, and Washington, D.C. Her areas of expertise include: Board development, managing change, and building community relationships. .

During her tenure, Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital has enjoyed unprecedented growth. Membership has doubled and annual income has increased from \$3,000,000 to \$12,000,000. GSCNC has achieved a national reputation for innovative programs including the "Young Leaders Program" that trains college students to lead troops in low-income/at-risk communities; science and career development programs; and critical issues programming that addresses self esteem, healthy living and peer pressure.

Supporting Girl Scouts of the USA's nationwide initiative to build a nation of high capacity Girl Scout Councils, Ms. Verhage shared her skills and talents on a 7-month assignment with GSUSA to craft a merger strategy for local Girl Scout Councils. This project, now in its final year of implementation, will reduce the number of Councils from 313 to 109 - all with large jurisdictions and strong funding bases.

In 2007, Ms. Verhage steered the council into the national spotlight with a sing-along on the National Mall commemorating the 95th anniversary of the movement attracting more than 175,000 Girl Scouts, families and friends - the largest gathering of Girl Scouts in the organization's history. In the summer of 2008, the council celebrated the 11th Anniversary of Camp CEO – a program that links teen girls with successful businesswomen. Camp CEO has been replicated throughout the country and was featured on the NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw. Many other programs have received coverage by local news and national media including: The New York Times, Newsweek, The Washington Post, US News & World Report, and The Wall Street Journal.

Ms. Verhage is a member of the boards of directors of City First Enterprises, the Board of Trade, the Economic Club, Goodwill, Dance Place, and the Women's Forum. She is a founding member and past chair of the Nonprofit Roundtable and former Board Member of Leadership Washington. She has been recognized by the Washington Business Journal as a "Woman Who Means Business" and by Washingtonian Magazine as one of the "100 Most Powerful Women in Washington" and as a "Washingtonian of the Year". She also received the "Chair's Award" from the National Conference for Community and Justice, the "Centennial Leadership Award" from Trinity University and the "Golden Links Award" from the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

EDUCATION

Advanced Studies Program: Organizational Development, Boston University, 1984-85

Masters in Business Administration, Benedictine University, 1979

Bachelor of Science in Recreation, California State University at Northridge, 1969